S. Robert Schrager Garry Graber HODGSON RUSS LLP One Grand Central Place 60 East 42<sup>nd</sup> Street New York, New York 10165 212-661-3535

## UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

In re

MOTORS LIQUIDATION COMPANY, et at., f/k/a General Motors Corp., et at.

Chapter 11 Case No.

09-50026 (REG)

(Jointly Administered)

Debtors.

## SUPPLEMENT TO LIMITED OBJECTION TO DEBTORS' MOTION PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 105, 363, AND 365 OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE FOR AN ORDER AUTHORIZING (I) THE DEBTORS TO ENTER INTO THE STOCK PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH GENERAL MOTORS HOLDINGS, S.L., AND (II) THE ASSUMPTION AND ASSIGNMENT OF THE BMW CONTRACT IN CONNECTION WITH THE DEBTORS' ENTRY INTO THE STOCK PURCHASE AGREEMENT

Punch Corporation ("Punch")<sup>1</sup>, by and though its counsel, Hodgson Russ LLP,

hereby files this supplement<sup>2</sup> to its limited objection to the Debtor's motion to (I) enter into a

stock purchase agreement with General Motors Holdings, S.L., and (II) assign a certain contract

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> In the Objection previously filed, Punch is described as being listed on the Euronext Brussels Stock Exchange. That, and some of the description, is not correct and deals with a related company, Punch International NV. Punch Corporation, the company that is submitting the proposal at issue, is a wholly owned subsidiary of Creacorp NV. Creacorp NV holds a significant ownership stake in Punch International NV and holds other companies in the automotive industry.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> As set forth at the time the objection was filed, Hodgson Russ LLP was retained by Punch, a European entity, only hours before an objection to the Sale Motion was due and Movants would not adjourn the motion. Accordingly, Punch noted at that time that it might be necessary to supplement the objection.

in connection with the stock purchase agreement (the "Sale Motion"). In further support of its request that this Court require the Debtors submit the proposed General Motors Holdings, S.L. transaction (the "GMH Proposal") and the Punch binding offer to acquire all the shares of General Motors Strasburg SAS (the "Company") and assume a BMW contract (the "Punch Proposal") to an independent fiduciary to evaluate the competing offers, Punch states as follows:

1. In response to the Punch Proposal, and after the Objection was filed, Punch received a response from the Debtors. A copy of that response is annexed hereto as **Exhibit B.** 

2. The Debtors' response is astonishing for its audacity. Apparently, it is the position of the Debtors that they owe so much to so many that the €3 Million (almost \$4,000,000.00) offered by Punch—as opposed to the €1 (\$1.28) offered by General Motors Holdings—is not "an amount that would make a meaningful difference in the funds available for distribution to MLC's creditors which hold claims in the tens of billions of dollars." (Exhibit B, p. 2). If this has been the thinking behind other transactions in this proceeding, it should present a real concern both to this Court and the Creditors.

3. Moreover, in addition to dismissing the "meaningless" €3 Million cash offered by Punch, the Debtors ignore the potential return offered by Punch on the BMW Claim. Punch has offered to remit 50% of all future cash proceeds arising from the related litigation (which is estimated to be between €35 Million to in excess of €1 Billion).<sup>3</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Obviously, Debtors believe this claim to have value as they have already commenced an adversary proceeding, *Motors Liquidation Company, et al., v. Bayerische Motoren Werke Aktiengesellschaft* (Adv. No. 10-05006).

4. The most recent response to the Punch Proposal makes it even more evident that the sale process and the outcome proposed by the Debtors is designed to benefit only a few selected entities.

5. Accordingly, it is submitted that in order to have a fair and equitable means of ensuring that the proposed sale will bring the greatest benefit to the creditors it is necessary that an independent fiduciary be appointed who will fully evaluate the competing offers.

6. Alternatively, in the event that this Court should require an evidentiary hearing on the instant Motion and Objection, Punch respectfully requests that this Court schedule an evidentiary hearing on a date allowing sufficient time for Punch's witnesses to travel to New York and for an analysis of the competing proposals.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Pursuant to Southern District of New York Bankruptcy Local Rule 9014-2, the first scheduled hearing in a contested matter (e.g., a Motion and an Objection to a Motion), as with the hearing scheduled for September 7, 2010 in connection with this Motion, cannot be an evidentiary hearing at which witnesses may testify unless the contested matter falls within certain delineated exceptions, none of which is applicable here.

WHEREFORE, for all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that the

Court enter an order denying the Debtors' motion and appoint an independent fiduciary to

evaluate between the GMH Proposal and the Punch Proposal.

Dated: New York, New York September 1, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

<u>s/S. Robert Schrager</u> S. Robert Schrager Garry Graber **HODGSON RUSS LLP** *Attorneys for Punch Corporation* One Grand Central Place 60 East 42<sup>nd</sup> Street New York, NY 10165 212-661-3535



Motors Liquidation Company 500 Renaissance Center Suite 1400 Detroit, MI 48243 Phone: 313.486.4044 Fax: 313.486.4258

August 30, 2010

Mr. Guido Dumarey Mr. Marc Maes Punch Metals et. al. Nobelstraat 2 3930 Hamont-Achel Belgium

Gentlemen:

Thank you for your letter (the "**Punch Offer Letter**") of August 27, 2010 expressing continuing interest in purchasing the shares of General Motors Strasbourg S.A.S. ("**GMS**").

As you are aware, Motors Liquidation Company ("MLC") has entered into a definitive stock purchase agreement (the "SPA") dated July 30, 2010 with General Motors Automotive Holdings, S.L., a wholly owned subsidiary of General Motors, LLC ("New GM"), for the sale of 100% of the shares of capital stock in GMS (the "Pending Transaction"). A sale hearing (the "Sale Hearing") seeking approval of the Pending Transaction is scheduled for September 7, 2010 and under the terms of the SPA, the Pending Transaction is required to close on or before September 30, 2010.

As you are further aware, the Pending Transaction materialized following a robust marketing process conducted by investment bank Merrill Lynch & Co., which lasted approximately one year and included contacting more than 50 potential buyers (the "**Sale Process**"). Indeed, during the Sale Process, MLC engaged in extensive negotiations with Punch concerning a potential sale. However, after many months of back and forth, Punch was unable to reach a satisfactory accommodation with New GM with respect to a definitive supply agreement and other matters and decided to withdrew its interest in GMS by way of email dated May 26, 2010. It is

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only on the eve of MLC seeking Bankruptcy Court approval of the Pending Transaction that Punch has now expressed a renewed interest in pursuing a potential transaction with GMS.

After almost a year of intense marketing and failed negotiations with Punch and other potential buyers, it became clear that the stock of GMS could not be sold for an amount that would make a meaningful difference in the funds available for distribution to MLC's creditors which hold claims in the tens of billions of dollars. Accordingly, the focus of the sale turned to avoidance of the potential exposure for GMS that would occur upon a shutdown of its operations. The fully committed and executed deal with New GM accomplishes this goal and has the support of the relevant French authorities and Works Council. When closed, the Pending Transaction will remove significant material risks for both GMS and MLC. Namely, absent a completed sale of the shares in GMS to New GM, there is material risk that the GMS plant will close, its employees would be permanently laid off and the assets of the facility would be sold or otherwise liquidated and its remaining liabilities settled. Our detailed estimates put any such wind-down costs of GMS at approximately €200 million. Therefore, continuing forward with the Pending Transaction will preserve the jobs of 1,200 French workers and also completely mitigate the risk of plant closure and MLC and/or GMS having to litigate with the plant's customers over wind down costs.

On the other hand, if MLC were to elect to proceed with a potential transaction with Punch and that transaction failed to close, then GMS would again be facing a potential net cost of  $\leq 200$  million to wind down its operations and terminate its workforce. While it is the opinion of MLC that under French law, a major share, if not all, of any wind down costs would normally be borne by the plant's two major customers – New GM and BMW– it is unclear whether New GM and BMW still could be required to pay the wind down costs if they resulted from MLC failing to pursue and close the Pending Transaction (where such transaction mitigated in its entirety any potential wind down costs). The proposed purchase price of  $\leq 3$  million does not adequately compensate MLC for the significant increased risk associated with pursuing a transaction with Punch.

Accordingly, MLC has concluded, based on the exercise of its business judgment, that before it will consider any alternative offer from Punch (a "**Punch Transaction**") as being superior to the Pending Transaction, it must have absolute assurance that Punch will be unequivocally responsible for any wind down costs incurred as a result of pursuing a Punch Transaction, whether or not such transaction is consummated. Therefore, MLC would require as part of any Punch Transaction that it be preceded by an unconditional escrow of €200 million that would be used to pay wind down costs should the Punch Transaction fail to close for any reason whatsoever other than failure of the Bankruptcy Court to approve the Punch Transaction. The escrow would be released at closing of the transaction. As the Pending Transaction has a drop dead date of September 30, 2010 and the Bankruptcy Court has limited availability, we would need this escrow to be in place by September 7, 2010.

In addition to this request for an unconditional escrow, MLC notes the following additional concerns, among others, that create perceived material risks to close with respect to any Punch Transaction:

- Prior to the close of a Punch Transaction, GMS and Punch would need to obtain the receipt of a French Works Council opinion with respect to any Punch Transaction. The issuance of any such opinion typically requires several months to obtain, if the Works Council agrees to issue it at all. The Pending Transaction has already received a favorable Works Council opinion thereby allowing for a September 30, 2010 proposed close.
- Prior to the close of a Punch Transaction, GMS and Punch would need to complete the Conciliation process, pending final approval by the French Commercial court, which also could take an unknown amount of time. The Pending Transaction has already completed this process and filed with the French Commercial court.
- The Punch Offer Letter is based on the recently negotiated collective bargaining agreement with the Works Council; however, such agreement is contingent upon the Pending Transaction closing and would no longer be binding in the event

MLC pursued an alternative Punch Transaction. Accordingly, a collective bargaining agreement would still need to be negotiated if MLC pursues a Punch Transaction.

- The Punch Offer Letter assumes assignment of the BMW contract and litigation in connection therewith to Punch. However, MLC would need Bankruptcy Court approval to assume the BMW contract and assign it to Punch. BMW may object to such assumption and assignment and, among other possible objections, demand "adequate assurance" that Punch can perform through the expiration of the BMW contract.
- If the BMW contract were assumed and assigned to Punch then any "cure costs" successfully sought by BMW under the contract would need to be assumed by Punch as part of the transaction. We are unaware of any existing defaults but BMW may not agree with that and could pursue contract default damages which, if successful, would need to be paid by Punch before the contract could be assumed and assigned.

Again, we thank you for expressing continuing interest in purchasing the shares of GMS. If you are willing to proceed with an unconditional escrow of  $\leq 200$  million as part of any proposed Punch Transaction please let us know immediately so that we may continue to evaluate your offer. Nevertheless, please be aware that, after taking into consideration the risks and costs associated with pursuing an alternative transaction, we do not consider the current Punch offer to be materially better than the Pending Transaction.

Yours sincerely,

A. A. Koch President and Chief Executive