

IRCJ to sell equity, debt in Amex Kyohan K.K.

Tokyo, November 10, 2006—The Industrial Revitalization Committee of the Industrial Revitalization Corporation of Japan (“the IRCJ”) has decided to sell the equity and debt it holds in Amex Kyohan K.K. and related companies (“Amex Kyohan”). As a result of this sale, the IRCJ will no longer hold any debt or other obligations of Amex Kyohan.

1. Name of company concerned

Amex Kyohan K.K. and 12 group companies (see attached sheet)

2. Process to date

On June 13, 2004 the IRCJ approved an application for assistance by Amex Kyohan under Article 22, Clause 3 of the Industrial Revitalization Corporation Act of 2003. On October 12 of the same year, the IRCJ reached agreement on the purchase of Amex Kyohan’s debt under Article 25, Clause 1 of the same act.

From October to December of 2004, in accordance with the revitalization program, Sasaki Tile Industries, Uka Furnace, Tsuno Furnace Co., Maruhachi Furnace, Youken, Tsurumoto Furnace, Imazaki Furnace, and Sekishu Tile Sales Co., Ltd. were merged and absorbed into Amex Kyohan.

Following this, the IRCJ pursued business revitalization in collaboration with the San-in Small & Medium Business Revitalization Investment Fund (“San-in Fund”) and as a measurable amount of progress has been achieved, the IRCJ has resolved to sell the shares it holds in Amex Kyohan to San-In Fund. Having resolved to sell its equity in Amex Kyohan, the IRCJ will now move as promptly as possible to complete the share transfer contract with the recipient company, with the aim of completing the transaction within December 2006. In addition, full repayment of debt is scheduled to be completed at the same time. (See over for details of the transaction counterparty.)

3. Capital amounts, etc.

Through a capital investment of ¥149 million, the IRCJ acquired ordinary shares in Amex Kyohan corresponding to 44.8% of the voting rights. The IRCJ plans to sell all of the shares it holds in Amex Kyohan to San-in Fund.

4. Debt amounts, etc.

The principal value of Amex Kyohan’s debt was ¥2,154 million, for which the IRCJ paid ¥745 million to financial institutions. Following debt forgiveness of ¥1,375 million in accordance with the revitalization plan, the remaining debt of ¥779 million was reduced by ¥61 million to ¥718 million through operating profits and other such sources. With the transaction announced in this document, all remaining debt will be transferred to the financial institution.

5. Comment from the State Ministers in charge of the Industrial Revitalization Corporation of Japan

None expressed

Note on comments from ministers: The IRCJ is a quasi-governmental organization. As such, the IRCJ is required to obtain comments about decisions to assist private-sector companies from the three government ministers in charge of the IRCJ.

For more information, please contact

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About the IRCJ

The IRCJ was established jointly by the public and private sector on April 16, 2003, with the aim of providing revitalization assistance beneficial to both the industrial and the financial sectors in Japan. It targets assistance at companies that have sound business fundamentals but are unable to thrive because of excessive debt levels or other factors. Based in Tokyo, the IRCJ had more than 200 employees at its peak of its operations; the number is currently approximately 100. For more information please visit www.ircj.co.jp

Outline of Amex Kyohan group companies

Amex Kyohan K.K.	
Sekishu Tile Sales Co.	(Merged with Amex Kyohan and deregistered in December 2004)
Imazaki Furnace	Merged with Amex Kyohan and deregistered in December 2004)
Tsuno Furnace Co.	(Merged with Amex Kyohan and deregistered in December 2004)
Tsuromoto Furnace	(Merged with Amex Kyohan and deregistered in December 2004)
Sasaki Tile Industries	(Merged with Tsuno Furnace Co. and deregistered in October 2004)
Uka Furnace	(Merged with Tsuno Furnace Co. and deregistered in October 2004)
Maruhachi Furnace	(Merged with Tsuromoto Furnace and deregistered in October 2004)
Youken K.K.	(Merged with Tsuromoto Furnace and deregistered in October 2004)
Kaorin Coop.	Currently Kaorin Co., Ltd. after restructuring in October 2004
Sekishu Touryo	Shares sold in November 2004 as part of revitalization
Kyohan Transport Center	Shares sold in May 2005 as part of revitalization
Sekishu Roof Tile Technical Development	Dissolved March 2005 as part of revitalization