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9
 10 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
 11 **NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**
 12 **SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION**

13 **IN RE: CAPACITORS ANTITRUST**
14 **LITIGATION**

MASTER FILE NO. 14-cv-03264-JD

**NOTICE OF MOTION AND MOTION
 TO APPROVE PROGRAM TO PROVIDE
 CLASS NOTICE AND TO SET
 SCHEDULE FOR FINAL APPROVAL**

15
 16 **THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO:**
 17 **ALL INDIRECT PURCHASER ACTIONS**

Date: November 10, 2016
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Place: Courtroom 11, 19th Floor

Judge: Hon. James Donato

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NOTICE OF MOTION AND MOTION

TO ALL PARTIES AND THEIR COUNSEL OF RECORD:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on November 10, 2016 at 10:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, before the Honorable James Donato, the Indirect Purchaser Plaintiffs (“IPPs”) will and hereby do move for an order (1) approving a program to provide class notice of the proposed settlements with Defendants (A) NEC TOKIN Corp./NEC TOKIN America Inc. (collectively, “NEC TOKIN”), (B) Nitsuko Electronics Corporation (“Nitsuko”) and (C) Okaya Electric Industries Co, Ltd. (“Okaya”); and (2) establishing a schedule for requests for exclusion, objections, and a final approval hearing.

This motion is brought pursuant to Rule 23(c)(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The grounds for this motion is that the proposed notice program satisfies the requirements of Rule 23(c)(2) and due process.

This motion is based on this Notice of Motion and Motion, the supporting Memorandum of Points and Authorities, the Declaration of Steven N. Williams, the argument of counsel and the pleadings and records on file herein.

Dated: October 6, 2016

Respectfully submitted,

COTCHETT, PITRE & McCARTHY LLP

By: /s/ Steven N. Williams
Steven N. Williams

Interim Lead Counsel for the Putative Indirect Purchaser Class

1 **MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES**
2 **STATEMENT OF ISSUES TO BE DECIDED**

3 Whether the proposed class notice program should be approved and a schedule set for final
4 approval of the Indirect Purchaser Plaintiffs' proposed settlements with NEC TOKIN, Nitsuko, and
5 Okaya.

6 **I. INTRODUCTION**

7 Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. Proc. 23, Indirect Purchaser Class Plaintiffs ("IPPs") move for an
8 order preliminarily approving a program to provide class notice of three proposed settlements with
9 Defendants NEC TOKIN Corp./NEC TOKIN America Inc. (collectively "NEC TOKIN"), Nitsuko
10 Electronics Corporation ("Nitsuko"), and Okaya Electric Industries Co, Ltd. ("Okaya")
11 (collectively, the "Settlements"). IPPs sought competitive bids from nationally-recognized notice
12 providers, and selected the proposal that they felt was best suited to this case and these settlements.
13 *See* Declaration of Steven N. Williams ("Williams Decl."), ¶ 3.

14 The notice program is a robust, multifaceted approach to deliver plain and easy to
15 understand information about the Settlements. IPPs have retained a recognized national expert,
16 A.B. Data, Inc., who has designed a notice program that addresses the specific nature of the
17 settlements and settlement classes. The notice program includes (1) direct mail notice, (2)
18 publication notice, (3) internet and email notice, (4) earned media notice, (5) establishment of a
19 case-specific website, and (6) establishment of a case-specific toll free number.

20 As set forth in more detail below, IPPs' notice program will fairly apprise potential class
21 members of the existence of the settlement agreements and their options in relation to the proposed
22 settlements. Accordingly, the Court should approve dissemination of class notice and establish a
23 schedule for a final approval hearing on the Settlements.

24 **II. FACTUAL AND PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND**

25 The proposed notice provider is A.B. Data, Ltd. ("A.B. Data"). A.B. Data is an
26 experienced provider of class notice, including the pending Northern District of California case *In*
27 *re Lithium Ion Batteries Antitrust Litigation (Indirect Purchaser Actions)*, N.D. Cal. Case No. 13-
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1 MD-2420. Other representative examples of A.B. Data's experience are set forth at paras. 5 and 6
2 and Exhs. 2 and 3 to the Declaration of Linda V. Young ("Young Decl.") filed in support of this
3 motion.

4 The proposed notice program includes the following components:

- 5 1. Direct mail notice to those class members for whom mailing addresses are available.

6 Through non-party discovery in this case, IPPs have obtained the addresses of potential
7 class members. A.B. Data will process these addresses through the national change of
8 address ("NCOA") database, and using any updated information available in the NCOA
9 database will send postcard notice directly to those potential class members. The
10 postcard notices will include the web address of the case-specific website and toll-free
11 telephone number of the case-specific call center. Further analysis will be done of any
12 mail returned non-deliverable after use of the NCOA database.

- 13 2. Publication of notice in general-market publications and trade magazines. Published
14 notice will run in *The Wall Street Journal*, *Electronic Design*, and *Nuts and Volts*.

- 15 3. Email notice through email "blasts". An email blast will be sent to opt-in subscribers of
16 the following publications:

- 17 a. Penton Publications (including the websites Electroncdesign.com,
18 machinedesign.com, sourceesb.com, mwrf.com, powerelectronics.com, and
19 HydraulicsPneumatics.com.

- 20 b. EE Times.

- 21 4. National targeted trade websites. Banner ads will be placed on the following websites:

- 22 a. Electronicdesign.com
23 b. Machinedesign.com
24 c. SourceESB.com
25 d. Mwrf.com (Microwaves and RF)
26 e. Powerelectronics.com
27 f. HydraulicsPneumatics.com

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- 1 g. Nutsvolts.com
- 2 h. Passivecomponentmagazine.com
- 3 i. Eetimes.com
- 4 j. Ebonline.com

5 All banner ads will include an embedded link to the case-specific website. The
6 banner ads will include generic images of capacitors to increase the visibility of the
7 ads.

- 8 5. E-newsletter notice. Banner ads will be run in the e-newsletter *Nuts and Volts*, which is
9 mailed to approximately 40,000 subscribers.
- 10 6. National sponsorship of selected trade e-newsletters.
- 11 7. Earned media, including dissemination of a news release via Business Wire which will
12 be distributed to more than 10,000 newsrooms, including print, broadcast and digital
13 media across the United States.

14 Young Decl., paras. 9-18 and Exh. 1. The proposed short form notice is attached to the Williams
15 Decl. as Exh. 1. The proposed long form notice is attached to the Williams Decl. as Exh. 2.

16 **III. IPPS' PROPOSED NOTICE PROGRAM COMPORTS WITH THE**
17 **REQUIREMENTS OF RULE 23 AND DUE PROCESS**

18 In the context of Rule 23(b)(3) actions, “the court must direct to class members the best
19 notice that is practicable under the circumstances,” and that notice “must clearly and concisely
20 state in plain, easily understood language:

- 21 (i) the nature of the action;
- 22 (ii) the definition of the class certified;
- 23 (iii) the class claims, issues or defenses;
- 24 (iv) that a class member may enter an appearance through an attorney if the member so
25 desires;
- 26 (v) that the court will exclude from the class any member who requests exclusion;
- 27 (vi) the time and manner for requesting exclusion; and

1 (vii) the binding effect of a class judgment on members under Rule 23(c)(3).”

2 Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(c)(2)(B). While Rule 23 requires that reasonable efforts be made to reach all
3 class members, it does not require that each individual actually receive notice. *Silber v. Mabon*, 18
4 F.3d 1449, 1454 (9th Cir. 1994). A class settlement notice satisfies due process if it contains a
5 summary sufficient to “apprise interested parties of the pendency of the action and to afford them
6 an opportunity to present their objections.” *UAW v. GMC*, 497 F.3d 615, 629 (6th Cir. 2007)
7 (quoting *Mullane v. Cent. Hanover Bank & Trust Co.*, 339 U.S. 306, 314 (1950)). A settlement
8 notice need only be a summary, not a complete source of information. *See, e.g., Petrovic v.*
9 *AMOCO Oil Co.*, 200 F.3d 1140, 1153 (8th Cir. 1999); *In re “Agent Orange” Prod. Liab. Litig.*,
10 818 F.2d 145, 170 (2d Cir. 1987); *Mangione v. First USA Bank*, 206 F.R.D. 222, 233 (S.D. Ill.
11 2001). The Ninth Circuit requires a general description of the proposed settlement. *Churchill Vill.,*
12 *L.L.C. v. GE*, 361 F.3d 566, 575 (9th Cir. 2004); *Torrissi v. Tucson Elec. Power Co.*, 8 F.3d 1370,
13 1374-75 (9th Cir. 1993); *Mendoza v. United States*, 623 F.2d 1338, 1351 (9th Cir. 1980).

14 The proposed notice program meets these standards. The notice program begins by
15 providing direct mail notice for those class members for whom physical addresses can be obtained
16 in non-parties’ data that IPPs received in discovery. While direct mail notice is typically
17 considered the best form of notice under Rule 23(c)(3), the proposed notice program adds many
18 additional facets in addition to direct mail notice that make it a thorough, multilayered approach to
19 notice designed to reach members of the settlement classes. This approach is adequate and
20 reasonable under the circumstances. *Ross v. Trex Co.*, 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 29081, * 6 (N.D.
21 Cal. Mar. 4, 2013) (“Courts have consistently recognized that due process does not require that
22 every class member receive actual notice . . . Due Process does not entitle a class member to
23 ‘actual notice,’ but rather to the best notice practicable, reasonably calculated under the
24 circumstances to apprise him of the pendency of the class action and give him a chance to be
25 heard.”); *see also In re Prudential Ins. Co. of Am. Sales Practices Litig.*, 177 F.R.D. 216, 231
26 (D.N.J. 1997) (“Courts have consistently recognized that due process does not require that every
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1 class member receive actual notice so long as the court reasonably selected a means likely to
2 apprise interested parties.”).

3 The contents of the notice meet the requirements of Rule 23(c)(2)(B) in language that is
4 understandable to the classes. The proposed long form notice includes (1) the case name and case
5 number; (2) a description of the case; (3) a description of the settlement classes; (4) a description
6 of the settlement agreements, including the monetary consideration and cooperation to be provided
7 to the settlement classes; (5) the name of settlement class counsel; (6) a description of the releases
8 being provided; (7) the final approval hearing date; (8) information about the final approval
9 hearing; (9) information about the deadline for filing objections to the settlement agreements; (10)
10 information about the deadline for filing requests for exclusion from the settlement classes; (11)
11 that a class member can enter an appearance through an attorney if the member so desires; (12) the
12 consequences of exclusion or remaining in the settlement classes; and (13) and how to obtain
13 further information about the proposed settlement agreements. Williams Decl., Exh. 2. This
14 includes all of the information required by Rule 23(c)(2)(B) and more.

15
16 **IV. THE COURT SHOULD ESTABLISH A SCHEDULE FOR THE NOTICE**
17 **PROGRAM AND FINAL APPROVAL OF THE SETTLEMENTS**

18 If the Court grants preliminary approval of the Settlements and grants this motion to
19 approve a class notice program, a schedule should be established for the completion of the notice
20 program, objections and requests for exclusion, and the briefing of final approval. IPPs propose
21 the following schedule:

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Event	Time	Estimated Date
Preliminary Approval		11/17/2016
Mail Notice	60 days after Order	1/16/2017
Publication Begins	60 days after Order	1/16/2017
Publication Ends	100 days after Order	2/25/2017
Exclusion and Objection Deadline	120 days after Order	3/17/2017

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Event	Time	Estimated Date
Motion for Final Approval and Response to Objections (if any)	35 days before hearing	4/11/2017
Final Approval Hearing	180 days after Order	5/18/2017

V. **CONCLUSION**

Accordingly, the proposed notice program and accompanying forms are reasonable and adequate under the circumstances and are fairly calculated to apprise class members of their rights under the settlements. For these reasons, the proposed notice program should be approved.

Dated: October 6, 2016

Respectfully submitted,
COTCHETT, PITRE & McCARATHY LLP

By: /s/ Steven N. Williams
Steven N. Williams

Interim Lead Counsel for the Putative Indirect Purchaser Class