

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hitachi to Purchase Clarion Shares

Tokyo, December 27, 2004 --- Hitachi, Ltd. (NYSE:HIT / TSE:6501) today announced that Hitachi and HBK Master Fund L.P. reached a contract that Hitachi will purchase 40,707,000 shares (14.52% of total voting rights) of Clarion Co., Ltd. (TSE:6796) from HBK Master Fund L.P.

Upon this purchase, Hitachi will become the largest shareholder of Clarion.

About Hitachi, Ltd.

Hitachi, Ltd., (NYSE:HIT) headquartered in Tokyo, Japan, is a leading global electronics company, with approximately 326,000 employees worldwide. Fiscal 2003 (ended March 31, 2004) consolidated sales totaled 8,632.4 billion yen (\$81.4 billion). The company offers a wide range of systems, products and services in market sectors, including information systems, electronic devices, power and industrial systems, consumer products, materials and financial services. For more information on Hitachi, please visit the company's Web site at <http://www.hitachi.com>.

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Information contained in this news release is current as of the date of the press announcement, but may be subject to change without prior notice.
