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For Immediate Release:

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### **USS Withdraws From Auto Auction Business in Italy**

USS Co., Ltd. today announced its withdrawal from used vehicle auction management company Auto Exchange Italia S.p.A, established as a three-way joint venture with Mitsubishi Corporation (Head office: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo) and Car World Italia S.p.A (Head office: Milan, Italy; Car World Italia). Details are as follows.

#### **1. Reasons for Withdrawal**

Auto Exchange Italia has struggled to improve business performance since the start of used-car auctions in February 2002, enacting a series of measures aimed at raising the number of auctioned vehicles. The company has nevertheless found it difficult to establish an auction-based system for used vehicle trading in Italy, where the retail market for used vehicles is unprepared for such operations. USS and Mitsubishi Corporation have thus opted to withdraw from the operating company, transferring their combined 50% equity stake (25% each) in Auto Exchange Italia to Car World Italia.

Auto Exchange Italia plans to remain active in the auction business.

#### **2. Overview of Auto Exchange Italia**

(1) Company name: Auto Exchange Italia S.p.A

(2) Location: Outskirts of Milan, Italy

(3) Capital: 680,403 euro

Investment: USS (25%), Car World Italy (50%), Mitsubishi Corporation (25%)

(4) Business: Operation of used-car auction sites

(5) Established: February 6, 2002

### **3. Losses Accompanying the Withdrawal**

Impairment accounting has been applied to invested shares held by USS, with the loss for the current fiscal year estimated at around ¥25 million. Of this amount, approximately ¥20 million was settled during the interim period.