

United States District Court  
Northern District of California

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

IN RE: CATHODE RAY TUBE (CRT)  
ANTITRUST LITIGATION

MDL No. 1917  
Master Case No. C-07-5944 JST  
Case No. 14-cv-2058 JST

This Order Relates To:

Crago, d/b/a Dash Computers, Inc., et al. v. Mitsubishi Electric Corporation, et al., Case No. 14-cv-2058 JST

**ORDER GRANTING FINAL APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT WITH THOMSON AND TDA DEFENDANTS**

The Direct Purchaser Plaintiffs (“DPPs”) move for Final Approval of Class Action Settlements with: Defendants Thomson SA (now known as Technicolor SA) and Thomson Consumer Electronics, Inc. (now known as Technicolor USA, Inc.) (collectively “Thomson”); and Technologies Displays Americas LLC (formerly known as Thomson Displays Americas LLC) (“TDA”) (collectively “Settling Defendants” or “Defendants”). ECF No. 4091 (“Mot.”). No objection to the settlement has been filed with the Court. See ECF No. 4091-2 (“Murray Decl.”) ¶ 10. Only sixteen (16) class members have requested exclusion from the settlement class in response to the settlement notice, namely the Direct Action Plaintiffs (“DAPs”). Id. ¶ 9. The Court held a final fairness hearing on December 15, 2015. No objections were presented at that hearing. For the reasons set forth below, the Court hereby grants the Motion for Final Approval of Class Action Settlement.

**I. BACKGROUND**

**A. Factual and Procedural Background**

This multidistrict litigation arises from an alleged conspiracy to fix prices of cathode ray tubes (“CRTs”). ECF No. 4094-1 (“Saveri Decl.”) ¶ 3. The alleged conspiracy ran from March 1,

1 1995 through November 25, 2007. Id. ¶ 4. The first DPPs filed a class action complaint on behalf  
2 of itself and all others similarly situated in November 2007, alleging a violation of Section 1 of the  
3 Sherman Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1, and Section 4 of the Clayton Act, 15 U.S.C. § 15. Id. Numerous  
4 additional actions followed. Id. The Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation (“JPML”)   
5 transferred all related actions to this Court on February 15, 2008. ECF. No. 122; Saveri Decl. ¶ 3.  
6 Saveri & Saveri, Inc. was appointed Interim Lead Class Counsel for the nationwide class of direct  
7 purchasers on May 9, 2008. ECF No. 282; Saveri Decl. ¶ 3.

8 Discovery and motion practice in this Multidistrict Litigation case (“MDL”) have included  
9 several motions to dismiss the Consolidated Amended Complaint (“CAC”), see ECF. Nos. 463-  
10 493, 665, interrogatories, Saveri Decl. ¶ 6, extensive meet and confer practice and several motions  
11 to compel, ECF Nos. 1007, 1008, motions to strike allegations from the CAC, ECF Nos. 880, 947,  
12 953, 957, 968, and motions for summary judgment, ECF Nos. 1013, 1221, 1470; Saveri Decl. ¶ 9.  
13 The DPPs have received over 5 million pages of documents produced by Defendants. Saveri  
14 Decl. ¶ 6.

15 On May 20, 2014, the DPPs filed their First Amended Complaint against Mitsubishi and  
16 the Settling Defendants. Crago, d/b/a Dash Computers, Inc., et al. v. Mitsubishi Elec.Corp., et al.,  
17 Case No. 14-cv-2058 JST (N.D. Cal.) (ECF. No. 14-3). The DPPs later filed a motion for class  
18 certification on November 7, 2014. After that motion was filed, the DPPs and the Defendants  
19 reached the Settlement Agreement (or “Settlement”) before the Court. On July 8, 2015, the Court  
20 granted the DPPs’ motion for class certification against Mitsubishi. ECF No. 3902. On  
21 November 9, 2015, the Court granted the DPPs’ motion for authorization to send notice to the  
22 class. ECF No. 4176. However, notice was sent to class members regarding Thomson and TDA  
23 in response to the order preliminarily approving the Settlement. See ECF No. 3872; see also  
24 Murray Decl. ¶¶ 4–5.

25 Notice has now been given to the class pursuant to the Court’s order. Murray Decl. ¶¶ 1-  
26 10. Only 16 class members have requested exclusion from the class, and none have objected. No  
27 notices of intent to appear at the fairness hearing were filed or sent to Gilardi. Id. ¶ 9; Saveri Decl.  
28 ¶ 21. No one appeared at the hearing to object.

1 There have been seven prior settlements between the DPPs and other defendants in this  
 2 case, valued at \$10 million (“CPT” or “Chunhwa”),<sup>1</sup> \$15 million (“Philips”),<sup>2</sup> \$17.5 million  
 3 (“Panasonic”),<sup>3</sup> \$25 million (“LG”),<sup>4</sup> \$13.5 million (“Toshiba”),<sup>5</sup> \$13.45 million (“Hitachi”)<sup>6</sup> and  
 4 \$33 million (“Samsung SDI”),<sup>7</sup> respectively. Saveri Decl. ¶¶ 13-18. In each of these prior DPP  
 5 settlements, the Court certified a settlement class, appointed Saveri & Saveri, Inc. as Settlement  
 6 Class Counsel, and found that the manner and form of providing notice of the settlements to class  
 7 members was the best notice practicable under the circumstances. See ECF Nos. 1412, 1508,  
 8 1621, 1791, 2311, 2534. For each, the Court also entered orders of final approval and final  
 9 judgments of dismissal with respect to the settling (and released) defendants. See ECF Nos. 1413,  
 10 1414, 1509, 1510, 1622, 1792, 3932, 3933.

### 11 **B. The Proposed Settlement**

12 The Settlement provides that Defendants will pay the DPP class \$9,750,000 in cash in  
 13 exchange for dismissal with prejudice and a release of all claims asserted in the FAC. Saveri  
 14 Decl. ¶¶ 20, 23. Defendants will also cooperate with the DPPs in the prosecution of this action by:  
 15 (1) providing copies of all discovery (including all documents, interrogatories, requests for  
 16 admission, etc.) Defendants produced to any other party in the Action; (2) providing a declaration  
 17 and/or custodian establishing the authenticity of Defendants’ transactional data, and foundation for  
 18 any document or data authored by Defendants needed at summary judgment or trial; (3) allowing  
 19 Counsel to question percipient witnesses noticed for deposition by any other party in the Action  
 20 with whom Defendants has not settled; and (4) using their best efforts to make available two  
 21

22 <sup>1</sup> Chunghwa Picture Tubes, Ltd. and Chunghwa Picture Tubes (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd.

23 <sup>2</sup> Koninklijke Philips Electronics N.V., Philips Electronics North America Corporation, Philips  
 Electronics Industries (Taiwan), Ltd., and Philips Da Amazonia Industria Electronica Ltda.

24 <sup>3</sup> Panasonic Corporation (f/k/a Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.), Panasonic Corporation of  
 North America, and MT Picture Display Co., Ltd.

25 <sup>4</sup> LG Electronics, Inc., LG Electronics USA, Inc., and LG Electronics Taiwan Taipei Co., Ltd.

26 <sup>5</sup> Toshiba Corporation, Toshiba America Information Systems, Inc., Toshiba America Consumer  
 Products, L.L.C., and Toshiba America Electronic Components, Inc.

27 <sup>6</sup> Hitachi, Ltd.; Hitachi Displays, Ltd. (n/k/a Japan Display Inc.) (“Hitachi Displays”); Hitachi  
 America, Ltd.; Hitachi Asia, Ltd.; Hitachi Electronic Devices (USA) Inc.

28 <sup>7</sup> Samsung SDI Co. Ltd. (f/k/a Samsung Display Devices Co., Ltd.); Samsung SDI America, Inc.;  
 Samsung SDI Brasil, Ltd.; Tianjin Samsung SDI Co., Ltd.; Samsung Shenzhen SDI Co., Ltd.; SDI  
 Malaysia Sdn. Bhd.; SDI Mexico S.A. de C.V.

1 persons for trial testimony, each of whom will be, at the time of trial, a director, officer, or  
 2 employee of Defendants whom Lead Counsel reasonably believes to have knowledge regarding  
 3 the DPPs' claims. Saveri Decl. ¶ 25. Defendants' sales remain in the case for the purpose of  
 4 computing the DPPs' claims against the remaining non-settling defendants, i.e., Mitsubishi.  
 5 Saveri Decl. ¶ 24.

6 The Settlement becomes final upon approval by the Court, entry of final judgment of  
 7 dismissal, and either expiration of any time to appeal or affirmance of the judgment on appeal with  
 8 no further possibility of appeal. See Saveri Decl., Ex. 1 ("Settlement Agreement") ¶ 11. Upon the  
 9 Settlement becoming final, Plaintiffs and Class members will relinquish any claims against  
 10 Settling Defendants as described in the Settlement Agreement. See Settlement Agreement ¶ 13.  
 11 The release, however, excludes claims for product defects or personal injury or breach of contract  
 12 arising in the ordinary course of business or indirect purchaser claims for CRT Products that were  
 13 not purchased directly from Defendants or their alleged co-conspirators. Id.

14 Subject to the approval and direction of the Court, the Settlement payment will be used to:  
 15 (1) pay members of the class, Settlement Agreement ¶ 21; (2) pay attorneys' fees, costs, and  
 16 expenses to the extent later awarded by the Court, id. ¶¶ 22-23; (3) pay all taxes associated with  
 17 any interest earned on the escrow account, id. ¶ 17(f); and (4) up to \$300,000 may be used to pay  
 18 for Notice costs and future costs incurred in the administration and distribution of the Settlement  
 19 payments, id. ¶ 19(a). Payments to the class will be on the basis of each class member's pro rata  
 20 share of the total affected sales, with no portion reverting to Defendants. See Saveri Decl. ¶ 30.

### 21 C. Jurisdiction

22 The Court has jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2).

## 23 II. FINAL APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

### 24 A. Legal Standard

25 "The claims, issues, or defenses of a certified class may be settled . . . only with the court's  
 26 approval." Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e). "Adequate notice is critical to court approval of a class  
 27 settlement under Rule 23(e)." Hanlon v. Chrysler Corp., 150 F.3d 1011, 1025 (9th Cir. 1998). In  
 28 addition, Rule 23(e) "requires the district court to determine whether a proposed settlement is

1 fundamentally fair, adequate, and reasonable.” Id. at 1026. To assess a settlement proposal, the  
2 district court must balance a number of factors:

3 the strength of the plaintiffs’ case; the risk, expense, complexity, and  
4 likely duration of further litigation; the risk of maintaining class  
5 action status throughout the trial; the amount offered in settlement;  
6 the extent of discovery completed and the stage of the proceedings;  
7 the experience and views of counsel; the presence of a governmental  
8 participant; and the reaction of the class members to the proposed  
9 settlement.

7 Id.

8 **B. Analysis**

9 The Court finds that the class members have received adequate notice and that the  
10 proposed settlement is fair, adequate, and reasonable.<sup>8</sup>

11 **1. Adequacy of Notice**

12 The Court previously approved the parties’ proposed plan for providing notice to the class.  
13 ECF No. 3872 at 2-3. The Court notes that the notice plan was substantially similar to the notice  
14 plan used in prior DPP settlements in this case. See Saveri Decl. ¶ 28. The DPPs have shown that  
15 the claims administrator has fulfilled the obligations of the notice plan by mailing and emailing  
16 notices to class members on June 26, 2015. Murray Decl. ¶¶ 4-5. Approximately 17,787 Class  
17 Notices were mailed or electronically mailed to class members residing throughout the United  
18 States. See id. A website and phone number for additional information were also established on  
19 or about June 7, 2012, where the same information could also be found. Id. ¶¶ 6-7. In addition,  
20 notice was published in two major newspapers on June 29, 2015. See id. ¶ 8; id. Ex. B-C.

21 In light of the foregoing, the Court concludes that the parties have provided the best  
22 practicable notice to class members.

23 **2. Fairness, Adequacy, and Reasonableness**

24 **a. Strength of Plaintiffs’ case**

25 Approval of a class settlement is appropriate when plaintiffs must overcome significant  
26

27 <sup>8</sup> The Court also finds that the scope of the Settlement Agreement’s release, Settlement Agreement  
28 ¶ 13, is permissible because the proposed release only releases claims based on the factual  
predicate of the complaint. See Hesse v. Sprint Corp., 598 F.3d 581, 590 (9th Cir. 2010).

1 barriers to make their case. Chun-Hoon v. McKee Foods Corp., 716 F. Supp. 2d 848, 851 (N.D.  
2 Cal. 2010).

3 Here, Plaintiffs believe that they have a strong case, but Defendants have asserted that they  
4 have strong defenses that would serve to eliminate or limit their liability or damage exposure. The  
5 strength of Plaintiffs' case and Defendants' defenses may depend largely on the motions still  
6 pending before the Court, making it difficult for the Court to determine the actual strength or  
7 weakness of one side versus the other without first deciding the motions. Thus, it is unclear the  
8 degree to which this factor weighs in favor of or against granting final approval.

9 **b. Risk of continued litigation**

10 Difficulties and risks in litigating weigh in favor of approving a class settlement. See  
11 Rodriguez v. W. Publ'g Corp., 563 F.3d 948, 966 (9th Cir. 2009).

12 While Plaintiffs believe their case is strong, the Settlement eliminates significant risks they  
13 would face if the action were to proceed. Plaintiffs would bear the burden of establishing liability,  
14 impact, and damages. See, e.g., Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. v. Visa U.S.A., Inc., 396 F.3d 96, 118 (2d  
15 Cir. 2005) ("Indeed, the history of antitrust litigation is replete with cases in which antitrust  
16 plaintiffs succeeded at trial on liability, but recovered no damages, or only negligible damages, at  
17 trial, or on appeal." (quoting In re NASDAQ Market-Makers Antitrust Litig., 187 F.R.D. 465, 475  
18 (S.D.N.Y. 1998))). While parties moving for approval of a class action settlement frequently  
19 invoke such risks, they are made more tangible here by a recent, similar case in which a plaintiff  
20 recovered no damages despite winning at trial, due to the sheer size of the set-off resulting from  
21 prior class action settlements. Thus, the Settlement is in the best interest of the class "because it  
22 eliminates the risks of continued litigation, while at the same time creating a substantial cash  
23 recovery and obtaining cooperation from [Defendants] in the ongoing litigation." Mot. at 15.

24 The Settlement also avoids significant expenses and protracted legal battles. See Larsen v.  
25 Trader Joe's Co., No. 11-cv-05188 WHO, 2014 WL 3404531, at \*4 (N.D. Cal. July 11, 2014)  
26 ("the high risk, expense, and complex nature of the case weigh in favor of approving the  
27 settlement." (citing Rodriguez, 563 F.3d at 964)); In re Visa Check/Mastermoney Antitrust Litig.,  
28 297 F. Supp. 2d 503, 510 (E.D.N.Y. 2003), aff'd 396 F.3d 96 (2d Cir. 2005) ("The potential for

1 this complex litigation to result in enormous expense, and to continue for a long time, was  
 2 great.”); see also In re Polyurethane Foam Antitrust Litig., No. 1:10 MD 2196, 2015 WL 7348208,  
 3 at \*10 (N.D. Ohio Nov. 19, 2015) (“In re TFT-LCD (Flat Panel) Antitrust Litigation, No. 3:07-  
 4 md-01827 SI, [ECF No.] 4436 [¶ 3] (N.D. Cal. 2011), awarded class counsel 30 percent of a \$405  
 5 million settlement. But even with that generous award, class counsel barely broke even.”).

6 Therefore, this factor strongly favors granting final approval.

7 **c. Settlement amount**

8 “In assessing the consideration obtained by the class members in a class action settlement,  
 9 ‘it is the complete package taken as a whole, rather than the individual component parts, that must  
 10 be examined for overall fairness.” Nat’l Rural Telecomms. Cooperative v. DIRECTV, Inc., 221  
 11 F.R.D. 523, 527 (C.D. Cal. 2004) (quoting Officers for Justice v. Civil Service Comm’n of the  
 12 City and Cnty. of San Francisco, 688 F.2d 615, 628 (9th Cir. 1982)). “In this regard, it is well-  
 13 settled law that a proposed settlement may be acceptable even though it amounts to only a fraction  
 14 of the potential recovery that might be available to the class members at trial. Id. (citing Linney v.  
 15 Cellular Alaska Partnership, 151 F.3d 1234, 1242 (9th Cir. 1998)).

16 Here, the Settlement provides class members \$9,750,000 in damages, excluding attorneys’  
 17 fees, litigation expenses, and incentive awards for certain named plaintiffs. See Saveri Decl. ¶ 23.  
 18 Counsel for the DPPs suggested in their motion that the Settlement “compares favorably to  
 19 settlements finally approved in other price-fixing cases,” Mot. at 13, but offered little support for  
 20 the assertion,<sup>9</sup> and originally provided no estimate of the percentage of the DPPs’ total possible  
 21 recovery. The Court ordered that this information be provided. See ECF No. 4194. Parties have  
 22 since provided the information, ECF No. 4217 (“Supp. Brief”). Thus, the Court is now cognizant

23 \_\_\_\_\_  
 24 <sup>9</sup> The statement is supported only by a citation to a thirty-year-old out-of-circuit district court case  
 25 and seems to have been a cut-and-paste from briefs in other antitrust cases. See Mot. at 13 (citing  
 26 Fisher Bros. v. Mueller Brass Co., 630 F. Supp. 493, 499 (E.D. Pa. 1985)). Professors Robert  
 27 Lande and John Connor recently looked at settlements in 71 private United States cartel cases  
 28 decided between 1990 and 2014 and found that the median average settlement was thirty-seven  
 percent (37%) of single damages. John M. Connor & Robert H. Lande, Not Treble Damages:  
 Cartel Recoveries Are Mostly Less Than Single Damages, 100 Iowa L. Rev. 1997, 1998 (2015).  
 Even the weighted mean (a figure that weights settlements according to their sales) was nineteen  
 percent (19%). Id. The present settlement is a substantially lower percentage of single damages.



1 that the DPPs' maximum possible recovery after trial "could exceed two billion dollars," meaning  
2 that the settlement of \$9.75 million represents 0.4875% of the maximum possible recovery. See  
3 id. at 1; see also Fisher Bros. v. Mueller Brass Co., 630 F. Supp. 493, 498 (E.D. Pa. 1985)  
4 (settlement "represented approximately .2% of sales of \$240 million" but "settlement [wa]s  
5 reasonable in light of Mueller's status in this case as well as its financial condition.").

6 Here, the DPPs state that "Thomson's financial condition was the primary consideration  
7 with regard to settlement." Mot. at 4. Absent a settlement, the DPPs assert that they may be  
8 unable to collect any judgment they do win, as Thomson is not profitable. Thomson is largely a  
9 holding company with no material assets other than its interest in its U.S. subsidiaries, Thomson  
10 has substantial debt, and Thomson has suffered substantial tax and operating losses. See Mot. at  
11 13; Supp. Brief at 1-3. Thomson's financial problems are so great that they could seek insolvency  
12 protection, returning to bankruptcy (from which they only emerged in July 2014). Moreover,  
13 Thomson SA is a French company, which would substantially prolong recovery if a French court  
14 did not otherwise refuse recovery altogether. Collection of a judgment against TDA would also be  
15 difficult as it is another small company with few assets and significant debt. Mot. at 13.

16 Collectability is a valid concern in determining whether to approve a class action settlement. See  
17 Torrisi v. Tucson Elec. Power Co., 8 F.3d 1370, 1377 (9th Cir. 1993) ("first, [plaintiffs' counsel]  
18 must prevail on the class claims, and then they must find some way to collect what they win").

19 Based on this and information provided with the Supp. Brief, ECF No. 4217-1 ¶¶ 2-7, the Court  
20 concludes that Thomson's financial condition is indeed poor and that the Settlement was the best  
21 one Plaintiffs' counsel could negotiate under the circumstances.

22 Beyond the monetary value of the settlement, the DPPs gain the value of Defendants'  
23 cooperation with Plaintiffs in pursuit of claims against the remaining defendant. Saveri Decl. ¶  
24 25. Settlement may save time, reduce the DPPs' costs, and provide information, witnesses, and  
25 documents that the DPPs may otherwise not be able to access. See In re Mid-Atlantic Toyota  
26 Antitrust Litig., 564 F. Supp. 1379, 1386 (D. Md. 1983) (a defendant's agreement to cooperate  
27 with plaintiffs "is an appropriate factor for a court to consider in approving a settlement"); In re  
28 Linerboard Antitrust Litig., 292 F. Supp. 2d 631, 643 (E.D. Pa. 2003) ("The provision of such



1 assistance is a substantial benefit to the classes and strongly militates toward approval of the  
2 Settlement Agreement.”). In addition, “[i]n complex litigation with a plaintiff class, ‘partial  
3 settlements often play a vital role in resolving class actions.’” Agretti v. ANR Freight Sys., Inc.,  
4 982 F.2d 242, 247 (7th Cir. 1992) (quoting 1–Part A Manual for Complex Litigation Second,  
5 Moore’s Federal Practice § 30.46 (1986)).

6 The Settlement also preserves the DPPs’ right to litigate against the non-settling  
7 defendants for the entire amount of Plaintiffs’ damages based on joint and several liability. See  
8 Saveri Decl. ¶ 24. Thus, this settlement provides increased value in another pending class action  
9 suit in this case by creating added incentive for the remaining defendants to settle or allowing  
10 greater recovery for the Plaintiffs at trial.

11 Based on the foregoing, the Court concludes that the cash payment of \$9,750,000 is an  
12 adequate, just, and fair recovery for the class, and that this factor favors final approval.

13 **d. Extent of discovery**

14 “In the context of class action settlements, formal discovery is not a necessary ticket to the  
15 bargaining table where the parties have sufficient information to make an informed decision about  
16 settlement.” In re Mego Fin. Corp. Sec. Litig., 213 F.3d 454, 459 (9th Cir. 2000) (citation  
17 omitted). However, the extent of discovery completed supports approval of a proposed settlement,  
18 especially when litigation has “proceeded to a point at which both plaintiffs and defendants ha[ve]  
19 a clear view of the strengths and weaknesses of their cases.” McKee Foods, 716 F. Supp. 2d 851-  
20 52 (internal quotation marks omitted).

21 Here, class counsel have taken depositions, briefed motions, participated in mediations or  
22 negotiations, have received “over 5 million pages of documents produced by Defendants[,]” and  
23 have “analyzed millions of documents produced by Defendants and others.” See Saveri Decl. ¶ 5;  
24 Mot. at 16. Both sides have conducted an independent investigation of the facts and analyzed  
25 Defendants’ sales and pricing data in advance of settlement discussions. See Mot. at 16. The  
26 Court is persuaded that the DPPs have conducted sufficient discovery to make an informed  
27 decision regarding the adequacy of the settlement. See In re Omnivision, 559 F. Supp. 2d 1036,  
28 1042 (N.D. Cal. 2007) (finding the parties were sufficiently informed about the case prior to

1 settling because they engaged in discovery, took depositions, briefed motions, and participated in  
2 mediation).

3 Accordingly, the Court finds that the extent of discovery strongly favors a finding that final  
4 approval is appropriate.

5 **e. Counsel's experience**

6 "The recommendations of plaintiffs' counsel should be given a presumption of  
7 reasonableness." Id. at 1043 (citation omitted).<sup>10</sup> Lead class counsel here endorses the settlement  
8 as fair, adequate, and reasonable. Mot. at 16-17. The Court is not aware of any evidence to  
9 contradict this assertion. Accordingly, class counsel's endorsement weighs in favor of approving  
10 the settlement. See In re Omnivision, 559 F. Supp. 2d at 1043 (finding class counsel's  
11 recommendation in favor of settlement presumptively reasonable).

12 **f. Reaction of the class**

13 Class members' positive reaction to a settlement weighs in favor of settlement approval;  
14 "the absence of a large number of objections to a proposed class action settlement raises a strong  
15 presumption that the terms of a proposed class settlement [] are favorable to the class members."  
16 Id. (internal quotation marks omitted).

17 There are no objections to the Settlement and only 16 class members opted out of the class  
18 (all of whom appear to be the DAPs). Murray Decl. ¶¶ 9-10. The reaction of the class to the  
19 proposed Settlement therefore supports the conclusion that the proposed Settlement is fair,  
20 adequate and reasonable. See Bynum v. Dist. of Columbia, 412 F. Supp. 2d 73, 77 (D.D.C. 2006)  
21 ("The low number of opt outs and objectors (or purported objectors) supports the conclusion that  
22 the terms of the settlement were viewed favorably by the overwhelming majority of class  
23 members."); Pallas v. Pac. Bell, No. C-89-2373 DLJ, 1999 WL 1209495, at \*8 (N.D. Cal. July 13,  
24 1999) ("The small percentage--less than 1%--of persons raising objections is a factor weighing in

25 \_\_\_\_\_  
26 <sup>10</sup> Counsel suggest that its "judgment that the Settlement is fair and reasonable is also entitled to  
27 great weight." Mot. at 16 (citations omitted). The Court normally considers this factor -- as it  
28 must -- but gives it little weight. "Although a court might give weight to the fact that counsel for  
the class or the defendant favors the settlement, the court should keep in mind that the lawyers  
who negotiated the settlement will rarely offer anything less than a strong, favorable  
endorsement." Principles of the Law of Aggregate Litigation, supra n.3, § 3.05 comment a.

1 favor of approval of the settlement.”); see also In re Patriot Am. Hospitality Inc. Sec. Litig., No.  
 2 MDL C-00-1300 VRW, 2005 WL 3801594, at \*2 (N.D. Cal. Nov. 30, 2005). As the DPPs argue,  
 3 where “much of the class consists of sophisticated business entities,” the inference that the class  
 4 approves of the settlement is even stronger. See Mot. at 15 (citing Linerboard, 321 F. Supp. 2d at  
 5 629).

6 Given the large number of notices provided and only 16 opt-outs, the opt-out rate is far less  
 7 than 1%. Because the class members appear to have concluded that the settlement is favorable to  
 8 their interests, this factor favors approval of the settlement. See, e.g., McKee Foods, 716 F. Supp.  
 9 2d at 852 (finding that 4.86% opt-out rate strongly supported approval); Churchill Vill. LLC v.  
 10 Gen. Elec., 361 F.3d 566, 577 (9th Cir. 2004) (approving a settlement with forty-five objections  
 11 and 500 opt-outs from a 90,000-person class, representing 0.05% and 0.56% of the class,  
 12 respectively).<sup>11</sup>

### 13 g. Balancing the Factors

14 After reviewing all the factors, the Court finds that one factor is inconclusive and the  
 15 remainder clearly support granting the motion for final approval. Accordingly, on balance, the  
 16 Court hereby finds that the settlement is fair, adequate, and reasonable, and grants Plaintiff’s  
 17 motion for final approval of the settlement.

### 18 III. FINAL APPROVAL OF PLAN OF ALLOCATION

19 “Approval of a plan of allocation of settlement proceeds in a class action . . . is governed  
 20 by the same standards of review applicable to approval of the settlement as a whole: the plan must  
 21 be fair, reasonable and adequate.” In re Omnivision, 559 F. Supp. 2d at 1045 (internal quotation  
 22 marks and citation omitted); see also In re Citric Acid Antitrust Litig., 145 F. Supp. 2d 1152, 1154  
 23 (N.D. Cal. 2001). “It is reasonable to allocate the settlement funds to class members based on the  
 24 extent of their injuries or the strength of their claims on the merits.” In re Omnivision, 559 F.  
 25 Supp. 2d at 1045.  
 26

27  
 28 <sup>11</sup> Because no governmental actor is involved in this portion of the case, this factor is not material  
 to settlement approval.

1           The plan of allocation proposed here meets these requirements. Per the notice to the class  
2 approved by the Court, ECF No. 3872, each settlement class member's pro rata share will be that  
3 member's total claim divided by the total number of valid claims, multiplied by value of the net  
4 settlement fund. See Murray Decl., Ex. A, ¶ 9. Cathode Ray Tubes (“CRTs”) purchased as  
5 components will be calculated at full value (100%) while CRTs purchased as part of finished  
6 products will be calculated at partial rates (CRT televisions are valued at 50% and CRT computer  
7 monitors are valued at 75%). Id. No class member objected to the plan of allocation. See Murray  
8 Decl. ¶ 10.

9           This type of distribution has frequently been determined to be fair, adequate, and  
10 reasonable in comparable cases. See In re TFT-LCD (Flat Panel) Antitrust Litig., No. M 07-1827  
11 SI, 2013 WL 1365900, at \*4 (N.D. Cal. Apr. 3, 2013) (approving similar plan of distribution); In  
12 re Dynamic Random Access Memory (DRAM) Antitrust Litig., No. M-02-1486 PJH, ECF No.  
13 2093 at 2 (Oct. 27, 2010) (Order Approving Pro Rata Distribution); In re Vitamins Antitrust Litig.,  
14 No. 99-197 TFH, 2000 WL 1737867, at \*6 (D.D.C. Mar. 31, 2000) (“Settlement distributions,  
15 such as this one, that apportion funds according to the relative amount of damages suffered by  
16 class members, have repeatedly been deemed fair and reasonable.”); In re Lloyds’ Am. Trust Fund  
17 Litig., No. 96 Civ.1262 RWS, 2002 WL 31663577, at \*19 (S.D.N.Y. Nov. 26, 2002) (“pro rata  
18 allocations provided in the Stipulation are not only reasonable and rational, but appear to be the  
19 fairest method of allocating the settlement benefits.”). Moreover, the proposed plan of allocation  
20 is the same as those approved with respect to the other settling defendants in the DPP case that  
21 have been previously approved by the Court. See Saveri Decl. ¶ 29.

22           The Court finds that this plan “fairly treats class members by awarding a pro rata share” to  
23 the class members based on the extent of their injuries. See In re Heritage Bond Litig., No. 02-  
24 ML-1475, 2005 WL 1594403, at \*11 (C.D. Cal. June 10, 2005). Moreover, “[t]he fact that there  
25 has been no objection to this plan of allocation favors” the Court’s approval. Id. Accordingly, the  
26 Court approves Plaintiff’s proposed plan of allocation.

#### 27 **IV. ATTORNEYS’ FEES, EXPENSES, AND INCENTIVE AWARDS**

28           Attorneys’ fees, expenses, and incentive awards will be addressed in a separate order.

United States District Court  
Northern District of California

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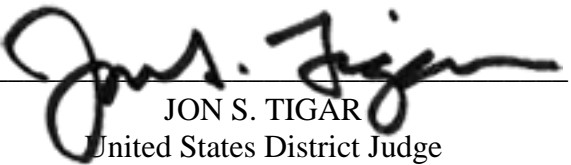
**V. CONCLUSION**

For the foregoing reasons, the Court orders as follows:

1. For the reasons set forth in its June 12, 2015 order, ECF No. 3872, the Court certifies the proposed class for settlement purposes only.
2. For the reasons set forth in its June 12, 2015 order, ECF No. 3872, the Court confirms its appointment of the law firm of Saveri & Saveri, Inc. as Class Counsel.
3. The Court grants final approval of the proposed settlement.
4. The class members who asked to opt out of the settlement are excluded from the class.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: December 17, 2015

  
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JON S. TIGAR  
United States District Judge