

Aozora Bank, Ltd.

Hitachi, Ltd.

Aozora Bank to Rebuild and Outsource its Main System

Tokyo (January 16, 2002) — Aozora Bank, Ltd. (President: Hiroshi Maruyama, HQ: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, hereafter Aozora Bank) today announced that it agreed with Hitachi, Ltd. (President: Etsuhiko Shoyama, HQ: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, hereafter Hitachi) on adopting Hitachi's outsourcing services by "NEXTBASE", a banking solution for financial institutions in order to establish, operate and maintain the Bank's next main system. The new system will be launched in 2004.

Hitachi's NEXTBASE has its core engine "BeSTA", the latest accounting package of NTT DATA CORPORATION in its basic menu. It is an advanced collective center scheme that has extensive services such as deposits, lending and settlement, and FREIA21, a system by Hitachi's latest technology for branch offices. Also, as an option menu, it has FINEMAX, a collective center service that allows 24-hour, 365-day network banking, and management strategy support and marketing systems.

Aozora Bank intends to maintain the competitive edge and at the same time it started a full-scale review on its information systems such as main system. The Bank has established System Renovation Committee last June in order to build its infrastructure for its new system that plays an important role for its business strategy in future.

The Bank will streamline its personnel and costs in the information systems departments by outsourcing entirely its main system to Hitachi as well as rebuilding its system for branch offices. On the other hand, it will aggressively invest in systems of strategic areas that is developing new financial services and improving the quality of financial business information. The Bank considers that these measures will give the Bank more opportunities to serve its customers effectively and efficiently. The Bank will also be able to conduct its business reform extensively by taking these measures.

- Product names described in this release
 - * NEXTBASE, FREIA21, and FINEMAX are product names of the Hitachi, Ltd.
 - * BeSTA (NTT Data Standard Banking System) is a product name (registered brand name) of the NTT DATA CORPORATION
 - * Other product names, corporate names, organizations other than the above are either brand names or registered brand names of each company.

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