

V. SONY DISCLOSED THE INVENTOR OF SONY HAD SENOSR

VI. CONCLUSION

Secret patent disputes and attacks by KODAK, NEC and Fairchild against Sony, on the issues of Hagiwara 1975 invention of Pinned Buried Photodiode with the VOD function capability, lasted for more than 20 years since 1990. But SONY successfully protected Hagiwara 1975 patents. The US supreme court made a final decision favoring Sony over Fairchild [19]. And on June 26, 2020, Sony proudly disclosed that Hagiwara is the true inventor of Pinned Buried Photodiode with the VOD function [15]. Sony and KODAK chose to enjoy a friendly technical collaboration while NEC stopped the imager business.