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Counsel for Panasonic Automotive Systems Company of America, Division of Panasonic Corporation of North America, Formerly Known As Matsushita Electric Corp. of America

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

In re

GENERAL MOTORS CORP., et al.,

Debtors.

Chapter 11 Case No. 09-50026 (REG) Jointly Administered

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# LIMITED OBJECTION OF PANASONIC AUTOMOTIVE SYSTEMS COMPANY OF AMERICA FORMERLY KNOWN AS MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC CORP. OF AMERICA TO ASSUMPTION AND ASSIGNMENT OF EXECUTORY CONTRACTS

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Panasonic Automotive Systems Company of America, Division of Panasonic

Corporation of North America, formerly known as Matsushita Electric Corp. of America ("<u>PASA</u>"), by and through its undersigned counsel hereby objects to the Notice of (i) Debtors' Intent to Assume and Assign Certain Executory Contract, Unexpired Leases of Personal Property, and Unexpired Leases of Nonresidential Real Property and (ii) Cure Amounts Related Thereto, dated June 5, 2009 (the "<u>Notice</u>"), a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A, in which General Motors Corp. and its affiliated debtors in the above-captioned cases (collectively, the "<u>Debtors</u>") give notice of their intent to assume and assign certain executory contracts (the "Designated Contracts") between the Debtors

and PASA to Vehicle Acquisition Holdings LLC, a U.S. Treasury-Sponsored Purchaser. In support of its objection, PASA respectfully states:

## **Summary of Objection**

1. PASA makes this limited objection to the Notice because (i) the amount of time in fact provided to PASA (less than 6 calendar days) to ascertain whether the Debtors' proposed cure amount corresponds to PASA's books and records has made it difficult or PASA to complete its analysis of more than 900 individual contracts and more than 2,400 invoices, and (ii) the Notice is ambiguous as to whether defaults that are to be cured are those that exist as of the assumption date or as of the Petition Date, as defined below.

2. While PASA does not object *per se* to assumption by the Debtors of the Designated Contracts (or other executory contracts the Debtors may identify) and assignment thereof to the Purchaser, PASA files this limited objection to, among other things, preserve its right to ascertain whether the Proposed Cure Amount comports with PASA's books and records.<sup>1</sup>

## **Background**

3. The Debtors commenced their voluntary chapter 11 bankruptcy cases on June 1, 2009 (the "<u>Petition Date</u>").

4. On June 2, 2009, this Court entered an order, which, among other things, established procedures regarding the Debtors' assumption and assignment of executory contracts.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Based on PASA's longstanding relationship with the Debtors, PASA reasonably believes that any differences as to the Proposed Cure Amounts can be reconciled between the parties. However, due to the deadline for filing objections and to preserve all rights with regard to the Designated Contracts, PASA is compelled to file this limited objection.

5. Prior to the Petition Date, PASA and its affiliates supplied the Debtors with a variety of automotive parts including speakers and batteries.

### **Objection**

6. PASA is owed substantial sums of money for a variety of services provided and goods delivered to the Debtors.<sup>2</sup>

7. The Notice directs PASA to consult a website created by the Debtors to learn the identity of each Designated Contract and the proposed cure amount (the "<u>Proposed Cure Amount</u>") for each invoice attributable to such contract.

8. According to the website, the Debtors have identified or designated 983 individual contracts to be assumed and assigned, and listed the Proposed Cure Amount as \$5,396,184.54. The website also identifies more than 2,400 individual prepetition invoices that support the Proposed Cure Amount.

9. In light of the fact that the Notice was dated June 5, 2009 (a Friday) and only received by PASA on June 9, 2009 (a Tuesday), the Notice provides PASA less than a business week to, among other things, identify the Designated Contracts and determine whether the Proposed Cure Amount is accurate before the time to object to the Notice expires.

10. The Notice itself is unclear whether existing defaults, including the payment of Proposed Cure Amounts, will be cured as of the assumption date, as the Bankruptcy Code requires. <u>See</u> 11 U.S.C. § 365(b).

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 $<sup>^2</sup>$  On June 10, 2009, PASA filed a reclamation notice on account of goods delivered to the Debtors within the 45-day period prior to the Petition Date and will file a proof of claim in respect of all amounts owed to it by the Debtors.

11. In addition, the Debtors' website specifically defines "Cure

Amount" as:

The aggregate amount as designated by the Debtors as constituting cure of all defaults under the counterparty's collective contracts that have been designated by Purchaser for potential assumption and assignment to New GM. This amount will be updated from time to time to reflect additional invoices for prepetition deliveries that have not yet been processed. The stated amount does not include undisputed invoices for goods and services provided after the Commencement Date.

12. Section 365(b)(1) is that defaults must be cured as of the time of assumption and not as of the Petition Date, which the Debtors' website implies. Defaults that must be cured include both pre-petition and post-petition defaults. *In re Wingspread Corp.*, 116 B.R. 915, 928 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1990).

13. Based on the foregoing, PASA requires sufficient time to properly analyze the amounts necessary to cure all existing defaults up to the time of assumption of the Designated Contracts.

## **Reservation of Rights**

14. PASA reserves all rights to contest the Proposed Cure Amount and any future cure amounts that the Debtors may propose at a later date. PASA also reserves all of its rights to object to the assumption and assignment of Designated Contracts including the Debtors' failure to provide adequate assurance of future performance as required by section 365(b)(1)(A) of the Bankruptcy Code. WHEREFORE, PASA respectfully requests that the Court enter an Order:

(i) preserving the right of PASA to properly determine the correct amount of the

Proposed Cure Amount; (ii) denying the proposed assumption and assignment of the

Designated Contracts pending the determination of the correct amount of the Proposed

Cure Amount under such contracts pursuant to section 365(b) of the Bankruptcy Code;

and (iii) granting PASA such other relief as to the Court may seem just.

Dated: New York, New York June 15, 2009 GOLENBOCK EISEMAN ASSOR BELL & PESKOE LLP Counsel for Panasonic Automotive Systems Company of America, Division of Panasonic Corporation of North America, Formerly Known As Matsushita Electric Corp. of America

437 Madison Avenue New York, New York 10022 (212) 907-7300

By: <u>/s/Jonathan L. Flaxer</u> Jonathan L. Flaxer

# EXHIBIT A

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK		
*	x :	
In re	:	Chapter 11 Case No.
	:	
GENERAL MOTORS CORP., et al.,	:	09-50026 (REG)
	:	
Debtors.	:	(Jointly Administered)
	:	

# NOTICE OF (I) DEBTORS' INTENT TO ASSUME AND ASSIGN CERTAIN EXECUTORY CONTRACTS, UNEXPIRED LEASES OF PERSONAL PROPERTY, AND UNEXPIRED LEASES OF NONRESIDENTIAL REAL PROPERTY <u>AND (II) CURE AMOUNTS RELATED THERETO</u>

### PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT:

By motion dated June 1, 2009 (the "Motion"), General Motors 1. Corporation ("GM") and its debtor subsidiaries, as debtors in possession (collectively, the "Debtors" or the "Company"),<sup>1</sup> sought, among other things, authorization and approval of (a) the sale of substantially all the Debtors' assets pursuant to that certain Master Sale and Purchase Agreement and related agreements (the "MPA") among the Debtors (the "Sellers") and Vehicle Acquisition Holdings LLC (the "Purchaser"), a purchaser sponsored by the United States Department of the Treasury (the "U.S. Treasury") (the "363 Transaction"), free and clear of liens, claims, encumbrances, and interests, (b) certain proposed procedures to govern the sale process and provide for the submission of any competing bids for substantially all the Debtors' assets (the "Sale Procedures"), (c) the assumption and assignment of certain executory contracts (the "Contracts") and unexpired leases of personal property and of nonresidential real property (collectively, the "Leases") in connection with the 363 Transaction, (d) that certain settlement agreement between the Purchaser and the International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America ("UAW") to be executed at the closing of the 363 Transaction (the "UAW Retiree Settlement Agreement"), and (e) scheduling a final hearing for approval of the 363 Transaction (the "Sale Hearing").<sup>2</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Debtors and their respective Tax ID numbers are as follows: General Motors Corporation, Tax ID No. 38-0572515; Saturn, LLC, Tax ID No. 38-2577506; Saturn Distribution Corporation, Tax ID No. 38-2755764; and Chevrolet-Saturn of Harlem, Inc., Tax ID No. 20-1426707.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Copies of the Motion and the MPA (without certain commercially sensitive attachments) may be obtained by accessing the website established by the Debtors' claims and noticing agent, The Garden City Group, Inc., at <u>http://www.gmcourtdocs.com</u>.

2. The MPA, which, together with certain ancillary agreements, contemplates a set of related transactions for the sale of substantially all the Debtors' assets, defined as the "Purchased Assets" in Section 2.2(a) of the MPA, including certain Contracts and Leases, subject to higher or better offers.

3. The MPA contemplates, and the proposed order approving the Motion (the "<u>Sale Order</u>"), if approved, shall authorize the assumption and assignment to the Purchaser of certain Contracts and Leases pursuant to section 365 of title 11, United States Code (the "<u>Bankruptcy Code</u>"). The Sellers maintain a schedule containing Contracts and Leases that the Debtors may assume and assign to the Purchaser (collectively, the "<u>Assumable Executory</u> <u>Contracts</u>"). You are receiving this Notice because you are a party to one or more of the Assumable Executory Contracts.

# 4. THE SCHEDULE CONTAINS A LIST OF ASSUMABLE EXECUTORY CONTRACTS THAT <u>MAY</u> BE ASSUMED. THE PURCHASER RESERVES THE RIGHT UNDER THE MPA TO EXCLUDE ANY ASSUMABLE EXECUTORY CONTRACT FROM THE LIST OF ASSUMABLE EXECUTORY CONTRACTS TO BE ASSUMED AND ASSIGNED BY NO LATER THAN THE DESIGNATION DEADLINE DISCUSSED IN PARAGRAPH 13 BELOW.

5. The Debtors maintain a secure website which contains information about your Assumable Executory Contract, including amounts that the Debtors believe must be paid to cure all prepetition defaults under the respective Assumable Executory Contracts as of the Commencement Date in accordance with section 365(b) of the Bankruptcy Code (the "<u>Cure Amounts</u>"). In order to view the Cure Amount for the Assumable Executory Contract to which you are a party, you must log onto <u>http://www.contractnotices.com</u> (the "<u>Contract Website</u>"). To log on, please use the user name and password provided to you with this notice. The username and password will enable you to access the Cure Amount for the particular Assumable Executory Contract to which you are a party.

6. Please review the Cure Amount for your Assumable Executory Contract. In some instances, additional terms or conditions of assumption and assignment with respect to a particular Assumable Executory Contract are provided on the Contract Website.

7. Objections, if any, to the proposed assumption and assignment of the Assumable Executory Contracts (the "<u>Contract Objections</u>"), including objections to the Cure Amount, must be made in writing and filed with the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York (the "<u>Bankruptcy Court</u>") so as to be received **no later than ten** (10) days after the date of this Notice (the "<u>Objection Deadline</u>") by (i) the Debtors, c/o General Motors Corporation, Cadillac Building, 30009 Van Dyke Avenue, Warren, Michigan 48090-9025 (Attn: Warren Command Center, Mailcode 480-206-114); (ii) Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP, attorneys for the Debtors, 767 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10153 (Attn: Harvey R. Miller, Esq., Stephen Karotkin, Esq., and Joseph H. Smolinsky, Esq.); (iii) the U.S. Treasury, 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Room 2312, Washington, D.C. 20220 (Attn: Matthew Feldman, Esq.); (iv) Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP, attorneys for the Purchaser, One World Financial Center, New York, New York 10281 (Attn: John J. Rapisardi, Esq.); (v) the attorneys for the Creditors Committee; (vi) Vedder Price, P.C., attorneys for Export Development Canada, 1633 Broadway, 47th Floor, New York, New York 10019 (Attn: Michael

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J. Edelman, Esq. and Michael L. Schein, Esq.); and (vii) the Office of the United States Trustee for the Southern District of New York, 33 Whitehall Street, 21st Floor, New York, New York 10004 (Attn: Diana G. Adams, Esq.).

8. If a timely Contract Objection is filed solely as to the Cure Amount (a "Cure Objection"), then the Assumable Executory Contract shall nevertheless be assumed and assigned to the Purchaser on the Assumption Effective Date (as hereinafter defined), the Purchaser shall pay the undisputed portion of the Cure Amount on or as soon as reasonably practicable after the Assumption Effective Date, and the disputed portion of the Cure Amount shall be determined as follows and paid as soon as reasonably practicable following resolution of such disputed Cure Amount: To resolve the Cure Objection, the Debtors, the Purchaser, and the objecting non-Debtor counterparty to the Assumable Executory Contract (the "Non-Debtor Counterparty") shall meet and confer in good faith to attempt to resolve any such objection without Bankruptcy Court intervention. The Call Center (as defined in paragraph 18) has been established by the Debtors for this purpose. If the Debtors determine that the Cure Objection cannot be resolved without Bankruptcy Court intervention, then the Cure Amount will be determined as follows: (a) with respect to Assumable Executory Contracts pursuant to which the Non-Debtor Counterparty has agreed to an alternative dispute resolution procedure, then, according to such procedure; and (b) with respect to all other Assumable Executory Contracts, by the Bankruptcy Court at the discretion of the Debtors either at the Sale Hearing or such other date as determined by the Bankruptcy Court.

9. If a timely Contract Objection is filed that objects to the assumption and assignment on a basis other than the Cure Amount, the Debtors, the Purchaser, and the objecting Non-Debtor Counterparty shall meet and confer in good faith to attempt to resolve any such objection without Bankruptcy Court intervention. If the Debtors determine that the Contract Objection cannot be resolved without Bankruptcy Court intervention, then, at the discretion of the Sellers and the Purchaser, the Contract Objection shall be determined by the Bankruptcy Court at the Sale Hearing or such other date as determined by the Bankruptcy Court. If the Bankruptcy Court determines at such hearing that the Assumable Executory Contract should not be assumed and assigned, then such Executory Contract or Lease shall no longer be considered an Assumable Executory Contract.

10. If the Debtors, the Purchaser, and the Non-Debtor Counterparty resolve any Contract Objection, they shall enter into a written stipulation (the "<u>Assumption Resolution</u> <u>Stipulation</u>"), which stipulation is not required to be filed with or approved by the Bankruptcy Court.

11. If you agree with the respective Cure Amount(s) listed in the Contract Website with respect to your Assumable Executory Contract, and otherwise do not object to the Debtors' assumption and assignment of your Assumable Executory Contract, you are not required to take any further action.

12. Unless a Contract Objection is filed and served before the Objection Deadline, you shall be deemed to have consented to the assumption and assignment of your Assumable Executory Contract and the Cure Amount for your Assumable Executory Contract, and you shall be forever barred from objecting to the Cure Amount and from asserting any additional cure or other amounts against the Debtors, their estates, or the Purchaser.

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13. Up to the date that is thirty (30) days following the closing of the 363 Transaction, or if such date is not a Business Day (as defined in the MPA), the next Business Day, or such other later date as mutually agreed upon by the Purchaser and the Debtors (the "Designation Deadline"), the Purchaser may, in its sole discretion, subject to certain limitations specified in the MPA (applicable only as between the parties thereto), exclude any of the Assumable Executory Contracts by providing notice on the Contract Website. Upon such designation, the Contract or Lease referenced therein shall no longer be considered an Assumable Executory Contract, shall not be deemed to be, or to have been, assumed or assigned, and shall remain subject to assumption, rejection, or assignment by the Debtors. Until the Designation Deadline, the Purchaser also may, subject to certain limitations specified in the MPA (applicable only as between the parties thereto) designate additional Contracts or Leases as Assumable Executory Contracts to be assumed and assigned by providing notice to the affected Non-Debtor Counterparties. The Contract Website shall be updated from time to time to reflect the then current status of your Contract or Lease as well as the proposed effective date (the "Proposed Assumption Effective Date"), if any, of the assumption and assignment of particular Contracts or Leases.

14. The Debtors' decision to assume and assign the Assumable Executory Contracts is subject to Bankruptcy Court approval and consummation of the 363 Transaction, and, absent such consummation, each of the Assumable Executory Contracts will not be assumed or assigned to the Purchaser and shall in all respects be subject to further administration under the Bankruptcy Code. All Assumable Executory Contracts will be assumed and assigned to the Purchaser on the date (the "Assumption Effective Date") that is the later of (i) the Proposed Assumption Effective Date and (ii) the date following expiration of the Objection Deadline if no Contract Objection, other than to the Cure Amount, has been timely filed, or, if a Contract Objection, other than to the Cure Amount, has been filed, the date of the Assumption Resolution Stipulation or the date of a Bankruptcy Court order authorizing the assumption and assignment to the Purchaser of the Assumable Executory Contract. Until the Assumption Effective Date, assumption and assignment of the Assumable Executory Contracts is subject to the Purchaser's rights to modify the designation of Assumable Executory Contracts as set forth in paragraph 13 above. Except as otherwise provided by the MPA, the Purchaser shall have no rights in and to a particular Assumable Executory Contract prior to the Assumption Effective Date.

15. The inclusion of any document on the list of Assumable Executory Contracts shall not constitute or be deemed to be a determination or admission by the Debtors or the Purchaser that such document is, in fact, an executory contract or Lease within the meaning of the Bankruptcy Code, and all rights with respect thereto are expressly reserved.

16. Any Contract Objection shall not constitute an objection to the relief generally requested in the Motion (e.g., the sale of the Purchased Assets by the Debtors to the Purchaser free and clear of liens, claims, encumbrances, and interests), and parties wishing to object to the relief generally requested in the Motion must file and serve a separate objection in accordance with the procedures approved and set forth in the order of the Bankruptcy Court approving the Sale Procedures.

17. If a party other than the Purchaser is determined to be the highest or best bidder for the assets to be sold pursuant to the 363 Transaction, you will receive a separate notice

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providing additional information regarding the treatment of your Contract or Lease; *provided*, *however*, that if the applicable Cure Amount has been established pursuant to the procedures set forth in this Notice, it shall not be subject to further dispute if the new purchaser seeks to acquire such contract or Lease.

18. If you have questions about the Assumable Executory Contracts or proposed Cure Amounts, you may call 1-888-409-2328 (in the United States) or 1-586-947-3000 (outside the United States) (the "<u>Call Center</u>").

Dated: New York, New York June 5, 2009

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<u>/s/ Stephen Karotkin</u> Harvey R. Miller Stephen Karotkin Joseph H. Smolinsky

WEIL, GOTSHAL & MANGES LLP 767 Fifth Avenue New York, New York 10153 Telephone: (212) 310-8000 Facsimile: (212) 310-8007

Attorneys for Debtors and Debtors in Possession

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