

August 23, 2006

Hitachi Capital Corporation (8586)

Apex Inc. (3324)

Notice of Business Alliance

Hitachi Capital Corporation (headquartered in Minato-ku, Tokyo; “Hitachi Capital”) and Apex Inc. (headquartered in Shibuya-ku, Tokyo; “Apex”) have concluded a business alliance on the buying and selling of used semiconductor manufacturing devices (“manufacturing devices”).

1. Background of the business alliance

Domestic device manufacturers have an increasing need for the sale of manufacturing devices that have been upgraded through renovation or modification.

Using its unique position as a leasing company affiliated with a manufacturer, Hitachi Capital has aggressively promoted operating lease of semiconductor manufacturing devices, and has also striven to sell the manufacturing devices on the used device market after their leases expire. Through such efforts, Hitachi Capital has aimed to build a business model that caters to the needs of domestic device manufacturers.

Apex has extensive know-how and skills in the appraisal, brokerage, and sale of manufacturing devices. Apex maintains solutions business throughout Japan and in overseas markets, and intends to further expand its business.

Through the business alliance, the two companies have decided to expand the business of selling manufacturing devices. The alliance will enable Hitachi Capital to promote sales of manufacturing devices in its stock by upgrading them through renovation or modification. Apex, on the other hand, can secure strategically superior assets and expand sales in the technical service field through renovation and modification.

2. Details of the alliance

Hitachi Capital and Apex will cooperate with each other to procure and sell the following manufacturing devices:

- 1) Manufacturing devices whose leases by Hitachi Capital have expired
- 2) Manufacturing devices purchased by Hitachi Capital from customers
- 3) Manufacturing devices purchased by Apex from customers

Any renovation or modification necessary for the above manufacturing devices will be conducted by Apex.