

December 26, 2024

SMBC Nikko Securities Inc.  
Nonagon Capital LLC

**SMBC Nikko Securities Joins Nonagon Connect operated by Nonagon Capital,  
a venture fund specializing in Web3, as a "Web3 Supporter"**

SMBC Nikko Securities Inc. (hereinafter "SMBC Nikko") and Nonagon Capital LLC (hereinafter "Nonagon Capital") have agreed to a strategic partnership.

As of today, SMBC Nikko will participate as a "Web3 Supporter" in the community service "Nonagon Connect" provided by Nonagon Capital, serving major corporations launching and driving their Web3 initiatives.

SMBC Nikko has been focusing on the Web3 domain as a technology to maximize the unique value of Japan, which cannot be fully captured by traditional capitalism, led by its open innovation team "Funder Storm," which operates under the theme of "Regional Revitalization × Token Economy," and the joint venture "Proof of Japan Inc." established in 2023.

SMBC Nikko has been actively participating in discussions for domestic rulemaking through activities with the Japan Cryptocurrency Business Association, producing and sharing introductory videos on YouTube, and organizing Web3-related workshops and events nationwide to disseminate correct knowledge and create an environment where everyone can utilize Web3 safely.

Nonagon Capital, based in the San Francisco Bay Area, is a venture fund specializing in Web3 and blockchain technology, investing in Web3 startups worldwide. From its experience, it has identified the critical importance of research in conducting business in the rapidly changing Web3 industry and has strengthened its research efforts. The research results accumulated within the fund have been shared through Nonagon Connect, a community service operated by Nonagon Capital, to assist domestic companies in promoting Web3 businesses. This community aims to foster knowledge and experience that can compete globally by providing a platform for sharing insights and common challenges in promoting Web3 businesses among Japanese business leaders through newsletters, reports, and quarterly in-person events.

With SMBC Nikko joining as a supporter, Nonagon Connect is expected to enhance its expertise from a global financial perspective. Additionally, this partnership is expected to strengthen Nonagon Capital's efforts to promote Web3 projects both domestically and internationally.

SMBC Nikko is fully aligned with the mission of Nonagon Connect and will actively contribute to the community by sharing insights and participating in discussions as a Web3 Supporter.

Furthermore, SMBC Nikko plans to leverage Nonagon Capital's global network and expertise to advance its open innovation efforts and promote the development of new businesses utilizing Web3 technologies in Japan.

**Company Profiles**

Company Name: SMBC Nikko Securities Inc.

Representative: Shuji Yoshioka, President & CEO

Headquarters: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan

Business: Securities

Website: <https://www.smbcnikko.co.jp/en/>

Company Name: Nonagon Capital LLC

Representative: Kazushi Okamoto, Founding Partner

Headquarters: Bay Area, San Francisco

Tokyo branch: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan

Business: Venture Capital

Website: <https://www.nonagon.xyz/>

This translation is based on the press release in Japanese announced on December 26, 2024. The content of the translation may not be coincident with the original.