

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

PORSCHE CARS NORTH AMERICA, INC.

Petitioner

v.

VEHICLE INTERFACE TECHNOLOGIES, LLC

Patent Owner

Case IPR2014-00014

Patent 6,842,677 B2

Before FRANCISCO C. PRATS, JOSIAH C. COCKS, and
CARL M. DEFRANCO, *Administrative Patent Judges*.

COCKS, *Administrative Patent Judge*.

JUDGMENT

Termination of the Proceeding

37 C.F.R. § 42.73

On April 9, 2014, the parties filed a joint motion to terminate this proceeding. Paper 11 (“Joint Motion to Terminate”); *see* 35 U.S.C. § 317(a); 37 C.F.R. § 42.72. The parties filed a copy of their written settlement agreement (Exhibit 2003), dated April 9, 2014, as well as a request (Paper 12) to treat the settlement agreement as business confidential information under 35 U.S.C. § 317(b) and 37 C.F.R. § 42.74(c). The parties stated in their motion that they “have settled their dispute, and have reached agreement to terminate this *inter partes* review.” Paper 11, 1.

The parties are reminded that the Board is not a party to the settlement, and may identify independently any question of patentability. 37 C.F.R. § 42.74(a). Generally, however, the Board expects that a proceeding will terminate after the filing of a settlement agreement. *See, e.g., Office Patent Trial Practice Guide*, 77 Fed. Reg. 48756, 48768 (Aug. 14, 2012). This proceeding is still in the preliminary stages. The Board has not instituted a trial. Petitioner indicates that it will no longer participate in this *inter partes* review proceeding even if the Board does not terminate the proceeding. Paper 11, 4. Under the circumstances, the Board determines that it is appropriate to terminate this proceeding without rendering either a decision to institute or a final written decision. *See* 37 C.F.R. § 42.72.

ORDER

In consideration of the foregoing, it is hereby:

ORDERED that the parties’ joint request that the settlement agreement (Exhibit 2003) be treated as business confidential information under 35 U.S.C. § 317(b) and 37 C.F.R. § 42.74(c) is GRANTED; and

FURTHER ORDERED that the joint motion to terminate the proceeding is GRANTED and this proceeding is terminated.

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