

AOKI HD's Former Directors and Executive Officer Arrested on Suspicion of Bribery—No Immediate Impact on Rating; JCR Will Monitor the Future Developments

The following is Japan Credit Rating Agency, Ltd. (JCR)'s opinion on the arrest of former directors and an executive officer of AOKI Holdings Inc. (security code: 8214) on suspicion of bribery.

- (1) The former Chairman, former Vice Chairman and Senior Managing Executive Officer of AOKI Holdings Inc. (the "Company") were arrested on suspicion of providing funds to a former executive of the Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, of which the Company was a sponsor.
- (2) JCR recognizes the possibility that there may have been problems with the Company's compliance and governance systems, and believes that such systems need to be reviewed in the future as the facts become clearer. On the other hand, JCR does not believe that the Company's creditworthiness will be immediately affected by this scandal. However, there is a possibility that its business will be affected in the future in terms of sales, financing, and other areas. JCR will assess the consequences of the scandal and its impact on the medium- to long-term business foundation, and will reflect them in the rating if necessary.

Hiroyuki Chikusa, Mariko Miura

<Reference>

Issuer: AOKI Holdings Inc.

Long-term Issuer Rating: A- Outlook: Stable

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