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## Network Solutions Settles Rich-Media Patent Suit

By **Brendan Pierson**

Law360, New York (June 26, 2009) -- Network Solutions LLC has settled a lawsuit filed by Balthaser Online Inc. over a patent related to rich-media applications for the Internet.

The companies moved to dismiss all claims between them pursuant to a settlement agreement on Wednesday, and Judge David Folsom of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas granted the motion Thursday.

Network Solutions and Balthaser did not disclose the terms of their settlement. Attorneys for Balthaser and Network Solutions could not immediately be reached for comment.

Balthaser sued Network Solutions and a slew of other video game producers, Web media companies and retailers — including Friendster Inc., Electronic Arts Inc. and Nike Inc. — in November. The complaint claimed that the 20 assorted defendants operate Web sites that use interactive media technology patented by Balthaser.

San Francisco-based Balthaser is the owner of U.S. Patent Number 7,000,180, titled “Methods, systems and processes for the design and creation of rich-media applications via the Internet.”

The defendants “directly and indirectly infringe the patent-in-suit by operating Web sites covered by one or more claims of the ‘180 patent to the injury of Balthaser,” according to the complaint.

The patent, issued in February 2006, describes a method of providing Internet users with the ability to buy and create rich-media applications on a host Web site. The invention enables users to purchase interactive media applications and design their own applications for different prices, according to the patent.

"The patent covers all rich-media technology implementations including Flash, Flex, Java, Ajax and XAML and all device footprints which access Rich-Media Internet applications including desktops, mobile devices, set-top boxes and video game consoles," Balthaser said in a press release when the patent was granted.

The rich-media technology allows consumers to design high-quality Web sites traditionally provided by Web site designers, the patent claims.

The defendants in the suit Network Solutions, The Knot Inc., Insider Guides Inc., Cyworld Inc., Hi5 Networks Inc., Freewebs Inc., Gaia Interactive Inc., Friendster, Ebaum's World Inc., Imeem Inc., Scripps Networks LLC, Live Journal Inc., Nike, Ning Inc., Swatchbox Technologies Inc., Electronic Arts, Hookuma Inc., Meredith Corp. and Capcom USA Inc.

The suit also targeted Puma International LLC and FriendFinder Networks Inc., but Balthaser voluntarily dismissed them in January. The company did not explain in court filings why it dismissed them.

The suit seeks a permanent injunction, an accounting of the profits derived by the defendants from the sale of their infringing products, treble damages for willful infringement and the award of attorneys' fees.

Balthaser is represented by McKool Smith PC and **Dickstein Shapiro LLP**.

Network Solutions is represented by Townsend and Townsend and Crew LLP and Capshaw DeRieux LLP.

The case is Balthaser Online Inc. v. Network Solutions LLC et al., case number 2:08-cv-00430, in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas.

--Additional reporting by Sam Howard

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