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Successful Patent Infringement Lawsuit against Overseas Stationery Manufacturer

PILOT CORPORATION
THE PILOT INK CO.,LTD.

PILOT CORPORATION and THE PILOT INK CO.,LTD. (the “Companies”) filed a lawsuit with the Tokyo District Court against an overseas stationery manufacturer which exhibited thermochromic writing instruments (the “Products”) at a trade fair to sell them in Japan and for other purposes. The Companies requested an injunction preventing the sale of the Products based on the Companies' patent rights (patent no. 5302881).

The Companies are pleased to announce that the Tokyo District Court (29th Civil Division; presiding judge: Katsumi Shibuya) has handed down a ruling upholding the Companies' claims and prohibiting the overseas stationery manufacturer from importing, selling or offering to sell the Products.

The Companies have continued research and development efforts regarding a wide range of products, including the Frixion series of products, and they have protected the achievements of these efforts using patent and other intellectual property rights. In particular, the Companies have acquired a large number of patent rights regarding Frixion-related technologies to improve and diversify them. With the ruling, the court has recognized the Companies' claims made based on these proprietary technologies and patent rights that protect the technologies. The Companies understand that the ruling is a result of their efforts.

The Companies will continue to respect the intellectual property rights of third parties, both in Japan and overseas, and request that other business operators respect the intellectual property rights of the Companies. The Companies will also continue to respond strongly to acts which infringe on or are likely to infringe on their intellectual property rights, by requesting injunctions or taking other legal actions as necessary.

By protecting and utilizing intellectual property rights appropriately, the Companies will help maintain a fair competitive environment, contribute to the sound development of the writing instruments market and strive to develop products that provide new value to consumers. The Companies appreciate the continued support of their products.