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THOMAS P. O'BRIEN
   United States Attorney
   ROBB C. ADKINS
   Chief, Santa Ana Office
   DOUGLAS F. McCORMICK (180415)
 3
   Assistant United States Attorney
         411 West Fourth Street, Suite 8000
 4
         Santa Ana, California 92701
         Telephone: (714) 338-3541
 5
         Facsimile: (714) 338-3564
                    doug.mccormick@usdoj.gov
         E-mail:
 6
   STEVEN A. TYRRELL, Chief
 7
   MARK F. MENDELSOHN, Deputy Chief
   HANK BOND WALTHER, Assistant Chief
 8
   ANDREW GENTIN, Trial Attorney
   Fraud Section
 9
   Criminal Division, U.S. Department of Justice
         1400 New York Avenue, N.W.
10
         Washington, DC 20005
Telephone: (202) 353-3551
11
         Facsimile: (202) 514-0152
                    andrew.gentin@usdoj.gov
         E-mail:
12
   Attorneys for Plaintiff
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   United States of America
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                       UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
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                  FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
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                             SOUTHERN DIVISION
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                                        SA CR NO. 08-336
   UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
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                                         PLEA AGREEMENT FOR
                   Plaintiff,
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                                         DEFENDANT MARIO COVINO
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                 v.
   MARIO COVINO,
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                   Defendant.
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              This constitutes the plea agreement between MARIO
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   COVINO (the "defendant") and the United States Attorney's Office
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   for the Central District of California ("the USAO") and the
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United States Department of Justice, Criminal Division, Fraud

Section ("the Fraud Section") (the USAO and the Fraud Section are, together, referred to as "the Department of Justice") in the above-captioned case. This agreement is limited to the Department of Justice and cannot bind any other federal, state or local prosecuting, administrative or regulatory authorities.

PLEA

2. The defendant gives up the right to indictment by a grand jury and agrees to plead guilty to an information charging the defendant with one count of conspiracy to violate the laws of the United States in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371, that is, to violate the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act ("FCPA") (Title 15, United States Code, Section 78dd-2).

THE OFFENSE

3. In order for the defendant to be guilty of a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371, the following must be true: (1) the defendant and at least one other person agreed with each other to commit an offense as charged in the Information; (2) the defendant became a member of the conspiracy knowing of at least one of its objects and intending to help accomplish it; and (3) one of the members of the conspiracy performed at least one overt act for the purpose of carrying out the conspiracy.

PENALTIES AND RESTITUTION

4. The statutory maximum sentence that the Court can impose for a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371 is five years' imprisonment; a three-year period of

supervised release; a fine of \$250,000 or twice the pecuniary gain or loss resulting from the offense, whichever is greater; and a mandatory special assessment of \$100.

- 5. Supervised release is a period of time following imprisonment during which the defendant will be subject to various restrictions and requirements. The defendant understands that if he violates one or more of the conditions of any supervised release imposed, he may be returned to prison for all or part of the term of supervised release, which could result in the defendant serving a total term of imprisonment greater than the statutory maximum stated above.
- 6. The defendant also understands that, by pleading guilty, he may be giving up valuable government benefits and valuable civil rights, such as the right to vote, the right to possess a firearm, the right to hold office, and the right to serve on a jury.
- 7. The defendant further understands that his conviction in this case may subject him to various collateral consequences, including but not limited to, deportation, revocation of probation, parole, or supervised release in another case, and suspension or revocation of a professional license. The defendant understands that unanticipated collateral consequences will not serve as grounds to withdraw his guilty plea.
- 8. The defendant understands that he may be required to pay restitution to the victims of the offense. The defendant agrees that the amount of restitution ordered, if any, is not

restricted to the amounts alleged in the count to which he is pleading guilty and may include losses arising from all relevant conduct in connection with this count. The defendant further agrees that he will not seek the discharge of any restitution obligation, in whole or in part, in any present or future bankruptcy proceeding.

FACTUAL BASIS

9. The defendant and the Department of Justice agree and stipulate to the statement of facts in the attached Exhibit A. This statement of facts includes facts sufficient to support a plea of guilty to the charge described in this agreement and to establish the sentencing guideline factors set forth in paragraph 12 below. It is not meant to be a complete recitation of all facts relevant to the underlying criminal conduct or all facts known to the defendant that relate to that conduct.

WAIVER OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

- 10. By pleading guilty, the defendant gives up the following rights:
 - a) The right to persist in a plea of not quilty.
 - b) The right to a speedy and public trial by jury.
- c) The right to the assistance of legal counsel at trial and at every other stage of the proceeding, including, if the defendant could not afford an attorney, the right to have the Court appoint one for him.
- d) The right to be presumed innocent and to have the burden of proof placed on the government to prove the defendant

guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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- e) The right to confront and cross-examine witnesses against the defendant.
- f) The right, if the defendant wished, to testify on the defendant's own behalf and present evidence in opposition to the charges, including the right to call witnesses and to subpoena those witnesses to testify.

The right not to be compelled to testify, and, if

the defendant chose not to testify or present evidence, to have that choice not be used against him.

By pleading guilty, the defendant also gives up any and all rights to pursue any defenses to the charge the defendant is pleading guilty to, including affirmative defenses, Fourth

Amendment or Fifth Amendment claims, and other pretrial motions that have been filed or could be filed.

SENTENCING FACTORS

11. The defendant understands that the Court is required to consider the United States Sentencing Guidelines ("U.S.S.G." or "Sentencing Guidelines"), among other factors, in determining the defendant's sentence. The defendant understands, however, that the Sentencing Guidelines are only advisory, and that after considering the Sentencing Guidelines, the Court is free to exercise its discretion to impose any reasonable sentence up to the maximum set by statute for the crimes of conviction. The defendant and the Department of Justice agree, pursuant to <u>United States v. Booker</u>, that they will not seek any departures from the

applicable Sentencing Guidelines range other than a reduction for acceptance of responsibility or via a motion for substantial assistance brought in the sole discretion of the Department of Justice, as described in paragraph 18.

12. The defendant and the Department of Justice agree and stipulate that the 2007 Sentencing Guidelines apply in this case and that they will jointly recommend that the following applicable sentencing guideline factors apply:

Base Offense Level	12 ·	U.S.S.G. § 2C1.1(a)(2)
More than one bribe	2	U.S.S.G. § 2C1.1(b)(1)
Net value of benefit to company is more than \$2,500,000 but less than \$7,000,000	18	U.S.S.G. §§ 2C1.1(b)(2), 2B1.1(b)(1)(J)
Manager or Supervisor of criminal activity involving 5 or more participants and activity that was otherwise extensive	3	U.S.S.G. § 3B1.1(b)
Acceptance of Responsibility	-3	U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1

TOTAL OFFENSE LEVEL 32

13. Based on a total offense level of 32, the applicable guidelines range (assuming a Criminal History Category of I) is 121-151 months. Section 5G1.1(a) of the U.S.S.G. states that where the statutorily authorized maximum sentence is less than the minimum of the applicable guideline range, the statutorily authorized maximum sentence shall be the guideline sentence. Because the statutory maximum sentence that the Court can impose

for a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371, is five years' imprisonment and is less than the bottom of the applicable guideline range, the defendant and the Department of Justice agree that the U.S.S.G. sentence is five years' imprisonment.

- 14. There is no agreement as to the defendant's criminal history or criminal history category.
- 15. The stipulations in this agreement do not bind either the United States Probation Office or the Court. Both the defendant and the Department of Justice are free to: (a) supplement the facts by supplying relevant information to the United States Probation Office and the Court; (b) correct any and all factual misstatements relating to the calculation of the sentence; and (c) argue on appeal and collateral review that the Court's sentencing guidelines calculations are in error, although each party agrees to maintain its view that the calculations in paragraph 12 are correct and consistent with the facts of this case.

THE DEFENDANT'S OBLIGATIONS

- 16. The defendant agrees that he will:
 - a) Plead guilty as set forth in this agreement.
- b) Abide by all sentencing stipulations contained in this agreement.
- c) Appear as ordered for all court appearances, surrender as ordered for service of sentence, obey all conditions of bond, and obey any other ongoing court order in this matter.

- d) Not commit any crime (offenses which would be excluded for sentencing purposes under U.S.S.G. § 4A1.2(c) are not within the scope of this agreement).
- e) Be truthful at all times with the Department of Justice, Pretrial Services, the U.S. Probation Office, and the Court.
- f) Pay the applicable special assessment at or before the time of sentencing unless the defendant lacks the ability to pay.
- 17. The defendant further agrees to cooperate fully with the Department of Justice, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and, as directed by the Department of Justice, with any other federal, state, local, or foreign law enforcement agency. This cooperation requires the defendant to:
- a) Respond truthfully and completely to all questions that may be put to the defendant, whether in interviews, before a grand jury, or at any trial or other court proceeding.
- b) Attend all meetings, grand jury sessions, trials or other proceedings at which the defendant's presence is requested by the Department of Justice or compelled by subpoena or court order.
- c) Produce voluntarily all documents, records, or other tangible evidence relating to matters about which the Department of Justice, or its designee, inquires.
- d) Make a full, accurate, and complete disclosure to the Department of Justice and the Probation Office of the

circumstances surrounding the relevant offense and the defendant's present financial condition.

THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE'S OBLIGATIONS

- 18. If the defendant complies fully with all his obligations under this agreement, the Department of Justice agrees:
- a) To abide by all sentencing stipulations contained in this agreement.
- b) At the time of sentencing, provided that the defendant demonstrates an acceptance of responsibility for the offense up to and including at the time of sentencing, to recommend a two-level reduction in the applicable sentencing guideline offense level, pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1, and to recommend and, if necessary, move for an additional one-level reduction if available under that section.
- c) In connection with the defendant's sentencing, to bring to the Court's attention the nature and extent of the defendant's cooperation.
- d) If the Department of Justice determines, in its sole and exclusive judgment, that the defendant has provided substantial assistance to law enforcement in the prosecution or investigation of others ("substantial assistance"), to move the Court pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 5K1.1 or Rule 35 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure to impose a sentence below the sentencing range otherwise dictated by the sentencing guidelines, provided that the defendant complies with all his obligations

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under this agreement. The defendant acknowledges and agrees, however, that nothing in this agreement may be construed to require the Department of Justice to file such a motion and that the Department of Justice's assessment of the nature, value, truthfulness, completeness, and accuracy of the defendant's cooperation shall be binding on the defendant.

e) Except for criminal tax violations (including conspiracy to commit such violations chargeable under 18 U.S.C. § 371), not to further prosecute defendant for violations arising out of and relating to the defendant's conduct described in the stipulated statement of facts set forth in Exhibit A. defendant understands that the Department of Justice is free to prosecute the defendant, however, for any other unlawful past conduct, any unlawful conduct that occurs after the date of this agreement, or any unlawful conduct that arose during the period referenced in the stipulated statement of facts if such conduct was not disclosed by the defendant to the Department of Justice prior to the date of this agreement. The defendant agrees that at the time of sentencing the Court may consider the uncharged conduct in determining the applicable Sentencing Guidelines range, where the sentence should fall within that range, the propriety and extent of any departure from that range, and the sentence to be imposed after consideration of the Sentencing Guidelines and all other relevant factors.

THE DEFENDANT'S UNDERSTANDINGS REGARDING SUBSTANTIAL ASSISTANCE

19. The defendant understands the following:

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- a) Any knowingly false or misleading statement by the defendant will subject him to prosecution for false statement, obstruction of justice, and perjury and will constitute a breach by defendant of this agreement.
- b) Nothing in this agreement requires the Department of Justice or any other prosecuting or law enforcement agency to accept any cooperation or assistance that the defendant may offer, or to use it in any particular way.
- c) The defendant cannot withdraw his guilty plea if the Department of Justice does not make a motion pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 5K1.1 or Rule 35 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure for a reduced sentence or if the Department of Justice makes such a motion and the Court does not grant it.
- d) At this time, the Department of Justice makes no agreement or representation as to whether any cooperation that the defendant has provided or intends to provide constitutes substantial assistance. The decision whether the defendant has provided substantial assistance rests solely within the discretion of the Department of Justice.
- e) The Department of Justice's determination of whether the defendant has provided substantial assistance will not depend in any way on whether the government prevails at any trial or court hearing in which the defendant testifies.
- f) The Court is under no obligation to grant a motion by the Department of Justice pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 5K1.1 or Rule 35 should the Department of Justice exercise its discretion to

file such a motion.

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BREACH OF AGREEMENT

- 20. If the defendant, at any time between the execution of this agreement and the defendant's sentencing on a non-custodial sentence or surrender for service on a custodial sentence, knowingly violates or fails to perform any of his obligations under this agreement ("a breach"), the Department of Justice may declare this agreement breached. If the Department of Justice declares this agreement breached, the defendant will not be able to withdraw his guilty plea, and the Department of Justice will be relieved of all of its obligations under this agreement.
- 21. Following a breach of this agreement by the defendant, should the Department of Justice elect to pursue any charge that was either dismissed or not filed as a result of this agreement, then:
- a) The defendant agrees that any applicable statute of limitations is tolled between the date of the defendant's signing of this agreement and the commencement of any such prosecution or action.
- b) The defendant gives up all defenses based on the statute of limitations, any claim of preindictment delay, or any speedy trial claim with respect to any such prosecution, except to the extent that such defenses existed as of the date of the defendant's signing of this agreement.
- c) The defendant agrees that all prior statements made by the defendant, including but not limited to the stipulated

statement of facts attached to this agreement, and all evidence derived from these statements are admissible against the defendant in any future prosecution of the defendant, and the defendant shall assert no claim under the United States Constitution, any statute, Rule 410 of the Federal Rules of Evidence, Rule 11(f) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, or any other federal rule, that the statements or any evidence derived from any statements should be suppressed or are inadmissible.

LIMITED MUTUAL WAIVER OF APPEAL

- 22. The defendant gives up the right to appeal any sentence imposed by the Court, and the manner in which the sentence is determined, provided that the sentence is within the statutory maximum specified above and the Court imposes a sentence within or below the range corresponding to the agreed determined total offense level and criminal history category. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the defendant retains the ability to appeal the conditions of supervised release imposed by the court, with the exception of the following: standard conditions set forth in district court General Orders 318 and 01-05; the drug testing conditions mandated by 18 U.S.C. §§ 3563(a)(5) and 3583(d); and the alcohol and drug use conditions authorized by 18 U.S.C. §
- 23. The Department of Justice gives up its right to appeal the sentence, provided that the Court imposes a sentence within or above the range corresponding to the agreed determined total

offense level.

COURT NOT A PARTY

24. The Court is not a party to this agreement and need not accept any of the Department of Justice's sentencing recommendations or the parties' stipulations. Even if the Court ignores any sentencing recommendation, finds facts or reaches conclusions different from any stipulation, and/or imposes any sentence up to the maximum established by statute, the defendant cannot, for that reason, withdraw his guilty plea, and the defendant will remain bound to fulfill all the defendant's obligations under this agreement. No one — not the prosecutor, the defendant's attorney, or the Court — can make a binding prediction or promise regarding the sentence the defendant will receive, except that it will be within the statutory maximum.

NO ADDITIONAL AGREEMENTS

25. Except as set forth herein, there are no promises, understandings or agreements between the Department of Justice and the defendant or his counsel. Nor may any additional agreement, understanding or condition be entered into unless in a writing signed by all parties or on the record in court.

PLEA AGREEMENT PART OF THE GUILTY PLEA HEARING

26. The parties agree and stipulate that this Agreement will be considered part of the record of the defendant's guilty plea hearing as if the entire Agreement had been read into the record of the proceeding.

EFFECTIVE DATE 27. This Agreement is effective upon signature by the defendant, his attorney, an Assistant United States Attorney with the USAO, and a Trial Attorney with the Fraud Section. AGREED AND ACCEPTED UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA THOMAS P. O'BRIEN United States Attorney DOUGLAS F. McCORMICK Assistant United States Attorney FRAUD SECTION, CRIMINAL DIVISION U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE STEVEN A. TYRRELL Chief Assistant Chief ANDREW GENTIN Trial Attorney

I have read this agreement and carefully discussed every part of it with my attorney. I understand the terms of this agreement, and I voluntarily agree to those terms. My attorney has advised me of my rights, of possible defenses, of the Sentencing Guidelines' provisions, and of the consequences of entering into this agreement. No promises or inducements have been made to me other than those contained in this agreement. No one has threatened or forced me in any way to enter into this agreement. Finally, I am satisfied with the representation of my attorney in this matter.

MARIO COVINO Defendant 12/17/08 Date

I am Mario Covino's attorney. I have carefully discussed every part of this agreement with my client. Further, I have fully advised my client of his rights, of possible defenses, of the Sentencing Guidelines' provisions, and of the consequences of entering into this agreement. To my knowledge, my client's decision to enter into this agreement is an informed and voluntary one.

JANEZ LEVÍNE

JOHN S. CROUCHLEY

Counsel for Defendant MARIO COVINO

EXHIBIT A - STATEMENT OF FACTS

- 1. Defendant MARIO COVINO ("COVINO") served as Director of Worldwide Factory Sales for an unnamed co-conspirator company, hereinafter referred to as Company A, from in or around March 2003 through in or around 2007. In this capacity, he was responsible for overseeing Company A's new construction projects and the replacement of existing valves made by other companies and installed at Company A's customer's plants. Approximately ten Company A employees reported to defendant COVINO during this time. Defendant COVINO was a resident of the United States and thus was a "domestic concern" as that term is defined in the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act ("FCPA"), Title 15, United States Code, Section 78dd-2(h)(1)(A).
- 2. Company A was a Delaware corporation headquartered in Rancho Santa Margarita ("RSM"), California, that designed and manufactured service control valves for use in the nuclear, oil and gas, and power generation industries worldwide. Company A sold its products to both state-owned enterprises and private companies in approximately thirty countries around the world. Because Company A was organized under the laws of a State of the United States and had its principal place of business in the United States, it was a "domestic concern" as that term is defined in the FCPA, Title 15, United States Code, Section 78dd-2(h)(1)(B).
- 3. Company A's state-owned customers included, but were not limited to, Petrobras (Brazil), Dingzhou Power (China),

Datang Power (China), China Petroleum, China Resources Power,
China National Offshore Oil Company, PetroChina, Maharashtra
State Electricity Board (India), Korea Hydro and Nuclear Power
("KHNP") (Korea), Petronas (Malaysia), Dolphin Energy (United
Arab Emirates ("UAE")), and Abu Dhabi Company for Oil Operations
(UAE). Each of these state-owned entities was a department,
agency, and instrumentality of a foreign government, within the
meaning of the FCPA, Title 15, United States Code, Section 78dd2(h)(2)(A). The officers and employees of these entities,
including their Vice-Presidents, Engineering Managers, General
Managers, Procurement Managers, and Purchasing Officers, were
"foreign officials" within the meaning of the FCPA, Title 15,
United States Code, Section 78dd-2(h)(2)(A).

- 4. During his tenure as Director of Worldwide Factory Sales, defendant COVINO caused Company A employees and agents to make corrupt payments to foreign officials employed at state-owned enterprises through the payment of "commissions" to "friends-in-camp" ("FICs") who successfully assisted Company A in obtaining and retaining business. The majority of FICs were employees of Company A's state-owned customers and either had direct power to award contracts or had the power to influence the technical specifications of an order in a manner that would favor Company A.
- 5. From in or about March 2003 through in or about 2007, defendant COVINO caused Company A employees and agents to make corrupt payments totaling approximately \$1 million to foreign

officials employed at state-owned companies in order to assist in obtaining and retaining business for Company A, and Company A earned approximately \$5 million in profits from the contracts that it obtained as a result of these corrupt payments. The corrupt payments were made to foreign officials at state-owned entities including, but not limited to, Petrobras (Brazil), Dingzhou Power (China), Datang Power (China), China Petroleum, China Resources Power, China National Offshore Oil Company, PetroChina, Maharashtra State Electricity Board (India), KHNP (Korea), Petronas (Malaysia), Dolphin Energy (UAE), and Abu Dhabi Company for Oil Operations (UAE).

- 6. On or about March 24, 2004, defendant COVINO approved the payment of \$15,000 from Company A to an official of PetroChina, a Chinese state-owned oil and gas company, for the purpose of assisting in the obtaining of PetroChina's business.
- 7. On or about April 13, 2004, defendant COVINO caused Company A to wire a commission payment of \$15,000 from its bank account in California to an account at Bank of China for the purpose of making a corrupt payment to a PetroChina official.
- 8. In or about August 2004, during an internal audit of Company A's commission payments, defendant COVINO falsely denied knowing that improper payments had been made to officials of state-owned companies and provided false and misleading responses to the internal auditors.
- 9. In or about August 2004, defendant COVINO deleted e-mails and instructed others to delete e-mails that referred to

corrupt payments, for the purpose of obstructing the internal audit into Company A's commission payments.