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For Immediate Release

Scale Auto Takes Over Tomy Aurora AFX Product Line in the United States

Brea, California, (March 13, 1998) - On a superstitious Friday the 13th, Scale Auto of Redmond, Washington became the exclusive importer for the complete Tomy Aurora AFX line of H.O. scale slot car products. Koji Otsuka, President of the Tomy Corporation, and Gary Beedle, owner of Scale Auto, met in Brea, California and put together a package whereby Scale Auto would obtain all of the remaining AFX inventory left in the United States. In addition, Gary Beedle and Jim Russell will form a new corporation that will then become the exclusive importer of the AFX line. Jim Russell will be heading up the National Sales force. Scale Auto will also be providing all of the aftermarket sales support for the Tomy AFX sets imported directly to large chains such as Toys-R-Us, Costco, Target, and Wal-Mart.

This is exciting news, especially for those involved in the Hobby Industry. For the first time in a very long time, hobby people will be in charge of the AFX name. This move should bring stability to this longtime successful product line. Gary Beedle and Jim Russell were picked by Tomy as being the best choice to take over the AFX distribution because of their vast knowledge of the product category. Gary Beedle brings with him an excellent 23-year track record in the H.O. slot car field. Through his efforts, Gary has brought a level of professionalism never seen before in the H.O. slot car industry. Jim Russell makes an outstanding choice to head up sales with over 35 years of slot car experience including sales positions at both Aurora and Tomy. Jim was also originator of the Russkit 1/24th and Rokar H.O. scale product lines.

Right: Koji Otsuka, President of the Tomy Corporation, and Gary Beedle, owner of Scale Auto, shake hands on their new agreement regarding distribution of the AFX line in the United States.

