

March 18, 2019

GITAI
SKY Perfect JSAT Corporation

GITAI Space Development Robot Startup, and SKY Perfect JSAT, Asia's Largest Satellite Communication Provider, sign a Memorandum of Understanding on exploring a business partnership

GITAI Inc. (Head office: San Francisco, USA; Japan Subsidiary: Meguro Ward, Tokyo, Representative Director & President Sho Nakanose; hereinafter “GITAI”) and SKY Perfect JSAT Corporation (Head office: Minato Ward, Tokyo; Representative Director, President & Chief Executive Officer: Shinji Takada; hereinafter “SKY Perfect JSAT”) announce they have signed a memorandum to begin exploring future alliance with a view to creating new businesses for both companies.

Accompanying the increasing international competition to develop space in recent years, the work in outer space is rapidly increasing since, in addition to the International Space Station (ISS), private US and other companies have begun building multiple commercial space stations, such as space hotels and space stations for scientific experiments. Currently, astronauts are relied on to operate the equipment, perform the maintenance, and conduct the scientific experiments in space, so reducing the safety risk, shortening the required time, and reducing the cost are issues facing space development.

GITAI aims to replace astronauts with robots that can work for a long time while being remotely controlled from earth while in low earth orbit space stations like ISS to reduce the burden on astronauts^{*1}, shorten the time it takes to perform work in space, and reduce costs. GITAI has begun verification with the goal of realization in 2020^{*2} and has already successfully conducted communication tests for space robot manufacturing and remote operation. By introducing robots GITAI aims to lower the cost of working in space by 90% by reducing the number of required rocket launches, which are a burden on space development.



SKY Perfect JSAT, which signed the memorandum with GITAI, has 17 communications satellites in stationary orbit, the most in Asia (as of March 2019), and since it began service in 1989 it has been operating communications satellites for 30 years

and is driving the space business as a private Japanese company. The satellite communication service provided by SKY Perfect JSAT covers Japan, Asia, Oceania, Russia, the Middle East, Hawaii, and North America and thus provides stable support for the social security, safety, and convenience of those countries.

Space development robot startup GITAI and Japanese space business pioneer SKY Perfect JSAT are proceeding to discuss a business alliance focusing on the future space businesses that both companies will operate by effectively utilizing their mutual business know-how and business foundations to maximize the synergies of both companies' businesses.

*1: Currently, astronauts, which are the only means for working in space, can only reside in space for 3 months at a time due to the safety risk posed by cosmic radiation and other factors, and these astronauts must also be supplied with water, food, and other materials, which require frequent rocket launches, so the cost of astronauts, including the rocket launch costs, is said to exceed ¥40 billion per year per astronaut. GITAI thinks that the current means of transportation, including automobiles, trains, and airplanes, that have become the means of transportation for humans over the last 100 years are, from a time, cost, and safety perspective, no longer the optimum means even for transporting human resources. Many technology companies are currently working to make the existing means of transportation faster or more efficient, but that is comparable to in the age of horse-drawn carriages trying to make faster carriages or more efficient carriages, so it is GITAI that is trying to make an engine in the age of carriages. GITAI thinks that increasing the number of human bodies and achieving substantially instantaneous travel and eliminating travel altogether is a solution with ten times more value, and so they are aiming to make practical robots that will be avatars for humans.

*2: Verification of communication experiments for the remote control of space robots.



[GITAI Inc.]

GITAI Inc. (US head office), GITAI Japan Co., Ltd. (Japan subsidiary)

Representative: Representative Director & President: Sho Nakanose

Established: October 12, 2017

Capital: ¥14,230,000

Head office address: Kaburagi Bldg. 2F West Side, 2-8-10 Takaban, Meguro-ku, Tokyo

Businesses: GITAI is a robot venture that aims to reduce the cost of working in space by 90% by having robots do the work in place of humans. In addition to conducting research and development on robot software and hardware, GITAI also is conducting unique research and development on data reduction and compression and low-latency communication technology to realize robots with the world's best performance that can work inside space stations even with the limited network infrastructure in space.

URL: <http://gitai.tech/>

Official Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/GITAI-1515952648445089/>

Official twitter account: <https://twitter.com/GITAI64818084>

(Press kit for reporters)

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1GHvhTQWLXdMc5KzUonsEFa7K8FkdXbTd>

GITAI's press release list: https://prtimes.jp/main/html/searchrlp/company_id/42239

[SKY Perfect JSAT Corporation]

Representative: Representative Director, President & CEO Shinji Takada

Established: November 10, 1994

Capital: ¥50,083 billion

Head office address: 1-8-1 Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo

Businesses: SKY Perfect JSAT Corporation is a leader in the converging fields of broadcasting and communications. It is Asia's largest satellite operator with a fleet of 17 satellites, and Japan's only provider of both multi-channel pay TV broadcasting and satellite communications services. SKY Perfect JSAT delivers a broad range of entertainment through the SKY PerfectTV!platform, the most extensive in Japan with a total of 3 million subscribers. In addition, SKY Perfect JSAT's satellite communications services, which cover Japan and the rest of Asia, as well as Oceania, Russia, Middle East, Hawaii and North America, play a vital role in supporting safety, security and convenience for society as a whole.

URL: <https://www.sptvjsat.com/>

Satellite business site: <https://www.jsat.net/jp/index.html>

SKY Perfect JSAT Group mission: <https://www.skyperfectjsat.co.jp/about/principle.html>

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