



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**MANAGER OF \$6.5 MILLION FOREIGN EXCHANGE "BOILER ROOM" FRAUD
SENTENCED TO MORE THAN SEVEN YEARS IN PRISON**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced today that VICTOR ALTMAN was sentenced to 88 months in prison for managing and participating in a fraudulent foreign currency exchange scheme which resulted in losses of approximately \$6.5 million to more than 200 investors. The sentence was imposed by United States District Judge VICTOR MARRERO in Manhattan federal court. According to the Indictment and other documents filed in this case:

ALTMAN and ten co-conspirators were employed at a fraudulent foreign currency exchange ("forex") firm called Holston, Young, Parker & Associates ("Holston"), which operated in 2002 and 2003 from an office on William Street in Manhattan. BORIS SHUSTER, a/k/a "Robert Shuster," ALEXANDER DZEDETS, a/k/a "Sasha Dzedets," and ALTMAN operated and managed Holston as a "boiler room," where the employees made false statements and used high-pressure sales techniques to solicit investments in Holston's purported forex trading program. The defendants lied about the use of invested funds; used false names and titles when they telephoned potential investors throughout the United States; and misrepresented their experience in the industry, the company's history and success generating profits for clients, and their own client-base. For example, one Holston employee falsely claimed to have celebrities and CEOs of Fortune 500 companies as his clients when, in fact, there were no such clients. Almost all of the employees at Holston were given and used the title "Senior Vice-President," regardless of actual training or experience, to create the false impression that the investors were speaking with high-level, experienced professionals. Prospective investors who exhibited interest in the cold calls would receive misleading Holston promotional materials. Funds raised from the investors through use of the false and misleading sales pitches and materials were not used to make investments in the forex market, but were instead diverted to bank accounts in

Cyprus and Russia.

SHUSTER was sentenced in February to 150 months in prison after pleading guilty in June 2007 to one count of conspiracy to commit wire and mail fraud, 14 counts of wire fraud, and 13 counts of mail fraud. DZEDETS pleaded guilty in December 2007 to one count of conspiracy to commit wire and mail fraud, and one count of wire fraud. He is currently awaiting sentencing.

On December 10, 2007, ALTMAN pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit wire and mail fraud, and one count of wire fraud. In addition to the term of imprisonment, Judge MARRERO ordered ALTMAN to pay restitution in the amount of \$1,226,194.52, and forfeit to the government \$1,226,194.52.

In imposing the sentence, Judge MARRERO stated that ALTMAN had participated in a "significant and serious fraud" that affected numerous investors, and "undermined trust that individuals have in the financial services industry."

ALTMAN, 39, lives in Brooklyn, New York.

Mr. GARCIA praised the work of the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Assistant United States Attorneys STEVEN D. FELDMAN and MARC O. LITT are in charge of the prosecution.

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