



For Immediate Release:

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Kretek International, Inc. Announces Departure of Patrick Hurd, CSO

Moorpark, CA – April 30, 2021 - Kretek International, Inc., a leading American cigar and specialty tobacco manufacturer, importer, wholesaler and distributor announces the departure of long time Chief Sales Officer Patrick Hurd after two decades with the company. Hurd's exit from the company is expected as of May 31, 2021.

Patrick Hurd originally joined Kretek in November 2000, while launching its Canadian subsidiary, Kretek Canada. Under his leadership, as General Manager, Kretek Canada experienced extensive growth for eleven (11) years before he moved to the United States in June 2011 to launch Kretek International's Ventura Cigar Company as its General Manager. Hurd was promoted to Vice President Sales in 2013 and to Chief Sales Officer in 2017.



Hurd leaves the company for personal reasons, to rejoin his family who moved back to Toronto, Canada full time in 2019. The current Covid-19 crisis made commuting infeasible, which prompted Hurd's decision to move back to Canada full-time.

Kretek International's President, Sean Cassar commented, "Patrick has been a vital member of our executive team and a significant contributor to the growth of our proprietary brands. He will be missed,

but as a family business we appreciate the decision he's made to focus on his family during these unprecedented times."

Hurd remarked, "Leaving a family business as strong and tightly knit as Kretek is never an easy decision, but my own family is obviously my priority, and that means I need to be back home with them in Canada. I also look forward to seeing my industry peers and customers at TPE 21 in Las Vegas, May 12-14, 2021 at the Las Vegas Convention Center."

Kretek currently intends to enter into a consulting agreement with Hurd that will become effective upon his departure and has not announced a successor at this time.

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About Kretek International, Inc.

Kretek International, Inc., parent company to DRYFT Sciences, LLC, Phillips & King, Ventura Cigar Company, and Tobacco Media Group (TMG) is a leading American importer, marketer, and distributor of cigars and specialty tobacco products sold by convenience, mass, and national retailers. For over 30 years, Kretek has enjoyed a strong reputation for providing exceptional customer relationships and top-quality goods. The company continues to offer standout brands like Djarum, Cuban Rounds, and Djeep Lighters to distribution channels across the United States and Canada, bringing value, high margins, and growth to retailers and distributors.