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May 20, 2003

Ms. Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Ex Parte Communication in CS Docket No. 97-80 (Commercial Availability of Navigation Devices); PP Docket No. 00-67 (Compatibility Between Cable Systems and Consumer Electronics Equipment); and MB Docket No. 03-15 (Second Periodic Review of the Commission's Rules and Policies Affecting the Conversion to Digital Television).

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Monday, May 19, 2003, Lawrence R. Sidman and Sara W. Morris of Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker LLP; and David Arland, Director of Worldwide Public and Trade Relations, Consumer Products, with Thomson Inc.; met with the following staff of the Media Bureau (listed below) to discuss issues in the above-referenced proceedings:

Rick Chessen
Bill Johnson
Mary Beth Murphy
Susan Mort

Michael Lance
Michael Perko
Tom Horan
Alison Greenwald

In the meeting, Thomson focused on the importance to the DTV transition of rapid Commission adoption of proposed regulations set forth in the "Plug and Play" agreement ("Agreement") for unidirectional digital cable-ready receivers (and other devices). Specifically, Thomson urged the Commission to adopt the Agreement in time to enable manufacturers to realize efficiencies deriving from commonalities between designing and producing cable ready DTV receivers and complying with the Commission's July 1, 2004 deadline for integration of ATSC reception capability in half of all larger-screen TVs. Thomson stressed the benefits to the DTV transition of avoiding the unfortunate consequence of the Commission's missing an 18-month product cycle while the Agreement is pending. Thomson identified the ability of consumers to go into a retail outlet and be assured that the DTV they wish to purchase is "cable-ready" as being perhaps the single most important near-term achievement the Commission could accomplish to accelerate the DTV transition.

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Thomson also discussed concerns raised by other parties in the "Plug and Play" proceeding, specifically with regard to the Commission's adoption of encoding rules and the inclusion of ATSC reception capability as a defined requirement of a device's being digital "cable-ready." On these matters, and generally, Thomson associated itself with Comments and Reply Comments filed in the Plug and Play proceeding by the Consumer Electronics Association ("CEA"). Finally, Thomson reiterated its concerns, expressed in its Comments in the DTV Periodic Review, regarding the importance of broadcaster transmission of DTV signals at power levels adequate to reach most viewers within their service areas.

In accordance with Section 1.1206 of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1206, one copy of this letter is being filed electronically. Please direct any questions concerning this matter to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



Lawrence R. Sidman
Partner

cc: Rick Chessen
Bill Johnson
Mary Beth Murphy
Susan Mort
Michael Lance
Michael Perko
Tom Horan
Alison Greenwald