

## Press Release

# Restructuring of solar-tech startup Sono Motors has been got off the ground successfully

7 February 2024 · Munich

Solar-tech startup Sono Motors has reached further milestones in the process to restructure the company. Now that the application for insolvency has been withdrawn for Sono Group N.V. and the insolvency plan for Sono Motors GmbH has become final and absolute in law, the Munich-based company can continue to launch its Solar Bus Kit, a solar retrofit solution for diesel and electric buses that has been specifically developed by Sono Motors. This solution was made possible through close collaboration between renowned business law firms Dentons, PLUTA and SGP Schneider Geiwitz.

At the end of January 2024, holding company Sono Group N.V. withdrew the application for provisional debtor-in-possession proceedings it had filed with the Local Court of Munich. The application was withdrawn after the court had confirmed the insolvency plan for the group's subsidiary Sono Motors GmbH and arrangements for restructuring had been agreed with the Sono Group N.V. creditors. Both companies had filed for debtor-in-possession insolvency proceedings with the Local Court of Munich in May 2023. Mr Christian Plail and Mr Matthias Rämpke from SGP Schneider Geiwitz have supported the proceedings as general agents for Sono Group N.V.

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#### Marlene Scheinert

Rechtsanwältin

#### About PLUTA

PLUTA helps companies in legally and economically difficult situations. Since the company was founded in 1982, PLUTA has constantly grown. Today PLUTA has a staff of about 500 employees in Germany, Spain and Italy including more than 290 graduates in business economics and business management, attorneys, business lawyers, tax consultants, public auditors, certified accountants, economists, bankers, bookkeepers, engineers and insolvency administration specialists. Many of them own multiple qualifications what ensures practicable and economically sensible solutions. In particular, PLUTA provides support in restructuring companies affected by a crisis or insolvency and in continuing business operations, if necessary by involving restructuring experts in a responsible role. PLUTA is one of the top enterprises specialising in restructuring and turning around companies, as demonstrated by rankings and awards from INDat, JUVE, The Legal 500, Who's Who Legal, brandeins, and Focus. Further information at [www.pluta.net](http://www.pluta.net)

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A Dentons team headed by the two general agents, Dr Holger Ellers and Mr Dirk Schoene, as well as Dentons partner Dr Arne Friel oversaw the 'protective shield' proceedings for Sono Motors GmbH. Mr Ivo-Meinert Willrodt from PLUTA Rechtsanwalts GmbH acted as the insolvency monitor for Sono Motors GmbH, monitoring compliance with the requirements under insolvency law together with PLUTA attorney Mr Wolfgang Bernhardt. Ms Marlene Scheinert from PLUTA has acted in this role for Sono Group N.V.

A significant component in the restructuring process was separating the automotive division (Sion) from the solar integration technology business. This is a proprietary solar retrofit solution for diesel and electric buses for sustainable vehicle propulsion. The market launch of these Solar Bus Kits is now being expedited. In addition, further development of this technology is planned. This is made possible through the contracts for restructuring the group that have been entered into with the YA II PN, Ltd. fund managed by US investor Yorkville Advisors. The agreements with Yorkville formed the basis for financing the insolvency plan and terminating the provisional insolvency proceedings conducted for the holding company. 

The Sion programme that was provisionally stopped in February 2023 no longer forms part of Sono Motors GmbH's future business and remains up for sale. The assets belonging to the Sion programme will be transferred to a trustee, who will pursue the sale of this programme. A first payment under the final insolvency plan has already been made to Sono Motors GmbH. The preparations for



**Wolfgang Bernhardt**

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termination of the insolvency proceedings for Sono Motors GmbH have started; they are expected to be concluded by 1 March 2024.

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