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**TO:** All OfficeMax Associates  
**FROM:** Ravi Saligram  
**SUBJECT:** Merger Update

Dear Team,

At our May 9<sup>th</sup> town hall meeting, we introduced the concept of the Integration Management Office (IMO) as the way in which OfficeMax and Office Depot would work together to accomplish the work required for integration planning. Since then, a small group of associates has been named to the IMO and begun that important work. Later in May, we jointly announced that OfficeMax and Office Depot have selected The Boston Consulting Group (BCG) to provide integration support for our pending merger. Integrating our two companies presents both an exciting and challenging opportunity for us. Simply put, BCG's role is to help ensure the timely and smooth integration of our two companies, to facilitate the detail and capture of the significant cost synergies identified, and to help build a unified and strong combined company.

Many of you may remember BCG as a partner to us in building our Road to Success strategic plan, introduced in November of 2011. We're delighted to have BCG on board, given their significant industry and merger expertise. Within the last five years alone, BCG has helped both global and multinational clients integrate hundreds of mergers and acquisitions.

Formation of the IMO is an important next step in our proposed merger with Office Depot. Please [click here](#) and take a moment to read a story now posted on the Integration Hub for more information about the integration process overall, as well as the team that is focused on driving this work forward.

I am also pleased to let you know that, overall, key steps specific to our proposed merger continue to progress well and according to plan. As a result of the registration statement on Form S-4 filed in April with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), we hope soon to be able to proceed with a special shareholders meeting to seek approval from our shareholders. We are now awaiting final SEC approval and when that is received, we will schedule a meeting date. Both OfficeMax and Office Depot will host their respective special shareholder meetings for the merger on the same day, likely during this summer. We also continue to work closely and cooperatively with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to gain their clearance of the proposed merger. Our expectation remains that the transaction will likely close prior to calendar year-end.

While our newly formed IMO team remains relatively small, this is also according to plan, so that we may keep as many associates as possible focused on the important job of running our independent companies.

I am excited to see momentum building specific to the proposed merger. Thanks for your continued support.



**NO OFFER OR SOLICITATION**

This communication is not intended to and does not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to subscribe for or buy or an invitation to purchase or subscribe for any securities or the solicitation of any vote or approval in any jurisdiction in connection with OfficeMax's proposed merger with Office Depot or otherwise, nor shall there be any sale, issuance or transfer of securities in any jurisdiction in contravention of applicable law. No offer of securities shall be made except by means of a prospectus meeting the requirements of Section 10 of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

**IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FILED WITH THE SEC**

Office Depot has filed with the SEC a registration statement on Form S-4 that includes a preliminary Joint Proxy Statement of OfficeMax and Office Depot that also constitutes a preliminary prospectus of Office Depot. The registration statement has not yet become effective. OfficeMax and Office Depot plan to mail the definitive Joint Proxy Statement/Prospectus to their respective shareholders in connection with the transaction. INVESTORS AND SHAREHOLDERS ARE URGED TO READ THE JOINT PROXY STATEMENT/PROSPECTUS AND OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTS FILED OR TO BE FILED WITH THE SEC CAREFULLY BECAUSE THEY CONTAIN OR WILL CONTAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT OFFICEMAX, OFFICE DEPOT, THE TRANSACTION AND RELATED MATTERS. Investors and shareholders will be able to obtain free copies of the definitive Joint Proxy Statement/Prospectus and other documents filed with the SEC by OfficeMax and Office Depot through the website maintained by the SEC at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). In addition, investors and shareholders will be able to obtain free copies of the definitive Joint Proxy Statement/Prospectus and other documents filed by OfficeMax with the SEC by contacting OfficeMax Investor Relations at 263 Shuman Blvd., Naperville, Illinois 60563 or by calling 630-864-6800, and will be able to obtain free copies of the definitive Joint Proxy Statement/Prospectus and other documents filed by Office Depot with the SEC by contacting Office Depot Investor Relations at 6600 North Military Trail, Boca Raton, Florida 33496 or by calling 561-438-7878.

**PARTICIPANTS IN THE SOLICITATION**

OfficeMax and Office Depot and their respective directors and executive officers may be deemed to be participants in the solicitation of proxies from the respective shareholders of OfficeMax and Office Depot in respect of the transaction described the Joint Proxy Statement/Prospectus. Information regarding the persons who may, under the rules of the SEC, be deemed participants in the solicitation of the respective shareholders of OfficeMax and Office Depot in connection with the proposed transaction, including a description of their direct or indirect interests, by security holdings or otherwise, is set forth in the Joint Proxy Statement/Prospectus. Information regarding OfficeMax's directors and executive officers is contained in OfficeMax's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 29, 2012 and its Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A, dated March 19, 2013, which are filed with the SEC. Information regarding Office Depot's directors and executive officers is contained in Office Depot's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 29, 2012 and Amendment No. 1 on Form 10-K/A, which are filed with the SEC.

## **FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

Certain statements made in this document and other written or oral statements made by or on behalf of OfficeMax and Office Depot constitute “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of the federal securities laws, including statements regarding both companies’ future performance, as well as management’s expectations, beliefs, intentions, plans, estimates or projections relating to the future. OfficeMax and Office Depot cannot guarantee that the macroeconomy will perform within the assumptions underlying their respective projected outlook; that their respective initiatives will be successfully executed and produce the results underlying their respective expectations, due to the uncertainties inherent in new initiatives, including customer acceptance, unexpected expenses or challenges, or slower-than-expected results from initiatives; or that their respective actual results will be consistent with the forward-looking statements and you should not place undue reliance on them. In addition, forward-looking statements could be affected by the following additional factors, among others, related to the business combination: the occurrence of any event, change or other circumstances that could give rise to the termination of the merger agreement or the failure to satisfy closing conditions; the ability to obtain regulatory approvals or third-party approvals for the transaction and the timing and conditions for such approvals; the ability to obtain approval of the merger by the stockholders of OfficeMax and Office Depot; the risk that the synergies from the transaction may not be realized, may take longer to realize than expected, or may cost more to achieve than expected; disruption from the transaction making it more difficult to maintain relationships with customers, employees or suppliers; the ability to successfully integrate the businesses; unexpected costs or unexpected liabilities that may arise from the transaction, whether or not consummated; the inability to retain key personnel; future regulatory or legislative actions that could adversely affect OfficeMax and Office Depot; and business plans of the customers and suppliers of OfficeMax and Office Depot. The forward-looking statements made herein are based on current expectations and speak only as of the date they are made. OfficeMax and Office Depot undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of future events, new information or otherwise. Important factors regarding OfficeMax and Office Depot that may cause results to differ from expectations are included in the companies’ respective Annual Reports on Form 10-K for the year ended December 29, 2012, under 1A “Risk Factors”, and in the companies’ other filings with the SEC.