

Hilco Streambank

Executive Summary:

Sale of RPO Touch Screen Technology Intellectual Property

Fall 2011

Bid Deadline: November 29th, 2011

Auction Date: December 1st, 2011 (time and location TBD)

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INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

Hilco Streambank was retained by KordaMentha to liquidate the intellectual property assets of RPO Inc. (the “Company”) an Australian based manufacturer of optical waveguides for the consumer electronics touch screen market. The core of these intellectual property assets is the patent portfolio relating to (a) proprietary polymer materials (b) the optical-touch system called Digital Waveguide Touch™ (DWT™) and (c) various generic touch screen related patents.

Over the past 10 years RPO has developed this technology in preparation for market entrance. These intellectual property assets represent an unparalleled opportunity in the fast growing touch market. This opportunity will enable a purchaser to take advantage of \$55m of investment to date to acquire revolutionary touch screen technology which has significant customer engagement and is backed by a strong blocking patent portfolio.

BACKGROUND

RPO has been active in the development of touch screen technology since 2004, that is, before the advent of the iPhone and general awareness of the value of touch screens in consumer electronics. During that period the company focused on developing its own revolutionary and highly differentiated optical-touch system called Digital Waveguide Touch™ (DWT™). DWT™ is a unique optical touch screen technology that is ideally suited for a wide range of mobile devices, like Smart phones, Tablets, and eBook Readers as well higher-value commercial applications, like Automobile Navigation and Automated Teller Machines. DWT™ enables the most scalable and cost effective optical-touch solution with extremely high resolution for any object multi-touch, including pen, brush, finger, fingernail, or gloved finger, without any reduction in brightness or contrast on the display. The key differentiator of DWT™ is RPO’s polymer optical waveguides. RPO developed these wave guides for high-volume, low-cost manufacturing.

In this highly competitive and innovative space, RPO secured significant tier 1 customer engagement and was on the verge of full-scale commercialization of its DWT™. However, In 2011 RPO’s commercial outlook changed significantly and it was unable to raise funds in a sufficiently short period of time. As a result, RPO faced balance sheet difficulties and was unable to progress opportunities with its other customers. RPO’s creditors are now seeking to sell RPO’s IP assets

OPPORTUNITY OVERVIEW

The Market: A New Way to Touch the Digital World

According to Display Search, the touch market today is over \$4.3 billion and is forecasted to reach \$14 billion by 2016.

The mobile device segment – including smart phones, multimedia players, GPS systems, e-readers and tablet computers – is clearly a high-growth area for touch screens, as device integration is driven largely by new input methods. In fact, Gartner estimated that 80 percent of mobile devices sold in 2010 would feature touch screen capabilities

Touch is also becoming an increasingly popular feature for notebook and desktop computers, as Microsoft's Windows 7 operating system enables unique touch applications on those more traditional devices, fueling the widespread adoption of touch.

The Problem: Applications Are Limited by Existing Technology

Most touch screen devices today use capacitive or resistive technology. These two options are accompanied by a host of problems and limitations:

- ❖ Up to a **20 percent reduction in optical brightness** with resistive touch panels on transmissive displays. In a mobile device this results in **significantly reduced battery life** and a **duller display**.
- ❖ **Poor outdoor display performance** due to glare and excessive light reflectivity.
- ❖ **Expensive economics** for capacitive panels, particularly for larger screens.
- ❖ The need for high-pressure touch on resistive screens, which leads to **screen scratches, poor ergonomics** and the **inability to “finger scroll.”**
- ❖ **Durability issues** for resistive touch panels.
- ❖ **Inability to use a pen, gloved finger or other input source that doesn't carry a charge** with capacitive technologies.
- ❖ **Fifty percent reduction in brightness and contrast ratio** when used on reflective displays for both resistive and capacitive panels.
- ❖ **Failure to enable both finger touch and high-resolution handwriting.**

The Solution: RPO's Breakthrough in Optical Innovation

RPO's DWT™ is an entirely new and unique technology platform for next-generation touch screens. Based on patented polymer optical waveguides, DWT™ addresses all the negative attributes of existing resistive, capacitive and other popular touch screen technologies by providing unprecedented control of optical beams to deliver cutting-edge resolution, handwriting capabilities and touch performance.

Unlike existing technologies, DWT™ provides very high-resolution pen input, finger or fingernail input, gloved finger input, and multi-touch in a single technology. DWT™ high resolution provides unmatched handwriting, calligraphy, and character recognition. In addition, DWT™ is capable of detecting the size of the touch object, which enables new paradigms in user

interface. For example, automatic and adaptive keyboards can be presented to the user with keys that match the size of the touch object. Finally, DWT™ uses perfectly clear glass and does not require the use of semi-transparent metallized layers in front of the display. This enables the lowest power consumption possible while maintaining best in class optical clarity and brightness, especially when outdoors in bright sunlight.

DWT™ is the world's first low-cost optical waveguide technology platform suitable for high-volume manufacturing.

Comparison of DWT to Projected Capacitive and Resistive Touch Technologies			
	DWT™	Projected Capacitive	Resistive
User Interface	Multi-touch Input: pen, finger, gloved finger and any object Size detection Asian character input capability (Kanji) Automatic input device detection Automatic page-turn/writing detection; adaptive keyboards Zero-pressure touch for easy finger scrolling	Multi-touch Finger only (no pen or glove or fingernail)	Single touch Pen input High-pressure touch Poor finger scrolling
Performance	Cutting-edge resolution and handwriting capability No reduction in brightness or contrast ratios No ITO touch-panel overlay, no need for anti-glare coatings Works in sunlight Lower system power	Low resolution (finger touch) ITO coating (transmission loss) High glare outdoors High power consumption	High resolution but poor linearity ITO coating (transmission loss) High glare outdoors
Reliability	No EMI issues No delamination issues Very high Electro-static resistance No functional coatings, therefore no failure by mechanical fatigue mechanisms	Prone to EMI issues	Prone to scratching and delamination
Manufacturing	One time calibration No drift Easily scalable Low-cost manufacturing No touch area coatings that create visual defects – results in high manufacturing yield	Complex calibration Expensive, low-yield process	Complex calibration that requires updating


ASSET OVERVIEW

Patent Portfolio:

The portfolio consists of 16 granted patents and 75 applications in 25 patent families filed in a range of jurisdictions including USA, Europe, Japan, Korea and several others. The patents of RPO are in the following categories: **(Please see Schedule A for a complete list of patents)**

Patent Category	Number of Patent Families	DWT Specific	Non-DWT Specific
Polymers for Optical Waveguides	4	X	X
Optical Waveguides – Designs and Manufacturing	9	X	X
DWT Touch System Hardware	9	X	
Touch System Hardware	1		X
Touch Application Algorithms and Software	1	X	
Touch Application Algorithms and Software	5		X

The portfolio being offered is a strong blocking patent portfolio covering patents into DWT™ touch, as well as non-DWT specific polymers and waveguides and numerous generic touch patents. These patents are highly applicable to existing touch panel/screen systems and represent a valuable opportunity on their own. **Please see Schedule B for more information about the possible applications of the RPO technology.**

 **Human capital:** A contact list for a team of up to 20 highly skilled engineers and technologists, formerly of RPO Inc will be made available to the winning bidders.

 **Manufacturing equipment:** Also for sales is a \$10m of state of the art, brand new high volume waveguide manufacturing equipment, newly installed and ready to use or to relocate to a new facility. Equipment sale will be a sealed bid auction with final bids due November 3rd, 2011 at 1:00 PST in Fremont CA. For further information on the manufacturing equipment only please contact one Bill Gardener of The Branford Group, Ph: 203-483-2223, BGardner@TheBranfordGroup.com

SALE PROCESS

Hilco Streambank has commenced marketing of the intellectual property assets and will conclude the sale with an auction on Thursday, December 1st 2011 with time and location to be determined. If you are interested and would like to access additional diligence information, please contact one of the Hilco Streambank members listed below.

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Hilco Streambank is an advisory firm specializing in the valuation, marketing, and sale of intangible assets for businesses at all stages. Streambank identifies, preserves, and extracts value for clients through the application of experience, diligence and creativity. The firm's experience spans a broad range of industries including apparel, automotive, consumer products, food, manufacturing, medical technologies, retail and textiles. Streambank's recent client engagements include Borders, Berklene BenchCraft, Tavern on the Green, Goody's Family Clothing, Circuit City Stores, KB Toys, Mervyn's Holdings LLC, Movie Gallery Inc. and Reel.com. Streambank provides appraisals for many of the largest asset based lenders including Bank of America, GE Capital, Wells Fargo and Crystal Financial. Streambank provides sound advice on value maximization strategies and liquidity options. Streambank maintains offices in Needham, MA and New York, NY. Find out more at

www.hilcostreambank.com

SCHEDULE A: RPO Patent Portfolio

Polymers for Optical Waveguides		
Official No.	Title	Country
2003285975	PROCESS FOR PRODUCING POLYSILOXANES AND USE OF THE SAME	Australia
ZL200380104837.0	PROCESS FOR PRODUCING POLYSILOXANES AND USE OF THE SAME	People's Republic of China
03776649.0	PROCESS FOR PRODUCING POLYSILOXANES AND USE OF THE SAME	Europe
2004-555866	PROCESS FOR PRODUCING POLYSILOXANES AND USE OF THE SAME	Japan
10-1024175	PROCESS FOR PRODUCING POLYSILOXANES AND USE OF THE SAME	Republic of Korea
6818721	PROCESS FOR PRODUCING POLYSILOXANES AND USE OF THE SAME	United States of America
0701002159	LOW VOLATILITY POLYMERS FOR TWO-STAGE DEPOSITION PROCESSES	Thailand
96115461	LOW VOLATILITY POLYMERS FOR TWO-STAGE DEPOSITION PROCESSES	Taiwan, R.O.C.
11/742224	LOW VOLATILITY POLYMERS FOR TWO-STAGE DEPOSITION PROCESSES	United States of America
200780042975.9	PROCESS FOR PRODUCING POLYSILOXANES AND USE OF THE SAME	People's Republic of China
07815379.8	PROCESS FOR PRODUCING POLYSILOXANES AND USE OF THE SAME	Europe
2009-532646	PROCESS FOR PRODUCING POLYSILOXANES AND USE OF THE SAME	Japan
10-2009-7008347	PROCESS FOR PRODUCING POLYSILOXANES AND USE OF THE SAME	Republic of Korea
96138679	PROCESS FOR PRODUCING POLYSILOXANES AND USE OF THE SAME	Taiwan, R.O.C.
11/582933	PROCESS FOR PRODUCING POLYSILOXANES AND USE OF THE SAME	United States of America
AUpatent 2003242399	HINDERED SILOXANES	Australia

Touch System Hardware (non-DWT Specific)		
Official No.	Title	Country
AU 2011902265	Optical touch screen	Australia

Touch Application Algorithms and Software (DWT Specific)		
Official No.	Title	Country
PCT/AU2010/0013 74	METHODS FOR DETECTING AND TRACKING TOUCH OBJECTS	Patent Co-Operation Treaty

Touch Application Algorithms and Software (non-DWT Specific)		
Official No.	Title	Country
12/118047	USER-DEFINED ENABLEMENT PROTOCOL	United States of America
12/599780	DOUBLE TOUCH INPUTS	United States of America
12/921202	METHODS FOR OPERATION OF A TOUCH INPUT DEVICE	United States of America
PCT/AU2010/001135	METHODS FOR MAPPING GESTURES TO GRAPHICAL USER INTERFACE COMMANDS	Patent Co-Operation Treaty
PCT/AU2011/000607	METHODS FOR INTERACTING WITH AN ON-SCREEN DOCUMENT	Patent Co-Operation Treaty

Optical Waveguides – Designs and Manufacturing		
Official No.	Title	Country
2004283319	PLANAR WAVEGUIDE WITH PATTERNED CLADDING AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING SAME	Australia
2536130	PLANAR WAVEGUIDE WITH PATTERNED CLADDING AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING SAME	Canada
ZL200480023545.9	PLANAR WAVEGUIDE WITH PATTERNED CLADDING AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING SAME	People's Republic of China
200810128005.7	PLANAR WAVEGUIDE WITH PATTERNED CLADDING AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING SAME	People's Republic of China
04761436.7	PLANAR WAVEGUIDE WITH PATTERNED CLADDING AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING SAME	Europe
1090130	PLANAR WAVEGUIDE WITH PATTERNED CLADDING AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING SAME	Hong Kong
2006-535907	PLANAR WAVEGUIDE WITH PATTERNED CLADDING AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING SAME	Japan
2011-9707	PLANAR WAVEGUIDE WITH PATTERNED CLADDING AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING SAME	Japan
10-2006-7003666	PLANAR WAVEGUIDE WITH PATTERNED CLADDING AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING SAME	Republic of Korea
7218812	PLANAR WAVEGUIDE WITH PATTERNED CLADDING AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING SAME	United States of America
11/693357	PLANAR WAVEGUIDE WITH PATTERNED CLADDING AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING SAME	United States of America
239776	INTEGRATED OPTICAL WAVEGUIDE WITH PATTERNED CLADDING AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING SAME	India
ZL200580036561.6	PLANAR LENSES FOR INTEGRATED OPTICS	People's Republic of China
05796949.5	PLANAR LENSES FOR INTEGRATED OPTICS	Europe
2007-538217	PLANAR LENSES FOR INTEGRATED OPTICS	Japan

Optical Waveguides – Designs and Manufacturing (Cont.)		
Official No.	Title	Country
10-2007-7011847	PLANAR LENSES FOR INTEGRATED OPTICS	Republic of Korea
94137337	PLANAR LENSES FOR INTEGRATED OPTICS	Taiwan, R.O.C.
7546009	PLANAR LENSES FOR INTEGRATED OPTICS	United States of America
7421167	OPTICAL POWER DISTRIBUTION DEVICES	United States of America
7352940	WAVEGUIDE DESIGN INCORPORATING REFLECTIVE OPTICS	United States of America
2006214795	PHOTOLITHOGRAPHIC PATTERNING OF POLYMERIC MATERIALS	Australia
200680004936.5	PHOTOLITHOGRAPHIC PATTERNING OF POLYMERIC MATERIALS	People's Republic of China
06704878.5	PHOTOLITHOGRAPHIC PATTERNING OF POLYMERIC MATERIALS	Europe
2007-555423	PHOTOLITHOGRAPHIC PATTERNING OF POLYMERIC MATERIALS	Japan
10-2007-7021047	PHOTOLITHOGRAPHIC PATTERNING OF POLYMERIC MATERIALS	Republic of Korea
PI 20071284	PHOTOLITHOGRAPHIC PATTERNING OF POLYMERIC MATERIALS	Malaysia
108674	PHOTOLITHOGRAPHIC PATTERNING OF POLYMERIC MATERIALS	Thailand
95105121	PHOTOLITHOGRAPHIC PATTERNING OF POLYMERIC MATERIALS	Taiwan, R.O.C.
7923071	PHOTOLITHOGRAPHIC PATTERNING OF POLYMERIC MATERIALS	United States of America
12/974858	PHOTOLITHOGRAPHIC PATTERNING OF POLYMERIC MATERIALS	United States of America
2009-535529	PLANAR WAVEGUIDE LENS DESIGN	Japan
11/558587	PLANAR WAVEGUIDE LENS DESIGN	United States of America
0701002160	METHODS FOR FABRICATING POLYMER OPTICAL WAVEGUIDES ON LARGE AREA SUBSTRATES	Thailand
96115464	METHODS FOR FABRICATING POLYMER OPTICAL WAVEGUIDES ON LARGE AREA SUBSTRATES	Taiwan, R.O.C.
7811640	METHODS FOR FABRICATING POLYMER OPTICAL WAVEGUIDES ON LARGE AREA PANELS	United States of America
11/859331	WAVEGUIDE CONFIGURATIONS FOR OPTICAL TOUCH SYSTEMS	United States of America
11/935124	WAVEGUIDE CONFIGURATIONS FOR MINIMISING SUBSTRATE AREA	United States of America

DWT Touch System Hardware		
Official No.	Title	Country
200780015720.3	WAVEGUIDE MATERIALS FOR OPTICAL TOUCH SCREENS	China
2009-508044	WAVEGUIDE MATERIALS FOR OPTICAL TOUCH SCREENS	Japan
10-2008-7029212	WAVEGUIDE MATERIALS FOR OPTICAL TOUCH SCREENS	Republic of Korea
0701002158	WAVEGUIDE MATERIALS FOR OPTICAL TOUCH SCREENS	Thailand
96115459	WAVEGUIDE MATERIALS FOR OPTICAL TOUCH SCREENS	Taiwan, R.O.C.
11/742887	WAVEGUIDE MATERIALS FOR OPTICAL TOUCH SCREENS	USA
ZL200680049101.1	IMPROVED OPTICAL ELEMENTS FOR WAVEGUIDE-BASED OPTICAL TOUCH SCREENS AND METHODS THEREOF	People's Republic of China
06790416.9	IMPROVED OPTICAL ELEMENTS FOR WAVEGUIDE-BASED OPTICAL TOUCH SCREENS	Europe
2020/KOLNP/2008	IMPROVED OPTICAL ELEMENTS FOR WAVEGUIDE-BASED OPTICAL TOUCH SCREENS	India
2008-536879	IMPROVED OPTICAL ELEMENTS FOR WAVEGUIDE-BASED OPTICAL TOUCH SCREENS	Japan
10-2008-7012149	IMPROVED OPTICAL ELEMENTS FOR WAVEGUIDE-BASED OPTICAL TOUCH SCREENS	Republic of Korea
95139215	IMPROVED OPTICAL ELEMENTS FOR WAVEGUIDE-BASED OPTICAL TOUCH SCREENS	Taiwan, R.O.C.
7738746	OPTICAL ELEMENTS FOR WAVEGUIDE-BASED OPTICAL TOUCH SCREENS	United States of America
2008251020	A TRANSMISSIVE BODY	Australia
2688214	A TRANSMISSIVE BODY	Canada
200880015697.2	A TRANSMISSIVE BODY	China
08747929.1	A TRANSMISSIVE BODY	Europe
4272/KOLNP/2009	A TRANSMISSIVE BODY	India
2010-506777	A TRANSMISSIVE BODY	Japan
10-2009-7025856	A TRANSMISSIVE BODY	Republic of Korea
0801002346	A TRANSMISSIVE BODY	Thailand
97117406	A TRANSMISSIVE BODY	Taiwan, R.O.C.
12/119343	A TRANSMISSIVE BODY	USA
98136975	A TRANSMISSIVE BODY	Taiwan, R.O.C.
13/126981	A TRANSMISSIVE BODY	USA
PCT/AU2010/001232	PROJECTION SYSTEMS FOR TOUCH INPUT DEVICES	Patent Co-Operation Treaty
PCT/AU2010/001540	APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR RECEIVING A TOUCH INPUT	Patent Co-Operation Treaty
PCT/AU2011/000606	OPTICAL SYSTEMS FOR INFRARED TOUCH SCREENS	Patent Co-Operation Treaty
AU 2007216782	Optical elements for waveguide-based optical touch input devices	Patent Co-Operation Treaty
AU 2011902518	Infrared touch screens with simplified components	Australia

SCHEDULE B: General Applications of RPO Patents

Proprietary Novel Polymers Patents

RPO has developed a range of proprietary polymer materials. These materials are modified siloxane-acrylics. The recipes for their manufacture are unique to RPO and patented. The materials are made as a resin, which can then be spun-coated or extruded coated onto flat, structured or even flexible substrates. They then can be processed like a negative photo-resist, and after development with fab-safe solvents, the residual materials can be further UV cross-lined with flood expose. These materials as processed are ideal polymer optical waveguides. The material properties of these waveguides is market leading in terms of optical transparency, operating temperature range whilst maintaining optical and physical performance, thermal and UV stability and other key properties. The waveguides can be single mode (down below 10 um in size) or much large multi-moded waveguides.

The waveguides made by RPO are the world's first – key features include super-low cost, large area production (up to Gen 3 and beyond), flexible substrates, and more. Initially developed for low cost fiber-to-the-home optical fiber wavelength splitters, RPO then further developed for application in its proprietary touch screen technology. Future applications include the possibilities of further deployment in optical fiber components, low cost PCB optical waveguide channels, optical coupling technologies for consumer electronics, defense and specialty science applications, MEMS and micro-channel technologies, and many more.

Uniquely both the polymer and waveguide production process of RPO have been fully developed through to market, with all aspects of high volume manufacturing addressed. The IP portfolio includes all standard operating procedures, recipes, formulas and the like, that would be required by an acquirer to develop and make polymers and waveguides for DWT, or other applications of these waveguides.

General Touch Screen Patents

RPO also developed a number of generic touch screen inventions, specifically around means for human interaction with touch screens. These technology inventions have application for just about all touch screens including the dominant capacitive touch screens as found on most phones and pads. There are seven high-value patent families in this category and each describes and captures unique and valuable ways in which user can interact with touch screens. Mostly the implementation of these inventions requires software development only.

The touch screen interface is an area of high value with respect to patent infringement. It is our belief that these patents represent a unique opportunity to expand existing touch screen patent portfolios, especially in the context of licensing in this area. In addition some of the unique ideas as described in these patents are yet to be deployed on touch phones and other consumer goods, and hence offer an opportunity for the development of new features in an otherwise crowded and undifferentiated touch screen features market.

Notes on Specific General Touch Screen Patents

RPO has 6 patent families which have relevance to all touch screen devices, particularly mobile phone, pads, e-books and the like. Below we described these patents in detail by reference number and patent title.

RP74 - USER-DEFINED ENABLEMENT PROTOCOL:

- ❖ Claims - (1) recording a user's touch gesture, and (2) using that recorded touch gesture to perform a function.
- ❖ An example is a modification on the well-known slide function that unlocks the iPhone screen.
- ❖ Instead of a slide it could be a pre-recorded squiggle, offering security as well as the same functionality at the same time.
- ❖ In general this could be a short-cut method for performing common functions on touch enabled phone.

RP74A - DOUBLE TOUCH INPUTS:

- ❖ This patent family is a variation on RP74.
- ❖ Claims - (1) recording a user's touch, and (2) using one recorded touch gesture to perform a function where (3) The gesture is performed using two simultaneous touches.
- ❖ For example, a left hand finger may touch a defined point on a screen (say a button) enables the gesture function of a right hand finger to be executed without confusion as to what the touch event means (i.e. it can be executed on top of other touch sensitive areas of the software).

RP85 - METHODS FOR OPERATION OF A TOUCH INPUT DEVICE:

- ❖ Claims - (1) recording a touch event and (2) measuring the size and/or shape of the touch object, and (3) using that information to execute a specific function.
- ❖ An example is an e-book reader with touch and an incorporated stylus, where the system automatically adjusts the size of the keyboard that pops up to account for the size of the intended touch object – a smaller keyboard is needed for stylus compared to say a finger.
- ❖ Another example is the difference between an index finger and thumb, where different functionality can automatically be executed subject to which type of touch occurs. Yet another example is single finger versus multi-finger touches (as determined by size or shape) where an example is a four finger touch, which automatically executes a defined function.
- ❖ It is worth noting that some of the new in-display touch panels can, like the new Sharp LCD technology, can measure size and shape of touch events.

RP96 - METHODS FOR MAPPING GESTURES TO GRAPHICAL USER INTERFACE COMMANDS:

- ❖ Claims - "bunched finger" gestures and extensions thereof.
- ❖ The key example here is a two "bunched" (together) finger image rotation gesture - so instead of using the classic finger and thumb rotation, two bunched fingers are moved in a circle.

RP99 - METHODS FOR DETECTING AND TRACKING TOUCH OBJECTS:

- ❖ This patent family is really a means to resolve x and y coordinate ambiguity for optical touch systems touch, particularly for multi-touch gestures.
- ❖ It is implemented in the firmware.
- ❖ This method of doing so might have applications for all touch systems and could be a useful additional feature with great licensing potential.

RP102 - METHODS FOR INTERACTING WITH AN ON-SCREEN DOCUMENT:

- ❖ An addition to RP85 which was invented specifically for e-books.
- ❖ It covers all sorts of gestures useful for e-books, such as swiping for page turns, text annotation and removal thereof etc.
- ❖ The key enabler again is detection of size and/or shape of the touch object as means to infer the user intentions.