



For Immediate Release
June 30, 2005

Taiwan Court Convicts P2P Operator ezPeer of Copyright Piracy After Nine-Month Trial

***Notorious Pirate Service Has Hundreds of Thousands
of Subscribers, Continued Pirate Activity During Trial***

Hong Kong, Encino – On June 30, Taiwan’s Shi Lin District Court convicted pirate peer-to-peer (P2P) operator ezPeer of unauthorized reproduction and public transmission of copyrighted materials in violation of the country’s Copyright Law, as well as with violation of Taiwan’s Child and Youth Sexual Transaction Prevention Act. Among the materials ezPeer was accused of pirating were MPA member company titles. The court is expected to issue further details of its verdict before the end of July.

ezPeer provides a subscription service that offers unauthorized versions of copyrighted works for downloading without compensating the rights holders, and as a result enables criminal activity by thousands of ezPeer members in Taiwan who might believe the service is legitimate as a result of the subscription fee structure. These ezPeer members are deceived into unknowingly participating in the fast-growing web of piracy on the Internet and subject themselves to possible prosecution.

Mike Ellis, Senior Vice President and Regional Director, Asia-Pacific, MPA said, “The MPA applauds the Court’s decision, which makes a strong statement in support of Taiwan’s commitment to defending copyright and keeping the Internet safe for consumers. ezPeer has flagrantly violated Taiwan’s copyright law through its unauthorized and unlawful online sale of MPA member company movies.

“The Court has made very clear today that ezPeer must now face the legal consequences of its actions, and it has affirmed the hard work of Taiwan’s law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies in protecting intellectual property rights. It is our hope that the Court will order ezPeer to discontinue its illegal operations immediately to prevent further damage from being done.”

The Taipei public prosecutor's office filed an indictment against ezPeer on March 11, 2004 following a rigorous investigation of ezPeer's business activities and cited multiple infringements of MPA member companies' copyrights. On January 19, 2004, the MPA's Taiwan office had filed a criminal complaint charging that ezPeer was knowingly engaged in infringing MPA member companies' copyrights for profit. The first hearing in the criminal trial took place on September 10, 2004.

Piracy in Asia

The MPA estimates that its member companies lose in excess of US\$896 million in potential revenue annually in the Asia-Pacific region alone. In 2004, the MPA operations in the Asia-Pacific region investigated more than 25,500 cases of piracy and assisted law enforcement officials in conducting nearly 12,000 raids. These activities resulted in the seizure of approximately 49,000,000 illegal optical discs, and the initiation of more than 8,000 legal actions.

***About the MPA:** The Motion Picture Association (MPA) represents the interests of major motion picture companies in the global marketplace. On behalf of its Member Companies, the MPA conducts investigations around the world, assists with the criminal and civil litigation generated by such cases, and conducts education outreach programs to teach movie fans around the world about the harmful effects of piracy. The MPA directs its worldwide anti-piracy operations from its headquarters based in Encino, California and has regional offices located in Brussels (Europe, Middle East and Africa), Mexico City (Latin America), Montreal (Canada) and Hong Kong (Asia-Pacific). The MPA's anti-piracy activities have helped to transform entire markets from pirate to legitimate, benefiting video distributors, retailers, and foreign and local filmmakers alike. The MPA member companies include: Buena Vista International, Inc.; Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios Inc.; Paramount Pictures Corporation; Sony Pictures Releasing International Corporation; Twentieth Century Fox International Corporation; Universal International Films, Inc.; and Warner Bros. Pictures International, a division of Warner Bros. Pictures Inc.*

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