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- NOTICE -

Dear colleague,

You may have recently received news that a former member of our firm, Akihiko Okuno, has established his own firm, known as "S&K IP Firm" (or SKIP). We congratulate Mr. Okuno on his initiative and hope to see his firm prosper.

Mr. Okuno was formerly the patent attorney in charge of Sonoda & Kobayashi Yokohama office, an entity that was effectively independently run by Mr. Okuno under an agreement by which he was allowed to make use of the Sonoda & Kobayashi name.

As of July 1, 2009, the agreement has been nullified. The firm formerly known as Sonoda & Kobayashi Yokohama office has become fully independent, and renamed "S&K IP Firm".

While we have no objection to Mr. Okuno's use of the name "S&K IP Firm", we are concerned about the potential for confusion that may arise as a result of his choice of appellation. We would therefore like to make it clear that as of July 1, 2009, Mr. Okuno and S&K IP Firm are completely independent from, and have absolutely no affiliation or association with, Sonoda & Kobayashi, and any claims or suggestions of such affiliation or association should not be taken seriously.

Please note that the change does not involve the transfer of any files to S&K IP Firm and all pending files will remain with SONODA&KOBAYASHI.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions concerning this matter.

Thank you for your kind cooperation.

Very truly yours,


Yoshitaka Sonoda