



3M Files Patent Infringement Suit and ITC Complaint Against Lithium Ion Battery Cathode Importers

ST. PAUL, Minn. – March 7, 2007 – 3M Company, and its wholly owned subsidiary 3M Innovative Properties Co., have filed patent infringement suits in the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota and in the United States International Trade Commission in Washington, D.C., alleging infringement of patents directed to lithium ion battery cathode materials.

The named defendants include Sony Corporation; Sony Electronics, Inc.; Lenovo Group Ltd.; Lenovo (United States) Inc.; CDW Corporation; Batteries.Com, LLC; Hitachi, Ltd.; Hitachi Koki USA, Ltd.; Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.; Panasonic Corporation of North America, and Total Micro Technologies, Inc.

3M's Complaints allege that these defendants import or sell lithium ion batteries, or products containing lithium ion batteries, with cathode components that infringe 3M's patent rights.

Rechargeable lithium ion batteries have emerged as the leading battery technology in portable electronics due to their light weight, high energy density, and long life. Such batteries are becoming increasingly common in such products as laptop computers, battery-powered power tools and electronic handheld devices.

3M produces and sells a range of materials for use in lithium ion batteries, including advanced cathode materials and high performance battery electrolyte salts.

3M's actions are consistent with 3M's Corporate Intellectual Property Policy to protect 3M's substantial investments in new technology and in research and development by obtaining, maintaining and enforcing intellectual property rights in inventions.

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