

## **BRIDGESTONE CORPORATION**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### Announcement of Plea Agreement with U.S. Department of Justice Regarding Certain Industrial Products including Marine Hose

Tokyo (September 16, 2011) – Bridgestone Corporation (“BSJ”) announced today that it has entered into a plea agreement, subject to court approval, with the U.S. Department of Justice (“DOJ”) on September 12, 2011 (U.S. Eastern time).

Since May 2007, the DOJ has been investigating BSJ’s involvement in international cartel activities relating to the sale of marine hose. The DOJ has also investigated improper payments to government officials through local sales agents focusing primarily on Latin America in connection with certain industrial products. BSJ has cooperated fully in this matter.

The DOJ has agreed that BSJ’s cooperation has been “extraordinary”. The DOJ has also acknowledged that BSJ has engaged in extensive remediation including dismantling the International Engineered Products Department, closing its Houston office of Bridgestone Industrial Products of America, Inc., terminating many of its third party agents, and taking remedial actions with respect to its employees. BSJ has also decided to withdraw from the marine hose business.

Under the plea agreement, BSJ will plead guilty to an antitrust conspiracy with respect to marine hose and a conspiracy to violate the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. The agreed on fine will be \$28 million, a significant reduction from the applicable sentencing guidelines due to BSJ’s cooperation and remediation efforts. This plea agreement is subject to approval by the U.S. District Court in Houston Texas. Upon approval, this plea agreement will bring the investigation to an end for BSJ and its subsidiaries involved in the production or sale of marine hose or other industrial products.

We are committed to the efforts to further enhance and expand our remediation measures, and to conduct business in compliance with the competition and anticorruption laws around the world.

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