

Lawsuit against SK Hynix

<https://www.sandisk.com/about/media-center/press-releases/2014/sandisk-files-lawsuit-against-sk-hynix-for-theft-of-trade-secrets>

SanDisk files lawsuit against SK Hynix for theft of trade secrets

March 13, 2014

SanDisk Corporation, a global leader in flash storage solutions, today announced that it has filed a civil lawsuit against Korea's SK Hynix, Inc., SK Hynix America and related entities in Santa Clara Superior Court. The lawsuit seeks damages, an injunction and other remedies against Hynix for trade secret misappropriation under California's Uniform Trade Secret Act.

Additionally, SanDisk has submitted a criminal complaint with the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department against a former employee.

These actions relate to the theft of trade secrets related to NAND flash technology by a former engineer of SanDisk who left the company in 2008 to work for SK Hynix. This engineer is alleged to have illegally taken SanDisk's proprietary technical information and to have subsequently provided it to SK Hynix.

Tokyo Metropolitan Police today announced the arrest of the former employee, who worked at SanDisk's joint venture manufacturing facility in Yokkaichi, Japan. SanDisk has been and continues to cooperate with law enforcement in their investigation.

SanDisk's joint venture relationship with Toshiba Corporation has been in place for nearly 15 years and represents one of the most successful partnerships in the semiconductor industry. SanDisk and Toshiba together have enabled more than 10 generations of NAND flash technologies over these years.

"SanDisk strongly believes in the value of IP, and takes protecting trade secrets seriously," said Judy Bruner, executive vice president, administration, and chief financial officer at SanDisk. "We are working diligently with the authorities as well as our partner on these matters and are aggressively pursuing all legal remedies available to us."

<http://electronics360.globalspec.com/article/4097/engineer-arrested-as-hynix-sued-over-nand-secrets>

Engineer Arrested as Hynix Sued Over NAND Secrets

March 14, 2014

SanDisk Corp. and its manufacturing partner Toshiba Corp. have both filed civil suits alleging that rival NAND flash memory producer SK Hynix Inc. stole trade secrets back in 2008.

San Disk (Milpitas, Calif.) has also submitted a criminal complaint with the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department against a former employee alleging he copied materials and provided them to SK Hynix (Icheon, South Korea) when he took up employment with that company. The Tokyo police arrested Yoshitaka Sugita, 52, of Fukuoka Prefecture, an engineer that had formerly worked for SanDisk, on Thursday March 13, according to a Japan Times report.

SanDisk filed a civil lawsuit against Korea's SK Hynix, Inc., SK Hynix America and related entities in Santa Clara Superior Court. The lawsuit seeks damages and an injunction against the sale of SK Hynix products. Toshiba (Tokyo, Japan) has brought a civil suit against SK Hynix at the Tokyo District Court, seeking damages for the alleged wrongful acquisition and use of technical information related to NAND flash memory.

SanDisk said the former employee had worked at SanDisk's manufacturing facility in Yokkaichi, Japan, a joint venture and site it shares with Toshiba.

"We are working diligently with the authorities as well as our partner on these matters and are aggressively pursuing all legal remedies available to us," said Judy Bruner, executive vice president, administration, and chief financial officer at SanDisk, in statement.

Toshiba said it plans to construct a better system for protecting intellectual property and preventing its loss, but it will also continue to respond resolutely to unfair competition.

<http://electronics360.globalspec.com/article/4851/toshiba-sk-hynix-settle-nand-flash-theft-dispute>

Toshiba, SK Hynix Settle NAND Flash Theft Dispute

December 29, 2014

South Korean memory chip company SK Hynix Inc. has agreed to pay Japan's Toshiba Corp. US\$278 million to settle a dispute over the alleged theft of trade secrets related to NAND flash memory technology in 2008.

In return Toshiba has agreed to withdraw a civil lawsuit that it had filed in March 2014 under Japan's Unfair Competition Prevention Act. In that lawsuit it had been seeking 109.15 billion yen (about \$1.07 billion).

However, it remains unclear as to whether SanDisk Corp., which has partnered with Toshiba in NAND flash production and which also filed suit against SK Hynix will also drop its suit.

Both companies pursued SK Hynix with the allegation that a former SanDisk employee copied materials and provided them to SK Hynix when he took up employment there.

SanDisk filed its civil lawsuit against SK Hynix Inc., SK Hynix America and related entities in Santa Clara Superior Court. The lawsuit seeks damages and an injunction against the sale of SK Hynix products. SanDisk also submitted a criminal complaint with the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department against the former employee.