

April 14, 2016

NEXT Co., Ltd.

Representative: Takashi Inoue, President and CEO

TSE 1st Section: 2120

**Online Appointment System Compatible with Smart Locks for Property Viewings  
Introduced to Real Estate Agents Affiliated with HOME'S**

**Makes the Process of Property Viewing Requests, Approvals, and Key Exchange More Efficient**

On Thursday, April 14, 2016, NEXT Co., Ltd. (headquarters: Minato-ku, Tokyo; President and CEO: Takashi Inoue; TSE 1st Section: 2120), operator of HOME'S, the real estate and housing information site featuring Japan's largest number of property listings, will begin offering the 'HOME'S PRO Property Viewing Appointment System' ("the Appointment System"). For real estate brokers, the system streamlines the property viewing process. Offered to real estate brokers affiliated with HOME'S, the Appointment System is compatible with the Qrio Smart Lock.

**How the HOME'S PRO Property Viewing Appointment System works**



**Overview of the HOME'S PRO Property Viewing Appointment System**

The HOME'S PRO Property Viewing Appointment System is a new service that automates communication between property management companies of rental properties and brokers for property viewings. Although it can also be used for properties that use traditional keys and key boxes, for properties using smart locks in particular, it enables smooth, fuss-free key delivery and property viewing. Real estate agents affiliated with HOME'S can use this service free of charge.\* The major features and advantages are outlined below.

\* Adopting smart locks incurs an additional fee

\* This service is provided as part of the HOME'S PRO real estate services

### **1. Online Appointments and Approval for Property Viewings**

Using a smartphone app or special website, the system facilitates and improves the reliability of the process of making appointments to view properties, something that brokers currently do by calling property management companies. By registering the information needed to view the property in advance, including how to obtain keys and any notes on the property, the system eliminates the inconvenience of having to check such matters each time.

### **2. Smart Lock Compatibility**

Equipping properties with smart locks enables doors to be locked and unlocked with a smartphone. This makes it possible to arrange property viewings quickly, without having to travel to another location simply to pick up keys. Since a smart lock key is valid only during the designated hours of a designated day, smart locks help keep properties even more secure. The system will initially be compatible only with the Qrio Smart Lock, but compatibility with other smart locks is under consideration for the future. Plans call for making it possible to make appointments for and manage property viewings centrally using this single system, even with different smart lock methods.

### **3. Property Viewing Logs (to be introduced this summer)**

Automation of the process of making appointments to view properties, handled to date by telephone, will make it possible to maintain records of data on which brokers made appointments to view which properties and at what times. Furthermore, properties equipped with smart locks will log the actual times at which a property was viewed, allowing property management companies to improve the precision of their leasing activities and reports to owners.

“We expect this system to reduce the effort required by brokers for property viewings and to reduce the risk of theft or loss of keys,” said Mr. Ogawa, Manager of Leasing Department II at Nisshin Kanazai, which installed the Qrio Smart Lock at some of the properties it manages and plans to begin using the HOME’S PRO Property Viewing Appointment System.

### **Background of Introducing the HOME’S PRO Property Viewing Appointment System and Future Outlook**

Based on the HOME’S PRO platform, HOME’S delivers a wide range of services to improve business efficiency for real estate companies. Among these is the new appointment system for property viewings, intended to dramatically streamline the complex process of property viewing—which typically includes making appointments, granting and receiving approval, and exchanging keys—by migrating from telephone and traditional keys to computers, smartphones, and smart locks.

Before its introduction, the HOME’S PRO Property Viewing Appointment System was tested through trials in March 2015. Development of the system incorporated suggestions from participating real estate companies and feedback obtained through these trials.

Since August 2015, a large-scale experiment led by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transportation has been underway to provide online briefings of important property-related issues. This is one example of the increasing demand to apply information technologies to improve efficiency in the real estate industry. With this trend in mind, we are committed to enlivening and increasing the productivity of the real estate industry by expanding the features of and promoting use of HOME’S PRO.

### **Promotion Campaign for the Qrio Smart Lock**

To commemorate the introduction of the HOME’S PRO Property Viewing Appointment System, a special campaign is underway for property management companies that plan to start using smart locks. Please contact us for detailed information.

### **Inquiries for the Qrio Smart Lock**

Product information: <http://qrio.me/smartlock>

Contact: Qrio, Inc., Public Relations (Attn.: Takahashi) ([03-6416-0868/pr@qrioinc.com](mailto:03-6416-0868/pr@qrioinc.com))

Under its “Designing Delightful Encounters” corporate vision, the NEXT Group will continue to strive to deliver information tailored to individual needs.

**“HOME’S”** (URL: <http://www.homes.co.jp/>):

“HOME’S” is a real estate/ housing information site with the most number of properties listed in Japan,\* through which information for approximately 6,980,000 real estate properties (the average of the month in March 2016) nationwide from Hokkaido to Okinawa can be searched to find your desired property. In addition to property information, it offers information and services of every kind for relocation at one stop, including the going rate for rents, a wide range of know-how, information of stations and areas around your desired properties, housing trends, and services related to contracts and house moving. “HOME’S” holds “Be proud of the way you live” as its brand message and provides safety and delight to more users who are looking for a home.

**NEXT Co., Ltd.** (TSE 1st Section: 2120; URL: <http://www.next-group.jp/>):

NEXT Co., Ltd. was established in 1997 on the principle of “aspiration to bring change to the structure of the real estate industry.”

Its major service, “HOME’S,” is a real estate/ housing information site with the most number of properties listed in Japan.\*

NEXT Co., Ltd. is currently providing services in 46 countries worldwide, including the operations of “HOME’S” in Asian countries and of the world’s largest aggregation site, “Trovit.”

It also operates various services relating to general areas of our life under the service brand of “Lifull,” which was launched in 2014 to support each person’s way of life by remaining true to themselves.

Based on our corporate message of “Designing delightful encounters,” NEXT Co., Ltd. will continuously provide the information right for each of you by taking the people’s side and being honest and considerate at all time, with the aim of creating a world where everyone can proceed with confidence.

\* Based on the survey conducted by Sankei Medix (announced on January 23, 2016)

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