## NIRO, HALLER & NIRO

RAYMOND P. NIRO TIMOTHY J. HALLER WILLIAM L. NIRO

JOSEPH N. HOSTENY, III ROBERT A. VITALE, JR.

PAUL K. VICKREY DEAN D. NIRO

RAYMOND P. NIRO, JR.

PATRICK F. SOLON ARTHUR A. GASEY

CHRISTOPHER J. LEE

DAVID J. SHEIKH VASILIOS D. DOSSAS

RICHARD B. MEGLEY, JR. MATTHEW G. McANDREWS

PAUL C. GIBBONS

The Honorable Joan N. Ericksen United States District Court Judge United States District Court 300 South Fourth Street, Suite 12W Minneapolis, MN 55415

181 WEST MADISON STREET-SUITE 4600

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602

TELEPHONE (312) 236-0733

FACSIMILE (312) 236-3137

January 25, 2011

GREGORY P. CASIMER DINA M. HAYES FREDERICK C. LANEY DAVID J. MAHALEK KARA L. SZPONDOWSKI ROBERT A. CONLEY LAURA A. KENNEALLY TAHITI ARSULOWICZ BRIAN E. HAAN JOSEPH A. CULIG ANNA B. FOLGERS CHRISTOPHER W. NIRO DANIEL R. FERRI GABRIEL I. OPATKEN OLIVER D. YANG OF COUNSEL:

JOHN C. JANKA

Re: TimeBase Pty Ltd. v. The Thomson Corp. et al., 07-1687 (JNE/JJG)

## Dear Judge Ericksen:

Judge Graham has supervised discovery and the schedule for this case. She is well aware of the parties' past and present differences over the schedule; the parties briefed the issues last July, and submitted a joint motion describing their agreements and differences. (A copy of the motion, document number 164, is enclosed). Judge Graham's Order of August 3, 2010 (Document number 166, enclosed) was entered after considering the parties' briefs. Judge Graham declined to change the trial-ready date of June 11.

Now the defendants propose to delay that event by more than <u>five</u> months, to November. Judge Graham <u>rejected</u> the defendants' request to delay the trial-ready date by <u>two</u> months, from June, 2011 to August, 2011. (The defendants' request is at page 6 of document number 164, the parties' July 20, 2011 joint motion).

Other dates would now be moved by as much as four months, a delay which we believe Judge Graham found unacceptable at this late stage. Thomson did not appeal that order.

TimeBase requests that the Court direct Thomson to raise this issue with Judge Graham, so that she can consider the hardship that would be imposed on TimeBase. For example, in 2007, the defendants told the Court that reexamination of the '592 patent would give us the benefit of the Patent Office's views, and that the issue of validity would be resolved in far less time, and at far less cost, than via litigation. The defendants said the claims would likely be invalidated.

Instead, the claims were all confirmed. Rather than being consistent with their prior arguments, the defendants have delayed and complicated this case by citing scores of prior art references, and thousands of combinations of alleged prior art. They even continue to rely upon prior art references explicitly considered, and rejected by the Patent Office. Thomson

The Honorable Joan N. Ericksen January 25, 2011 Page 2

took advantage of a stay for reexamination, promised many benefits, and now frustrates or ignores those benefits.

TimeBase is a small Australian company, and is affected by market conditions that multiply as delay increases. For example, a dollar in damages would, at one point, have yielded \$1.40 Australian. Now it will only yield \$0.99 Australian. Of course, the patents are wasting assets, because they have a limited lifetime. Licensing is well-nigh impossible while this litigation pends. There are other pertinent facts covered by the protective order.

TimeBase requests that the Court adhere to the schedule set by Judge Graham, or leave it to Judge Graham to consider any modification. The defendants should of course confer with TimeBase's counsel, which they have not done as yet. We can do so with dispatch.

<del>Sin</del>çerely,

Joseph N. Hosteny

cc:

Counsel of Record, via email and U.S. Mail