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March 25, 2003

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Ex Parte Presentation*: In the Matter of Implementation of Section 304 of the
Telecommunications Act of 1996: Commercial Availability of Navigation Devices;
CS Docket No. 97-80

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On March 24, 2003, the undersigned on behalf of Thomson Inc., spoke on the telephone with Susan Eid, Legal Advisor to Chairman Powell, Sara Whitesell, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Adelstein, Alex Johns and Jordan Goldstein, Legal Advisors to Commissioner Copps, and Rick Chessen, Associate Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, regarding potential compromises associated with the Commission's current consideration of the January 1, 2005 deadline prohibiting cable companies from offering integrated cable set-top boxes pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 76.1204(a)(1). I reiterated the importance at this critical juncture in the evolving relationship between the CE and cable industries, particularly in light of the on-going negotiations concerning a bidirectional compatibility agreement, of maintaining a firm date for prohibiting the sale or lease of integrated cable set-top boxes by MSOs, even were that date to be extended by six months or one year from that provided by current regulations.

Respectfully submitted,



Lawrence R. Sidman
of PAUL, HASTINGS, JANOFSKY & WALKER LLP

Counsel to Thomson Inc.

LRS/paw

cc: Susan Eid, Legal Advisor to Chairman Powell
Sara Whitesell, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Adelstein
Alex Johns and Jordan Goldstein, Legal Advisors to Commissioner Copps
Rick Chessen, Associate Bureau Chief, Media Bureau