

## **Countermeasures to Large-scale Purchases of Company Shares (Takeover Defense Measures)**

### **I. Basic Policy regarding Persons who Control Decisions on the Company's Financial and Business Policies**

As an organ of a company with its stock listed on a financial instruments exchange, the Board respects free trading of the shares in the Company on the market and does not categorically reject a large-scale purchase of the shares in the Company by a particular party as long as it contributes to the protection and enhancement of the corporate value of the Group and eventually to shareholders' common interests. The Company also believes that the decision on whether or not to accept a proposal for a large-scale purchase of shares should be ultimately made by the shareholders.

However, there may be a proposal for a large-scale purchase of shares which could undermine the Group's corporate value and eventually, shareholders' common interests by, for instance, preventing the Group from maintaining a good relationship with its stakeholders. It is also possible that some of such proposals do not fully reflect the Group's value or do not provide sufficient information required for our shareholders to make a final decision.

The Board believes that upon receipt of such proposals for large-scale purchases of shares, it must, as a duty of a body mandated by shareholders, secure necessary time and information and negotiate with the proposers on behalf of shareholders.

### **II. Special Efforts to Implement the Basic Policy**

#### **(1) Efforts to enhance the corporate value**

Established in March 1952, the Company started its trading business (the "Trading Business") as a dealership of the chemical product division (currently known as Resonac Corporation) of Hitachi, Ltd. The Company's trade area extended to Nagoya and Tokyo in line with the development of the Hitachi group, when, in July 1968, the Company launched the resin molding business following the evolution of chemical technology and the resulting development of resin materials with the catchphrase "light, strong, heavy-duty and non-perishable." Since then, the Company has engaged in these two original businesses.

With its bases located in Japan, the Chinese areas and the ASEAN trade area, where the Company expanded its trading sphere as a dealership of Resonac Corporation and the Resonac Group, the Trading Business is currently putting efforts into "networking with unique partner companies" and "technical and other education of our employees" with the objective of creating our competitive edge in the commercial distribution to our customers.

Meanwhile, the resin molding business has broadened its business field from OA/DI parts in the category of household appliances to automobile parts and medical equipment. Its technological field has also expanded from resin-only molding to printing, assembling, inserting of other materials, and coiling (winding). With a view to creating our competitive edge in the commercial distribution to our customers, the resin molding business, with its bases located in Japan and the ASEAN trade area, is currently promoting the introduction of "full and semi-automated production lines" in anticipation of a sharp rise in labor costs and shortage of workers in Japan that could occur in the near future.

The Company initiatives to improve its corporate value in the future will be as follows: (i) in the Trading Business, the Company will further promote the "networking with unique partner companies" that has been carried out, seek to build up concrete results of new product development, and expand its product lineup by strengthening its manufacturer functions mainly in line with its business vision of "developing as a material and component trading company with manufacturing functions;" and (ii) in the resin molding business, the Company will promote, among others, further advancement of horizontal transfer to the group companies of the Company's full and semi-automated production lines, which the Company has achieved after overcoming high technological obstacles, strengthening of differentiating technologies of "electric characteristics and reliability evaluation technology" and "resin-dissimilar

material joining/inserting technology,” and establishment of a domestic contract production system for medical equipment parts.

In addition to those efforts, the Company will continue its efforts towards compliance, which it has identified as an issue of ESG materiality, and will work to strengthen its governance system based on the recommendations of the TCFD (Task Force on Climate-related Financial Information Disclosures) to address climate change, thus protecting and enhancing the Company’s corporate value and eventually, shareholders’ common interests.

## **(2) Reinforcement of Corporate Governance**

The Company has advanced the following initiatives with the belief that solid corporate governance is essential to gain unwavering trust from its stakeholders:

### **(Corporate governance system)**

Regarding corporate governance as a “framework to check the lawfulness and efficiency of the management on behalf of shareholders,” the Company has developed the system of supervision and audit of the execution of duties by directors by establishing the shareholders’ meeting, the board of directors, the audit and supervisory committee, the representative director and the accounting auditors, as the most appropriate framework. In addition, with the establishment of “Basic Concept of Internal Control System” and “Framework for Promotion of Internal Control System,” the Company has developed a system required to ensure the appropriateness of the operations of the corporate group comprising the Company and its affiliates.

The Board meetings are held at least once in two months, in principle. Before being reported to the Board, material management matters are fully discussed at the management strategy meeting composed of full-time directors (including the chairperson of the audit and supervisory committee).

The audit and supervisory committee consists of four audit and supervisory committee members (one full-time audit and supervisory committee member and three outside directors serving as audit and supervisory committee members). The committee meets at least once in two months, in principle, to discuss and adopt resolutions on material management matters, the results of the audit by the audit and supervisory committee members and the internal audit as well as the results of audit by the accounting auditors, among other things.

### **(Internal audit and audit by the audit and supervisory committee members)**

The Company’s Internal Audit Division, a division under the president’s direct control, investigates, on a regular and irregular (extraordinary) basis, whether or not the internal operations are conducted in due compliance with the Company’s rules and regulations, and reports the results of such audit to the president and the chairperson of the audit and supervisory committee. In addition, the Internal Audit Division points out any problems identified and issues recommendations for improvement to the audited divisions.

The audit and supervisory committee members attend the Board meetings and other important meetings to audit the status of execution of duties by the full-time directors (excluding the audit and supervisory committee members), and conduct audits on full-time directors (excluding audit and supervisory committee members), executive officers, managers and employees, when necessary.

### **(Other efforts)**

In addition to the above, the Company has worked on improving corporate governance based on its latest corporate governance code.

## **III. Measures to Prevent Decisions on the Company’s Financial and Business Policies from being Controlled by Persons Deemed as Inappropriate under the Basic Policy**

## 1. Purpose of the Plan

The Plan is in line with the Basic Policy stated in I. above for the purpose of protecting and enhancing the Company's corporate value and eventually, shareholders' common interests. It aims to clearly set the rules that should be observed by the persons intending to make large-scale purchases of the Company Shares. Also, it aims to secure necessary and sufficient information and time for the shareholders to make appropriate decisions as well as the opportunity to negotiate with the persons intending to make large-scale purchases.

Effective as of the close of the 58th ordinary general meeting of shareholders held on June 29, 2009, the Company abolished the "basic policy regarding persons who control decisions on the Company's financial and business policies" introduced at the 56th ordinary general meeting of shareholders of the Company held on June 28, 2007 (the "Former Plan"). However, in recent years, the Japanese capital market has seen increased movement of certain acquirers to go ahead with unsolicited large-scale purchases of shares without obtaining the approval of the management of the target companies. Under the current Japanese capital market and legal system, we still cannot deny the possibility that there may be a large-scale purchase that would clearly impair the Group's corporate value and shareholders' common interests.

To be specific, under the Financial Instruments Exchange Act, which took effect on September 30, 2007, any person who has acquired shares for the purpose of making important suggestions with the intention of participating in the management of the issuer may not use the special reporting system and is required to submit a large-volume holding report within five business days. In addition, upon the launch of a tender offer, the target issuer company may request an "extension of the tender offer period" and exercise the "right to ask questions." Nevertheless, even under these legal systems, it is impossible to legally secure the provision of information and time for consideration and negotiation opportunities before the launch of a tender offer and to legally restrict the accumulation of shares through buying in the market. Thus, one cannot deny that these legal systems may not necessarily function effectively against large-scale purchases of shares that could impair the corporate value of a listed company and eventually, shareholders' common interests.

Coming to another point, since the abolishment of the Former Plan, the Company has selected the automobile, medical precision equipment and electronics markets as our growth areas. In 2018, the Company formulated three long-term visions which corresponded to each of the growth areas, namely, (i) establishment of technologies for mass production of critical automobile security parts with molded products as the core, (ii) expansion of contract manufacturing of medical precision equipment with a focus on disposable products, and (iii) search and provision of next-generation products in various business areas, with special emphasis on electronic parts. Furthermore, in 2020, the Company developed them into the long-term visions of what the Company is expected to be upon the expiration of the Mid-term Management Plan 2028, namely, (i) evolution from a Tier 2 manufacturer to a Tier 1.5 manufacturer, (ii) development as an OEM manufacturer of medical precision equipment components, and (iii) development as a materials and components trading company with manufacturer functions. Based on these visions, the Company is continuously striving to develop products that fit with these growth areas. In these growth areas, where we are required to develop products that better cater to clients' specific needs, the Company and its customers work in close partnership and exchange technical and other confidential information. As a result, the Company has come to possess far more amount of customers' technical and other confidential information than it did before the abolishment of the Former Plan. If a large-scale purchase of the Company Shares is executed without sufficient consideration, the resulting transfer of control, coupled with the risk of leakage of such confidential information, could seriously damage the good relationships between the Company and its stakeholders, including such customers.

Such circumstances have not changed since last year, throughout which the Existing Plan continued. The Company renewed the consideration of the necessity of countermeasures against such large-scale purchases, and reached a conclusion that it is necessary to further continue the countermeasures against

large-scale purchases in order to ensure that a process is in place to have a large-scale purchaser provide information and allow the Board to consider and assess the proposed purchase, and to prevent any clearly foreseeable damage to the Group's corporate value and shareholders' common interests. The Company believes that continuation of such countermeasures is necessary and effective to eliminate, as much as possible, large-scale purchases that would not be beneficial to the Group's corporate value and shareholders' common interests. The Company also believes that the Plan ensures that necessary information and time for consideration as well as negotiation opportunities will be provided before the start of a large-scale purchase and contributes to the maintenance and improvement of our corporate value and shareholders' common interests.

## **2. Plan Details**

As described below, the Plan establishes the rules that a person seeking to make a large-scale purchase of the Company Shares should observe, requires the compliance with such rules, and specifies the countermeasures to be triggered in the case where a person intending to make a large-scale purchase fails to comply with the Plan or where the large-scale purchase is found to be detrimental to the Group's corporate value and eventually, to shareholders' common interests. Appropriate disclosure of such rules and countermeasures serves as an alert to any person seeking to make a large-scale purchase of the Company Shares in a way prejudicial to the Group's corporate value and shareholders' common interests.

The status of the Company's large shareholders as of March 31, 2023 is as shown in Exhibit 1. At the moment, the Company has not received any specific proposal for a large-scale purchase of the Company Shares.

### **(1) Procedures under the Plan**

#### **(A) Large-Scale Purchase subject to the Plan**

The Plan covers purchases of the Company Shares or any similar acts that fall under any of (i) through (iii) below (excluding those that have been approved by the Board; any such act is hereafter referred to as the "Large-Scale Purchase"). A person making or intending to make a Large-Scale Purchase (the "Purchaser") must follow the procedures predetermined in the Plan.

- (i) A purchase or other acquisition<sup>1</sup> of the shares, etc.<sup>2</sup> issued by the Company that would result in the holding ratio of shares, etc.<sup>3</sup> of any particular shareholder of the Company amounting to 20% or more of such shares, etc.;

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<sup>1</sup> Including the holding of a claim for delivery of shares, etc. under a purchase and sale or other agreement, and the conduct of any of the transactions provided in Article 14-6 of the Order for Enforcement of the Financial Instruments Exchange Act. In the event of any amendment (including a change of the name of any law or regulation, and enactment of a new law or regulation succeeding to the old one) to any of the laws or regulations cited in the Plan, the provisions of the relevant law or regulation cited in the Plan shall be replaced by the provisions of a law or regulation that effectively succeed to such provisions after the amendment, unless otherwise specified by the Board.

<sup>2</sup> This term means the "Share Certificates, etc." as set forth in Article 27-23, Paragraph 1 of the Financial Instruments Exchange Act. Hereinafter the same applies unless otherwise indicated.

<sup>3</sup> This term means the "Ownership Ratio of Share Certificates, etc." as set forth in Article 27-23, Paragraph 4 of the Financial Instruments Exchange Act. Hereinafter the same applies unless otherwise indicated. However, for the purpose of calculation of such holding ratio of shares, etc., (a) a Specially Related Party as defined in Article 27-2, Paragraph 7 of the said Act, and (b) an investment bank, securities company or other financial institution that has entered into a financial advisory agreement with such particular shareholder, or a tender offer agent or securities company acting as the lead manager for such particular shareholder (collectively, the "Contracted Financial Institutions") are deemed to be joint holders (meaning the Joint Holders as defined in Article 27-23, Paragraph 5 of the Financial Instruments Exchange Act; including those whom the Board finds to be deemed joint holders under Paragraph 6 of the said Article; hereinafter the same.) with such particular shareholder under the Plan. For the purpose of calculation of such holding ratio of shares, etc., the total number of issued shares in the Company may be determined by reference to the latest information published by the Company.

- (ii) A purchase or other acquisition<sup>4</sup> of the shares, etc.<sup>5</sup> issued by the Company that would result in the total of the holding ratio of shares, etc.<sup>6</sup> of a particular shareholder of the Company and the holding ratio of shares, etc. of the specially related parties<sup>7</sup> of such particular shareholder amounting to 20% or more of such shares, etc.; and
- (iii) Irrespective of whether or not any of the acts provided in (i) and (ii) above has taken place, any agreement or other act between a particular shareholder of the Company and any other shareholder of the Company (as used in this (iii), “other shareholder” includes “other shareholders”) that will render such other shareholder(s) a joint holder or joint holders of such particular shareholder, or any act that will establish a relationship between such particular shareholder and such other shareholder(s)<sup>8</sup> whereby one of them substantially controls the other, or they act jointly or concertedly<sup>9</sup> (however, limited to cases where the aggregated holding ratio of shares, etc. issued by the Company of such particular shareholder and that of such other shareholder(s) amounts to 20% or more).

## **(B) Prior Submission of Statement of Intention to the Company**

Prior to initiating a Large-Scale Purchase, a Purchaser will be required to submit to the Board a written statement in Japanese containing a pledge by the Purchaser to comply with the procedures set forth in the Plan in making a Large-Scale Purchase (the “Statement of Intention”) in the form prescribed by the Company.

Specifically, the Statement of Intention must contain the following information:

- (i) Outline of the Purchaser
  - (a) Name and address/location of the Purchaser;
  - (b) Name and title of the representative;
  - (c) Purposes of the company/entity and description of its business;
  - (d) Outline of large shareholders or large investors (top ten holders/investors by shareholding or investment ratio);
  - (e) Contact information in Japan; and
  - (f) The law governing the establishment of the Purchaser
- (ii) The number of the Company Shares already held by the Purchaser, and the status of transactions of the Company Shares by the Purchaser during the 60 days prior to the submission of the

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<sup>4</sup> “Purchase and other acquisition” includes purchases or other types of acceptance of a transfer for value, and transactions analogous to the acceptance of a transfer for value as provided in Article 6, Paragraph 3 of the Order for Enforcement of the Financial Instruments Exchange Act.

<sup>5</sup> This term means the “Share Certificates, etc.” as set forth in Article 27-2, Paragraph 1 of the Financial Instruments Exchange Act. The same applies in (ii).

<sup>6</sup> This term means the “Share Certificates, etc. Holding Rate” as set forth in Article 27-2, Paragraph 8 of the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act; hereinafter the same applies unless otherwise indicated. For the purpose of calculation of such shareholding rate, the total number of voting rights of the Company may be determined by reference to the latest information published by the Company.

<sup>7</sup> This term means the Specially Related Party as defined in Article 27-2, Paragraph 7 of the Financial Instruments Exchange Act. However, among the persons listed in Item 1 of the said Paragraph, those provided in Article 3, Paragraph 2 of the Cabinet Office Order on Disclosure Required for Tender Offer for Share Certificates by Persons Other Than Issuers are excluded from the “specially related parties.” For the purpose of the Plan, (i) the joint holder and (ii) the Contracted Financial Institutions are deemed to be specially related parties of the relevant shareholder. Hereinafter the same applies unless otherwise indicated.

<sup>8</sup> The determination of whether or not “a relationship between such particular shareholder and such other shareholder(s) whereby one of them substantially controls the other, or they act jointly or concertedly” has been established shall be made based on, among others, (i) whether substantive interests in the Company Shares have been formulated through a new capital contribution relationship, business alliance relationship, transactional or contractual relationship, interlocking directorate, funding relationship, credit facility relationship, derivatives, stock lending or otherwise; and (ii) the direct or indirect influences that such particular shareholder and such other shareholder(s) would have on the Company.

<sup>9</sup> The determination of whether or not the act prescribed in (iii) of the body text has taken place shall be made by the Board in accordance with the recommendations from the Independent Committee. The Board may request the shareholders of the Company to provide information to the extent it is necessary for the determination as to whether any act satisfies the said requirements under (iii).

Statement of Intention; and

- (iii) Outline of the Large-Scale Purchase proposed by the Purchaser (including the type and number of the Company Shares to be acquired by the Purchaser by way of the Large-Scale Purchase, and the purpose of the Large-Scale Purchase (where the purpose is the acquisition of control or participation in the management, pure investment or policy investment, the transfer of the Company Shares to a third party following the Large-Scale Purchase, or the making of important suggestions<sup>10</sup> or the like, the Statement of Intention must state to that effect and specify the details. If there are two or more purposes, all of them must be stated in the Statement of Intention.)).

### **(C) Provision of Necessary Information**

After the submission of the Statement of Intention mentioned in (B) above, the Purchaser will be required to provide the Company with information in Japanese that is necessary and sufficient for shareholders and investors to make a judgment on the Large-Scale Purchase and for the Board to assess and consider the same (the “Necessary Information”) in accordance with the procedures described below.

Within ten Business Days<sup>11</sup> following the date of receipt of the Statement of Intention, the Company will send to the Purchaser, at the address provided in the contact information in Japan under (B)(i)(e) above, an information list stating the information items that should be initially provided. Then the Purchaser will be required to submit to the Company sufficient information in accordance with the information list.

If the Board reasonably determines, in light of the substance and manner of, and other circumstances surrounding the Large-Scale Purchase, that the information provided by the Purchaser in accordance with the information list is insufficient for shareholders and investors to make a judgment or for the Board to assess and consider the proposed purchase, the Purchaser will be required to provide additional information to be separately requested by the Board.

Irrespective of the substance and manner of, or other circumstances surrounding the Large-Scale Purchase, the following information items will be included in the information list, in principle:

- (i) Details (including history, specific name, capital structure, business description, financial condition, and name and occupational career of officers, etc.) of the Purchaser and its group (in the event of a joint holder, specially related party or fund, including each of its partners and other members);
- (ii) Purposes (details of purposes disclosed in the Statement of Intention), method and details (including whether or not the Purchaser has the intention to participate in management, type and amount of consideration for the Large-Scale Purchase, timing of the Large-Scale Purchase, structure of the related transactions, the number of shares to be purchased and the ownership percentage after such purchase, and legality of the method of the Large-Scale Purchase) of the Large-Scale Purchase;
- (iii) Basis of calculation of consideration for the Large-Scale Purchase (including basic facts for the calculation, calculation method, numerical data used for the calculation and details of the synergy expected to be generated by a series of transactions related to the Large-Scale Purchase and, if opinions of any third party have been heard upon the calculation, the name of such third party, summary of such opinions and how the amount was determined based on such opinions);
- (iv) Proof of funds for the Large-Scale Purchase (including the specific name of the provider

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<sup>10</sup> Meaning the important suggestions as set forth in Article 27-26, Paragraph 1 of the Financial Instruments Exchange Act, Article 14-8-2, Paragraph 1 of the Order for Enforcement of the Financial Instruments Exchange Act, and Article 16 of the Cabinet Office Order on Disclosure of the Status of Large-Volume Holdings in Share Certificates.

<sup>11</sup> “Business day” means any day other than the days listed in each item of Article 1, Paragraph 1 of the Act on Holidays of Administrative Organs. Hereinafter the same applies.

- of funds (including substantial provider), method of raising funds, and details of related transactions);
- (v) Whether or not there is communication on intention with a third party in relation to the Large-Scale Purchase and, if there is such communication, details thereof and summary of such third party;
  - (vi) If there is any lease agreement, security agreement, repurchase agreement, purchase/sale option, or any other material agreement or arrangement in relation to the Company Shares already held by the Purchaser (the “Security Agreement, etc.”), specific details of such Security Agreement, etc. including the type of such agreement, counterparty, and the quantity of shares subject to such agreement;
  - (vii) If the Security Agreement, etc. is scheduled to be concluded in relation to the Company Shares which the Purchaser plans to purchase in the Large-Scale Purchase or any other agreement is planned to be made with a third party, specific details of such agreement including the type of such agreement planned to be made, counterparty, and the quantity of shares subject to such agreement;
  - (viii) Management policy, business plan, capital policy and dividend policy of the Company and the Company’s group after the Large-Scale Purchase;
  - (ix) Policy on treatment, etc. of the Company’s employees, trading partners, customers and community, and any other interested party of the Company after the Large-Scale Purchase; and
  - (x) Specific measures for avoiding conflicts of interest with other shareholders of the Company.

The Board will appropriately disclose the fact that the Large-Scale Purchase has been proposed by the Purchaser, and promptly disclose the summary of such proposal, summary of the Necessary Information and any other information (if any) which is deemed to be necessary for shareholders or investors to make their decisions.

In addition, when the Board determines that the provision of the Necessary Information by the Purchaser has been made sufficiently, it will notify the Purchaser thereof (the “Completion Notice”) and promptly disclose such fact.

#### **(D) Setting, etc. of Board Assessment Period**

After giving the Completion Notice, the Board will set, with the immediately following date as the first day for calculation, either of the periods mentioned in (i) or (ii) below, according to the degree of difficulty, etc. of assessment of the Large-Scale Purchase, as the period for the assessment, consideration, negotiation, formation of opinions and planning of alternatives by the Board (the “Board Assessment Period”), and promptly disclose it. Unless otherwise provided for in the Plan, the Large-Scale Purchase shall be commenced only after the lapse of the Board Assessment Period.

- (i) In the event of tender offer for all of the Company Shares only in consideration for cash (JPY), 60 days at a maximum; or
- (ii) In any other event of the Large-Scale Purchase, 90 days at a maximum.

Provided, however, that in the event of either (i) or (ii) above, only if the Board deems it reasonably necessary, the Board Assessment Period may be extended (for 30 days at a maximum), in which case the Company will notify the Purchaser of such extended period and the specific reason for such extension, as well as disclose them to its shareholders and investors.

The Board shall fully assess and consider the Necessary Information provided by the Purchaser during the Board Assessment Period, with the advice of outside experts according to need, and consider and examine the details of the Large-Scale Purchase to be made by the Purchaser for the purposes of protection and enhancement of corporate value and shareholders’ common interests of the Company. Through such consideration, etc., the Board will gather its opinion on the

Large-Scale Purchase with due care, notify the Purchaser thereof, and disclose them to shareholders and investors in a timely and appropriate manner.

In addition, the Board will negotiate with the Purchaser in relation to the conditions and method of the Large-Scale Purchase according to need and, furthermore, the Board may present an alternative to shareholders and investors.

**(E) Independent Committee's Advice on Triggering of Countermeasures**

Under the Plan, upon triggering or non-triggering of countermeasures, the Independent Committee shall be established as a body to eliminate the Board's arbitrary judgment and secure objectivity and rationality of the Board's judgment and responses, and it shall give advice to the Board on whether or not to trigger countermeasures. The Independent Committee shall only consist of the Company's outside directors (including audit and supervisory committee members) or outside experts (proven company owners, former central government officials, lawyers, certified public accountants or academic experts, or other persons equivalent thereto), who are independent of the Company's executive management team, in accordance with the Independent Committee Rules (see Exhibit 2 for summary). If the continuation of the takeover defense measures under the Plan is approved at the General Meeting, the Company is to elect, at its first Board meeting held after the General Meeting, the three members listed in Exhibit 3 as members of the Independent Committee.

The Independent Committee shall give advice to the Board on whether or not to trigger countermeasures during the Board Assessment Period in accordance with the following procedures, in parallel with the assessment, consideration, negotiation, formation of opinions and planning of alternatives by the Board as described in (D) above. In this regard, for the purpose of ensuring that the Independent Committee's judgment will be made for protecting and enhancing corporate value and shareholders' common interests of the Company, the Independent Committee may, at the Company's expense, obtain advice from outside experts (including investment banks, security companies, financial advisers, certified public accountants, lawyers, consultants and other experts), who are independent of the Company's executive management team.

When the Independent Committee has given advice set forth in (i) or (ii) below to the Board, the Board will promptly disclose the fact and summary of such advice and other matters which the Board considers appropriate.

(i) The Purchaser has failed to perform the procedures set forth in the Plan:

In the event that the Purchaser has violated the procedures set forth in the Plan in any material respect, if such violation is not cured within 5 Business Days from (and excluding) the date on which the Board demanded such Purchaser to cure such violation in writing, then the Independent Committee will give advice to the Board to trigger countermeasures in principle, unless it is obvious that it is necessary not to trigger such countermeasures for the purposes of protection and enhancement of corporate value and shareholders' common interests of the Company or otherwise there are special circumstances.

(ii) The Purchaser has performed the procedures set forth in the Plan:

In the event that the Purchaser has performed the procedures set forth in the Plan, the Independent Committee will give advice to the Board not to trigger countermeasures in principle.

Provided, however, that even if compliance with the procedures set forth in the Plan has been made, when, for example, such Purchase is considered to significantly impair the corporate value and shareholders' common interests of the Company due to any events listed in (a) to (j) below and it is determined reasonable to trigger countermeasures, then the Independent Committee may exceptionally give advice the Board to trigger countermeasures.



- (a) If the Purchaser is considered to have purchased or seek to purchase the Company Shares only for the purpose of driving up the stock price and causing the Company or the Company's affiliate to purchase the Company Shares (so-called greenmailer) notwithstanding that the Purchaser has no genuine intention to participate in management of the Company,;
- (b) If the Purchaser is considered to have purchased the Company Shares for the purpose of temporarily controlling the management of the Company and transferring the assets of the Company or the Group, including intellectual property rights, know-hows, trade secret, major trading partners or customers that are necessary for business management of the Company or the Group, to such Purchaser or its group companies;
- (c) If the Purchase is considered to, after obtaining the control over the management of the Company, cause obvious damage to the corporate value or shareholders' common interests of the Company by way of diverting the assets of the Company or the Group to securing or repaying obligations of such Purchaser or its group companies;
- (d) If the Purchaser is considered to have purchased the Company Shares for the purpose of temporarily controlling the management of the Company, causing the Company to dispose of expensive assets such as real estate and securities, which are presently not related to the business of the Company or the Group, by way of sale or otherwise, and causing the Company to temporarily pay high dividends with the proceeds of such disposal or selling off the Company Shares at high price at the timing of sharp rise in stock prices due to a temporary high dividend;
- (e) If the method of purchase of the Company Shares proposed by the Purchaser is considered to be likely to restrict opportunity or freedom of judgment of shareholders and virtually force shareholders to sell their Company Shares, including so-called coercive two-tier purchase (i.e. the Purchase of shares such as a tender offer, in which the purchase conditions in the second stage of purchase are set unfavorably than those in the first stage, or are not stated clearly);
- (f) If the purchase conditions of the Company Shares offered by the Purchaser (including, but not limited to, type and amount of consideration for the purchase, basis of calculation of such amount, other specific terms (including the timing and method of such purchase), illegality and feasibility) are considered to be significantly insufficient or inappropriate in the light of the corporate value of the Company;
- (g) If the Purchase is considered to be likely to significantly hinder the protection and enhancement of corporate value and shareholders' common interests of the Company, including cases where the obtaining of control by the Purchaser destroys the relationship not only with the Company's shareholders but also its customers, employees or other interested parties as the source of the corporate value, and the corporate value or shareholders' common interests of the Company are expected to be significantly damaged;
- (h) If the corporate value of the Company in the event that the Purchaser obtains the control over the Company is considered to be significantly inferior to the corporate value of the Company in the event that such Purchaser does not obtain the control, in terms of comparison with medium- to long-term future corporate value;
- (i) If the Purchaser is considered to be significantly inappropriate to become a controlling shareholder of the Company in terms of public policy, including cases where the management team or major shareholders or investors of the Purchaser includes any person affiliated with anti-social forces or terrorist-related organization; or
- (j) In any other case equivalent to (a) to (i) above, when (i) it is objectively and reasonably determined that the corporate value or shareholders' common interests of the Company are likely to be significantly damaged, and (ii) countermeasures are not triggered at that time, and if the Purchase is considered to be unable to avoid or likely to be unable to

avoid such significant damage to the corporate value or shareholders' common interests of the Company.

#### **(F) Resolution of the Board**

The Board shall respect the Independent Committee's advice set forth in (E) above as much as possible, and promptly pass a resolution on triggering or non-triggering of countermeasures or any other necessary resolution based on such advice, for the purposes of protection and enhancement of corporate value and shareholders' common interests of the Company.

Even if the Independent Committee has given advice not to trigger countermeasures, when the Board determines, taking into consideration various reasons such as the details of the Large-Scale Purchase by the Purchaser and the time required for holding a shareholders' meeting and in light of the relevant laws and regulations and the due care of a good manager of directors of the Company, it practically appropriate to hold a shareholders' meeting of the Company in addition to consultation to the Independent Committee in order to confirm the shareholders' will, then the Board may hold a shareholders' meeting of the Company in a manner described in (G) below, in order to ask shareholders whether or not to trigger countermeasures.

In addition, even after the resolution of triggering of countermeasures by the Board or after the triggering of such countermeasures, if (i) the Purchaser has cancelled the Large-Scale Purchase or (ii) there is any change in the facts based on which the determination of whether or not to trigger countermeasures has been made, which resulted in circumstances where it is not considered reasonable to trigger countermeasures for the purposes of protection and enhancement of corporate value and shareholders' common interests of the Company, then the Board shall pass a resolution of cancellation of triggering of countermeasures.

When said resolution has been passed, the Board will promptly disclose the summary of such resolution and any other matters which the Board considers appropriate.

#### **(G) Convocation of Shareholders' Meeting of the Company**

Upon determining whether or not to trigger countermeasures pursuant to the Plan at its discretion, when the Board determines, taking into consideration various reasons such as the details of the Large-Scale Purchase by the Purchaser and the time required for holding a shareholders' meeting and in light of the relevant laws and regulations and the due care of a good manager of directors of the Company, it practically appropriate to consult the Independent Committee as well as hold a shareholders' meeting of the Company in order to confirm the shareholders' will, then the Board will convene shareholders' meeting of the Company as soon as possible. In such case, the Large-Scale Purchase shall be performed after the rejection of a resolution of triggering of countermeasures at the shareholders' meeting of the Company and the conclusion of such shareholders' meeting. If a resolution of triggering of countermeasures under the Plan has been passed at the shareholders' meeting of the Company, the Board shall pass a resolution of triggering of countermeasures under the Plan against such Large-Scale Purchase.

If a resolution of triggering of countermeasures under the Plan has been rejected at such shareholders' meeting, the Board will not trigger countermeasures under the Plan against such Large-Scale Purchase.

Even when procedures for convening such shareholders' meeting have been performed, if the Board subsequently determines it reasonable to pass a resolution of non-triggering of countermeasures or pass a resolution of triggering of countermeasures at a Board meeting, then the Company may suspend the procedures for convening such shareholders' meeting of the Company. In the event of such resolution, the Company will also promptly disclose the summary of such resolution and any other matters which the Board considers appropriate.

#### **(2) Specific Details of Countermeasures under the Plan**

Countermeasures to be triggered by the Company under the Plan shall be gratis allotment of

stock acquisition rights (the “Stock Acquisition Rights”) in principle.

While summary of gratis allotment of the Stock Acquisition Rights shall be as described in Exhibit 4 “Summary of Gratis Allotment of the Stock Acquisition Rights,” in the event of actual gratis allotment of the Stock Acquisition Rights, the Company may set forth certain exercise period, exercise conditions and acquisition provision taking into consideration their effect as countermeasures against the Large-Scale Purchase, such as (i) exercise conditions to the effect that exercise of rights by certain Purchaser, as well as its joint holder and specially related party and any other person substantially controlled by them or any other person acting in cooperation or coordination with them as determined by the Board through prescribed procedures (the “Exceptional Persons”) shall not be permitted to exercise the rights, and/or (ii) acquisition provision to the effect that when the Company acquires a part of the Stock Acquisition Rights, the Company may only acquire the Stock Acquisition Rights held by any other holders of the Stock Acquisition Rights other than the Exceptional Persons. Furthermore, acquisition of the Stock Acquisition Rights through transfer shall be subject to approval of the Board.

When countermeasures under the Plan have been triggered, the Company will promptly disclose the summary of the relevant resolution and any other matters which the Board considers appropriate.

### **(3) Effective Term, Abolition and Modification of the Plan**

The effective term of the Plan shall expire at the conclusion of the ordinary shareholders’ meeting for the last fiscal year ending within one (1) year from the date of the General Meeting.

Provided, however, that even before the expiration of such effective term, if a resolution of modification or abolition of the Plan has been passed at a shareholders’ meeting of the Company, the Plan shall be modified or abolished at that time in accordance with such resolution. In addition, if a Board meeting consisting of directors elected by a shareholders’ meeting of the Company has passed a resolution of abolition of the Plan, the Plan shall be abolished at that time.

When the Board deems it necessary to make a formal modification associated with an amendment to the Companies Act, Financial Instruments and Exchange Act, or any other laws or regulations or rules of a financial instruments exchange, or change in interpretation or operation thereof or change in tax system or court case, the Board may amend or modify the Plan based on the opinion of the Independent Committee from time to time. On the other hand, when the Board modifies the Plan in a manner in which shareholders of the Company are substantially affected, the Board will ask for the approval of shareholders by referring such modification to the upcoming shareholders’ meeting.

When the Plan has been abolished or any modification has been made to the Plan in a manner in which shareholders of the Company are substantially affected, the Company will promptly disclose the fact of such abolition or modification and (in the event of modification) the details of such modification and any other matters which the Board considers appropriate.

### **3. Rationality of the Plan**

The Plan satisfies the three principles (the principle of protecting and enhancing corporate value and shareholders’ common interests, the principle of prior disclosure and shareholders’ will, and the principle of ensuring the necessity and reasonableness) prescribed by the “Guidelines Regarding Takeover Defense for the Purposes of Protection and Enhancement of Corporate Value and Shareholders’ Common Interests” published by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and the Ministry of Justice on May 27, 2005, and conforms to the “Takeover Defense Measures in Light of Recent Environmental Changes” published by the Corporate Value Study Group on June 30, 2008 and “Principle 1-5. So-called Takeover Defense” of the “Corporate Governance Code” published on June 1, 2015, and revised on June 1, 2018 and June 11, 2021 by the Tokyo Stock Exchange, and any other practice and discussions regarding takeover defense measures,

and has a high degree of rationality.

**(1) Principle of Protecting and Enhancing Corporate Value and Shareholders' Common Interests**

As mentioned in 1. Above, the Plan will be introduced for the purpose of allowing, upon Large-Scale Purchase of Company Shares, (i) the shareholders to determine whether to accept such Large-Scale Purchase, or (ii) the Board to collect necessary information and the time to propose a counterplan and negotiate with the Purchaser on behalf of the shareholders, in order to protect and enhance the corporate value and the common interests of shareholders of the Company.

**(2) Principle of Prior Disclosure and Shareholders' Will**

The Company resolved at its Board meeting to present to the General Meeting a proposal to continue the takeover defense measures under the Plan that had been approved by the Board resolution. In addition, as mentioned in 2. (3) above, even after the Plan is approved by the General Meeting, (i) if the Company's subsequent shareholders' meeting adopts a resolution to amend or cancel the Plan, the Plan will be amended or cancelled in accordance with such resolution, and (ii) if the Board comprising of directors appointed at the Company's shareholders' meeting adopts a resolution to cancel the Plan, the Plan will be cancelled at that time. Accordingly, the introduction and cancellation of the Plan fully reflect the shareholders' will.

**(3) Principle of Ensuring the Necessity And Reasonableness**

**(A) Placing Importance on Judgments of Highly Independent Outsiders and Thorough Information Disclosure**

As mentioned in 2. above, the Company has established the Independent Committee for the purpose of (i) preventing the Board from making arbitrary decisions on the triggering of countermeasures against Large-Scale Purchase under the Plan, and (ii) ensuring the objectivity and rationality of the Board's decisions and responses, and the Board will respect the Independent Committee's advice on the resolution whether or not to trigger countermeasures as much as possible. Additionally, for the purpose of ensuring that the Independent Committee's judgment will be made for protecting and enhancing the corporate value and common interests of shareholders of the Company, the Independent Committee may, at the Company's expense, obtain advice from outside experts (including investment banks, security companies, financial advisers, certified public accountants, lawyers, consultants and other experts), who are independent of the Company's executive management team.

Additionally, the Company will disclose to shareholders and investors the outline of the Independent Committee's judgment in order to ensure that the Plan will be implemented transparently, thereby protecting and ensuring the corporate value and common interests of shareholders of the Company.

**(B) Establishment of Reasonable and Objective Implementation Criteria**

As mentioned in 2. Above, the Plan will not be implemented unless the reasonable and objective implementation criteria is fulfilled, thereby preventing the Board from making arbitrary decisions.

**(C) The Plan is Not a Dead-Hand or Slow-Hand Takeover Defense Measure**

As mentioned in 2. (3) above, the Plan may be cancelled at any time by the Board comprising of directors appointed at the Company's shareholders' meeting. Therefore, the Plan is not a dead-hand takeover defense measure (a takeover defense measure in which even if a majority of the members of the Board are replaced, the triggering of the takeover defense measure cannot be stopped).

Also, as the Company has not adopted a system of staggered terms of office, the Plan is not a

slow-hand takeover defense measure either (a takeover defense measure in which triggering takes more time to stop due to the fact that all members of the Board cannot be replaced at once).

#### **4. Impact on Shareholders and Investors**

##### **(1) Impact on Shareholders and Investors upon the Continuation of the Plan**

No Stock Acquisition Rights will be issued upon the continuation of the Plan. Therefore, the continuation of the Plan will have no direct or actual impact on the legal rights and economic interests of the shares in the Company owned by the shareholders.

As mentioned in 2. (1) above, the Company's response to the purchase will depend on whether or not the Purchaser complies with the Plan, so the shareholders and investors are encouraged to keep a close watch on the Purchaser.

##### **(2) Impact on Shareholders and Investors Upon a Gratis Allotment of the Stock Acquisition Rights**

If the Board decides to trigger countermeasures and makes a gratis allotment of the Stock Acquisition Rights, it will make a gratis allotment of the Stock Acquisition Rights to the shareholders who are recorded in the shareholders registry as of the Allotment Date set forth separately, for up to one Stock Acquisition Right per share held by such shareholder. Under this system, the value per Company Share held by the shareholders will be diluted upon the gratis allotment of the Stock Acquisition Rights; however, there will be no dilution of the value of the aggregate Company Shares held by the shareholders, and therefore, no direct or specific impact is expected on the legal rights and economic interests of the Company Shares owned by the shareholders.

Provided, however, that the legal rights or economic interests of the Exceptional Persons may somehow be impacted by the triggering of countermeasures.

In addition, even after the Company passes a resolution for gratis allotment of the Stock Acquisition Rights, the Company may subsequently determine to cancel the triggering of countermeasures, which may cause change in the price of Company Shares. For instance, in the event that after the determination of shareholders who should receive a gratis allotment of the Stock Acquisition Rights, the Company cancels the triggering of countermeasures and acquires the Stock Acquisition Rights without consideration and does not issue new shares, there will be no dilution of the economic value per Company Shares held by the shareholders, and therefore, it should be noted that shareholders and investors, who traded on the premise that dilution of the economic value per Company Share would occur, may suffer loss due to fluctuations in the share price.

If the exercise or acquisition of Stock Acquisition Rights are subject to discriminative conditions, the legal rights or economic interests of the Exceptional Persons may be impacted upon such exercise or acquisition; however, this is not expected to have direct and specific impact on the legal rights and economic interests of the Company Shares held by the shareholders other than the Exceptional Persons.

##### **(3) Shareholders' Procedures for Gratis Allotment of the Stock Acquisition Rights**

The shareholders recorded in the shareholders registry as of the end of the Allotment Date of the Stock Acquisition Rights will become entitled to be granted the Stock Acquisition Rights on the effective date of such gratis allotment of the Stock Acquisition Rights, and will not need to take any procedure.

In addition, if the Company acquires the Stock Acquisition Rights subject to gratis allotment with an acquisition provision, the shareholders will receive the Company Shares as consideration for the acquisition of the Stock Acquisition Rights by the Company without making any cash payment in the amount equivalent to the exercise price of the Stock Acquisition Rights. Provided, however, that the Stock Acquisition Rights held by the Exceptional Persons may not be acquired.

After the Board passes a resolution for the gratis allotment of the Stock Acquisition Rights, the Company will disclose or notify, in a timely and appropriate manner, the details of procedures (e.g. method of allotment, exercise and acquisition by the Company, and the method of issuing shares) in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations or the regulations of the financial instruments exchange, so please check such disclosure or notification.

End