

The Atlanta
Journal-Constitution

Electrolux Settles Trade Secrets Case

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP)—Electrolux AB, the world's biggest maker of household appliances, said Wednesday it would pay \$30 million to settle a lawsuit with a man who sued the company and claimed it pilfered his design for an upright, bagless vacuum cleaner.

The Stockholm-based manufacturer announced that it would make the payment to John North in exchange for his dropping the lawsuit which had been filed in 2002 in U.S. District Court in El Paso, Texas.

Electrolux said it decided to settle out of court because it "brought the matter to an end with a known outcome rather than the uncertainty of a jury decision."

Electrolux said it still believed that North's charges had no merit.

North had sought \$100 million, along with punitive damages, from Electrolux, based on its sales of 3 million units.

The company's brands include Frigidaire, Electrolux, Weed Eater and Eureka.

On the Net:

Electrolux AB: <http://www.electrolux.com>

AP-NY-05-19-04 1208EDT

Copyright 2004, The Associated Press. The information contained in the AP Online news report may not be published, broadcast or redistributed without the prior written authority of The Associated Press.