UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
ORLANDO DIVISION

OMEGA PATENTS, LLC,
a Georgia limited liability company,

Plaintiff,

v. Case No: 6:13-cv-1950-Orl-40DAB

CALAMP CORP.,
a Delaware corporation,

Defendant.

ORDER

This cause comes before the Court on the following:

1. Plaintiff's Motion for Claim Construction (Doc. 38), filed September 5, 2014;
2. Defendant Calamp Corp.'s Opening Claim Construction Brief (Doc. 39), filed September 5, 2014;
3. Plaintiff's Opposition to Calamp's Motion for Claim Construction (Doc. 40), filed October 3, 2014; and
4. Calamp Corp.'s Responsive Claim Construction Brief (Doc. 41), filed October 3, 2014.

The Court heard oral argument from the parties on November 24, 2014 (Doc. 46). At the conclusion of the hearing, the Court requested the parties to submit briefs addressing the issue of when and under what circumstances a claim should be construed by the Court. The parties filed briefs on this issue on December 12, 2014. (Docs. 48, 49). In total, the parties request the Court to construe eleven terms across five patents.[1]

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[1] The patents-in-suit include U.S. Patent Nos. 6,346,876 (the "'876 Patent"); 6,737,989

I. BACKGROUND

Plaintiff, Omega Patents, LLC ("Omega"), initiated this patent infringement lawsuit on December 20, 2013 (Doc. 1). Omega then filed a Motion for Claim Construction requesting the Court to construe two claims. (Doc. 38). Defendant Calamp Corp. ("Calamp") filed a claim construction brief requesting the Court to construe nine claims. (Doc. 39). The parties have reached agreement on the construction of the following claim terms: "Controller" and "Multi-vehicle compatible controller." (Doc. 38, p. 1). All of the patents-in-suit were invented by Mr. Kenneth E. Flick, and the technologies at issue involve control systems for vehicles with a data communications bus, which is a computer network within a vehicle, and various codes, signals, and data which monitor particular vehicle characteristics and conditions and which perform or command certain functions, including the operation of certain vehicle devices.

II. LEGAL STANDARDS FOR CLAIM CONSTRUCTION

The Court construes a patent claim as a matter of law. *Markman v. Westview Instruments, Inc.*, 517 U.S. 370, 372 (1996). To construe a claim, the Court begins with the words of the claim itself. *Vitronics Corp. v. Conceptronic, Inc.*, 90 F.3d 1576, 1582 (Fed. Cir. 1996). Generally, the Court accords the words of a claim "their ordinary and customary meaning," which is "the meaning that the term would have to a person of ordinary skill in the art in question at the time of the invention." *Phillips v. AWH Corp.*, 415 F.3d 1303, 1312–13 (Fed. Cir. 2005) (internal quotation marks omitted). Persons of ordinary skill in the art do not read the claim term in isolation, but in the context of the

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(the "'989 Patent"); 6,756,885 (the "'885 Patent"); 7,671,727 (the "'727 Patent"); and 8,032,278 (the "'278 Patent"). (Doc. 38, p. 2).

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entire patent. *Id.* at 1313. If the ordinary meaning of claim language is "readily apparent even to lay judges," then claim construction requires "little more than the application of the widely accepted meaning of commonly understood words." *Id*. at 1314. But because the meaning of a claim term as understood by a person skilled in the art is often not immediately apparent, the Court looks to both intrinsic evidence (the words of the claims themselves, the specification, and the prosecution history) and extrinsic evidence (sources such as dictionaries and expert testimony). *Id.*; *Finisar Corp. v. DirecTV Grp., Inc*., 523 F.3d 1323, 1328 (Fed. Cir. 2008).

The patent's specification is "the single best guide to the meaning of a disputed term," as it may reveal that the patentee intended a special definition to apply to a claim term that differs from its ordinary meaning or that the patentee intentionally disclaimed or disavowed the claim's scope. *Phillips*, 415 F.3d at 1315–16 (internal quotation marks omitted). The Court also considers the prosecution history, which is created by the patentee in an attempt to explain and obtain the patent. *Id*. at 1317. The prosecution history consists of the complete record of proceedings before the Patent and Trademark Office ("PTO") and the prior art cited during the examination of the patent. *Id*. Unlike the specification, which is a final product, the prosecution history is less useful in claim construction because it represents the ongoing negotiations between the PTO and applicant. *Id*.

The Court also looks at the prosecution history "to determine whether the applicant clearly and unambiguously 'disclaimed or disavowed'" an interpretation of claim scope in order to obtain the patent grant. *Middleton, Inc. v. Minn. Mining and Mfg. Co*., 311 F.3d 1384, 1388 (Fed. Cir. 2002) (quoting *Standard Oil Co. v. Am. Cyanamid Co.*, 774 F.2d

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448, 452 (Fed. Cir. 1985)). A patentee disclaims an interpretation by "clearly characterizing the invention in a way to try to overcome rejections based on prior art," as opposed to simply describing features of the prior art without distinguishing the claimed invention based on those features. *Computer Docking Station Corp. v. Dell, Inc*., 519 F.3d 1366, 1374–75 (Fed. Cir. 2008). Thus, the Court protects the public's reliance on the definitive statements made during the prosecution by precluding the patentee from "recapturing" through claim construction an interpretation disclaimed during prosecution. *Id.* at 1374 (quoting *Omega Eng'g, Inc. v. Raytek Corp*., 334 F.3d 1314, 1323 (Fed. Cir. 2003)). However,

> [I]f the specification expressly defines a claim term and remarks made to distinguish claims from the prior art are broader than necessary to distinguish the prior art, the full breadth of the remark is not a clear and unambiguous disavowal of claim scope as required to depart from the meaning of the term provided in the written description.

Id. at 1375 (internal quotation marks omitted) (quoting *3M Innovative Props. Co. v. Avery Dennison Corp.*, 350 F.3d 1365, 1373 (Fed. Cir. 2003)).

Extrinsic evidence, such as expert testimony and dictionary definitions, is helpful but "less significant than the intrinsic record." *Phillips*, 415 F.3d at 1317 (internal quotation marks omitted). However, expert testimony about claim terms that is conclusory, unsupported or "clearly at odds" with the intrinsic evidence is not useful. *Id*. at 1318 (internal quotation marks omitted). Moreover, while dictionaries and treatises are relevant, the Court must ensure that the dictionary definition does not contradict a definition "found in or ascertained by a reading of the patent documents." *Id*. at 1322–23 (quoting *Vitronics*, 90 F.3d at 1584 n.6). "In sum, extrinsic evidence may be useful to the court, but it is unlikely to result in a reliable interpretation of patent claim scope unless considered in the

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context of the intrinsic evidence." *Phillips*, 415 F.3d at 1319. In the instant case, the parties agree that the Court need not consider extrinsic evidence to construe the claim terms in dispute, and neither party has presented extrinsic for the Court's consideration.

Several other principles guide the Court's construction of claim terms. First, the Court presumes that the same terms appearing in different portions of the claims have the same meaning, unless the specification and prosecution history clearly demonstrate otherwise. *Fin Control Sys. Pty, Ltd. v. OAM, Inc*., 265 F.3d 1311, 1318 (Fed. Cir. 2001). While the "[i]nterpretation of a disputed claim term requires reference to the other claims," *Georgia-Pacific Corp. v. U.S. Gypsum Co*., 195 F.3d 1322, 1331 (Fed. Cir. 1999), "the presence of a dependent claim that adds a particular limitation raises a presumption that the limitation in question is not found in the independent claim." *Liebel-Flarsheim Co. v. Medrad, Inc*., 358 F.3d 898, 910 (Fed. Cir. 2004). Courts are further cautioned that "a construction that renders the claimed invention inoperable should be viewed with extreme skepticism." *Talbert Fuel Sys. Patents Co. v. Unocal Corp*., 275 F.3d 1371, 1376 (Fed. Cir. 2002) (citation omitted), *vacated and remanded on other grounds*, 537 U.S. 802 (2002).

Finally, district courts have an obligation to construe terms when it is necessary to resolve a genuine and material legal dispute between the parties. *See O2 Micro Int'l Ltd. v. Beyond Innovation Tech. Co., Ltd.*, 521 F.3d 1351, 1361–62 (Fed. Cir. 2008); *E-Pass Techs., Inc. v. 3Com Corp.*, 473 F.3d 1213, 1219 (Fed. Cir. 2007) ("[A]ny articulated definition of a claim term ultimately must relate to the infringement questions that it is intended to answer."). The party requesting the Court to construe a claim term must demonstrate that the construction is both necessary and correct; that is, construction of

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the claim term must be fundamental to issues of infringement or invalidity, and the Court may not issue an advisory opinion. *IP Cleaning S.p.A. v. Annovi Reverberi S.p.A.*, No. 08-cv-147-bbc, 2008 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 102312, at *3 (W.D. Wisc. Dec. 17, 2008).

III. AGREED TERMS

As previously noted, the parties have reached an agreement as to the proper construction of the following two terms:

Claim Term	Agreed Construction
Controller	Electronic circuitry that performs one or more control functions.
Multi-vehicle compatible controller	Electronic circuitry that performs one or more control functions, and can operate with more than one vehicle.

IV. DISPUTED TERMS

Omega filed the initial Motion for Claim Construction, requesting the Court to construe two terms: "transmitter" and "receiver." (Doc. 38). Accordingly, the Court will construe these two claims prior to addressing Calamp's request for construction of nine additional terms.

A. The '876 and '885 Patent Terms: "Transmitter" and "Receiver"

Claim Term	Omega's Construction	Calamp's Construction
Transmitter	Radio frequency transmitter.	Device that sends signals.
Receiver	Radio frequency receiver.	Device that receives signals.

The terms "transmitter" and "receiver" are used in asserted claims of the '876 Patent (Doc. 39-1) and the '885 Patent (Doc. 39-2). Turning first to the construction of "transmitter," Calamp contends that the patents describe the transmitter as sending

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signals without restricting the specific type of signals being sent—that is, without limiting the construction to require "radio frequency." (Doc. 39, p. 21). Calamp submits that the '876 and '885 Patents do not specifically define transmitter to limit the meaning of that term as commonly understood by individuals skilled in the art.[2] (*Id.* at p. 22). Similarly, Calamp contends that "receiver" is described in the patents as receiving signals and is not restricted to radio frequency signals. (*Id.* at p. 23).[3]

Omega submits that Calamp's construction and citation to the specifications of the '876 and '885 patents fail to place the terms "transmitter" and "receiver" into the context of the invention which Omega argues envisions remote control systems for a vehicle. (Doc. 38, p. 6). Omega proposes that the Court need only consider the claims, read in light of the specification, to comprehend that the invention focuses upon a remote control system for cars. (*Id.*). Omega directs the Court to the '551 Patent, noting that both the '876 and '885 Patents claim priority back to the '551 Patent. The Court agrees with Omega that both the '876 and '885 Patents are continuations-in-part and claim priority back to the '551 Patent. (*Id.* at p. 7). The background to the '551 Patent provides:

> The concepts and features of the invention may also be desirably incorporated in a remote control system for a vehicle, such as a vehicle security system, a remote engine starter system, or a remote keyless entry system, for example. The remote control system preferably comprises a remote transmitter and a receiver within the vehicle for receiving a signal from the remote transmitter.[4]

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[2] Calamp directs the Court to the '876 Patent at 3:5–12; 3:63–4:9; 4:14–28; 4:33–36; 5:35–54; 5:55–6:2; 6:3–16; 6:17–27, and cites the '885 Patent at 3:5–12; 3:49–62; 4:5–8 4:9–24; 5:16–24; 5:35–62; 5:64–6:8. (Doc. 39, p. 22).

[3] Calamp cites the same specification language as was relied upon for its proposed construction of "transmitter."

[4] References to the column and lines within a given specification shall be denoted by the column number and line numbers. For example, column 1, lines 2–10 are denoted as 1:2–10.

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(Doc. 38-3, 4:12–18).

As noted by counsel for Omega at the *Markman* hearing, Figure 1 of the '551 Patent depicts a remote transmitter/receiver, denoted as TX/RX (13), with an antenna (13a). (*Id.* at Fig. 1; 5:12–15). Similarly, Figure 2 of the '551 Patent also depicts a remote transmitter (57, 57a). (*Id.*, Fig. 2; 5:51–6:21). Figures 7, 8, and 9 of the '551 Patent also illustrate a radio frequency ("RF") transmitter and receiver and an antenna for communicating with various devices. [5] (*Id.*, Figs. 7–9, 8:1–35).

Omega next directs the Court to the abstract of the '876 Patent which describes "[a] control system [that] includes a transmitter and a receiver for receiving signals from the remote transmitter, and a multivehicle compatible controller cooperating with the transmitter and receiver." (Doc. 39-1). Similarly, the abstract of the '885 Patent describes the invention and states "[t]he approach is useful for a number of vehicle remote control functions including vehicle security, remote keyless entry and remote starting." (Doc. 39-2). While claim 1 of the '876 and '885 Patents do not describe the transmitter or receiver as remote, wireless, or receiving a RF signal, Omega correctly notes that no dependent claim in either patent limits the transmitter or receiver to a hardwired device. To the contrary, several dependent claims in the '876 and '885 Patents describe and discuss remote transmitters and receivers, including dependent claims 13–18 and 30–32 of the '876 Patent (Doc. 39-1) and claims 8, 12–15, 22–23, and 26–31 of the '885 Patent. (Doc. 39-2).

Based on the foregoing, the Court concludes that the dependent claims in the '876 and '885 Patents do not contain limitations or language requiring the Court to limit the

[5] Figures 1, 2, 7, 8, and 9 of the '551 Patent appear in Appendix A to this Order.

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scope of the independent claims. Accordingly, the independent claims may properly be construed in the context of the patent specifications and in view of the '551 Patent to provide for remote control functions. Therefore, the Court construes the terms "transmitter" as **radio frequency transmitter** and the term "receiver" as **radio frequency receiver**, adopting the construction proposed by Omega.

B. The '876, '885, '727, and '278 Patent Terms: "Data Communication Bus/ Vehicle Data Communications Bus/ Vehicle Data Bus"

Claim Term	OMEGA's Construction	CALAMP's Construction
Data communication bus	*No construction needed; alternatively, it should be defined as follows:* Wired connection for communication of digital messages among vehicle devices, with each message including one or more device addresses	Wired connection for transferring data to and from vehicle devices

The term "data communication bus" is used in the '876 (Doc. 39-1) and '885 Patents (Doc. 39-2). The term "vehicle data communications bus" is used in the '727 Patent. (Doc. 39-3). The term "vehicle data bus" is found in the '278 Patent. (Doc. 39-4). Calamp asks the Court to construe these three sets of terms appearing in patents '876, '885, '727, and '278, arguing that construction is necessary to assist the jury.

Calamp contends that in all of the patents-in-suit, the data communication bus is described as a wired connection for transferring data to and from vehicle devices. (Doc. 39, p. 11). Calamp cites the '876 Patent specification which states, "Digital messages

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are communicated to all modules over the data communications bus." (Doc. 39-1, 2:18–19). Calamp further refers the Court to the '885 Patent specification language which is identical to the '876 language. (Doc. 39-2, 2:18–19). Calamp also quotes the '278 Patent, which provides, "This and other objects, features, and advantages in accordance with the present invention are provided by a multi-vehicle compatible tracking unit for a vehicle comprising a *vehicle data bus extending throughout the vehicle.*" (Doc. 39-4, 2:50–53) (emphasis added). Finally, Calamp cites to the '727 Patent which similarly provides for a "vehicle data bus extending throughout the vehicle."[6] (Doc. 39-3, 2:44–45).

Omega submits that Calamp incorrectly seeks a construction which requires data transfer both to and from vehicle devices, whereas the patents-in-suit do not require two-way commands transferred on the bus. (Doc. 40, p. 4). Omega directs the Court to the plain language of claim 1 of the '876 Patent which provides, in pertinent part:

> 1. A control system for a vehicle comprising a data communications bus and at least one vehicle device connected to the data communications bus, the control system comprising:
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> . . . .
>
> a multi-vehicle compatible controller at the vehicle and cooperating with said transmitter and receiver, said multi-vehicle compatible controller *generating at least one set of command signals on the data communications bus* for at least one vehicle device . . . .

(Doc. 39-1, 11:30–42) (emphasis added). Omega reasons that the plain language of claim 1 of the '876 Patent instructs the reader that at least one signal is generated, or sent, to at least one vehicle device. (Doc. 40, p. 5). The use of the term "generating" indicates

[6] The Court notes that none of the language cited by Calamp contained within the various patents-in-suit requires two-way communication of messages along the bus.

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sending a signal and does not require a signal to be both sent to a device and received from a device.

When one considers the background to the invention, as stated in the '876 Patent, it is clear that a signal may be generated or sent along the bus to a vehicle device without a return signal being sent from the device to the bus. For example, the background to the '876 Patent states that an "alarm indication may typically be a flashing of the lights and/or the sounding of the vehicle horn or a siren." (Doc. 39-1, 1:35–37). Such an alarm may consist of a signal being generated and sent to the device without the device sending a return signal along the bus. One skilled in the art need only read the description of preferred embodiments for the '885 Patent to understand that the data communications bus controls complex and simple functions within the vehicle. "In other words, the vehicle devices connected to the data bus may be considered to be relatively simple devices, such as sensors, or more complicated devices with some internal processing, such as may generally be considered as controllers." (Doc. 39-2, 6:48–52). The simple devices, such as sensors, receive a signal generated and sent to the device without sending a reply to the controller. Accordingly, giving the words of the claim(s) their ordinary and customary meaning that the term would have to those skilled in the art, and taking the term within the context of the entire patent, the terms "data communications bus," "vehicle data communications bus," and "vehicle data bus" do not envision or require the transference of data "to and from" vehicle devices.

Calamp next proposes that Omega's insertion of device "addresses" in their proposed definition of the above terms is not supported by the patents-in-suit. (Doc. 39, p. 12). Calamp argues that the term "address" is an optional feature in the systems

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described in the '876 and '885 Patents. (*Id.*). Calamp cites the '885 Patent specification to support this interpretation, which reads, "Each message *may* have one or more addresses associated with it so that the devices can recognize which messages to ignore and which messages to respond to or read." (Doc. 39-2, 2:20–22) (emphasis added). However, the Court finds that this quote is taken out of context. The context is found in the following excerpt:

> With multiplexing technology, the various electronic modules or devices may be linked by a single signal wire in a bus also containing a power wire, and one or more ground wires. Digital messages are communicated to all modules over the data communications bus. Each message may have one or more addresses associated with it so that the devices can recognize which message to ignore and which message to respond to or read.

(*Id.* at 2:16–22). Therefore, the word "may" cannot reasonably be interpreted to suggest that associating an address with a message is optional. Rather, each message will have at least one and perhaps multiple addresses associated with it, depending on the number of electronic modules or devices linked by the command bus. The Court finds that the presence of at least one address is fundamental to the functioning of the invention.[7]

Based on the foregoing, the Court construes the term "data communications bus" as used in the '876 (Doc. 39-1) and '885 Patents (Doc. 39-2), "vehicle data communications bus" as used in the '727 Patent (Doc. 39-3), and "vehicle data bus" as found in the '278 Patent, collectively "data communication bus" as follows: **"wired connection for communication of digital messages among vehicle devices, with each message including one or more device addresses."**

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[7] While the '727 and '278 Patents do not specifically reference an address, one skilled in the art at the time of the invention would understand a vehicle data communications bus to require one or more addresses in order to control or read a device.

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C. The '876, '885, '727, '278 Patent Term: "Vehicle Device"

Claim Term	OMEGA's Construction	CALAMP's Construction
Vehicle device	No construction needed	Electrical or electronic component in a vehicle that can be controlled and/or the status thereof read

Calamp contends the term "vehicle device" should be construed by the Court because the term is broad and susceptible to many meanings. (Doc. 39, p. 13). The parties agree that claim terms should be construed by the Court when it is necessary to resolve a genuine and material legal dispute between the parties or when necessary to aid the jury in understanding claim terms. Calamp's proposed construction of the term "vehicle device" is taken verbatim from the '876 and '885 Patents, with closely analogous language found in the '727 and '278 Patents. (*Id.*). Since Calamp's proposed construction of "vehicle device" is taken from the patents-in-suit, the Court need not construe the claim term. The definition is not in dispute, nor is additional construction necessary to aid the jury in understanding the claim term. Calamp's request to construe the term "vehicle device" is denied.

D. The '876 Patent Term: "Command Signal"

Claim Term	OMEGA's Construction	CALAMP's Construction
Command signal	*No construction needed; alternatively, it should be defined as follows:* Signal generated on the data communications	Signal generated on the data communications bus for operating a vehicle device to cause a desired function to be performed at the vehicle

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	bus for operating a vehicle device	

The term "command signal" appears in claims of the '876 Patent. Calamp contends the '876 Patent, when read in its entirety, supports construction of the term "command signal" as requiring that the signal causes a desired function to be performed. (Doc. 39, p. 14). Calamp notes that the specifications include the following language: "will cause an operation or response from the vehicle device." (Doc. 39-1, 3:16–20). Defendant quotes portions of the specifications which state command signals may be "for operating" a specific vehicle device. (*Id.* at 3:39, 41–45; 5:45–49).

Omega submits that claim 1 of the '876 Patent clearly states that not every command signal will cause an operation or response from a vehicle device:

> 1. A control system for a vehicle comprising a data communications bus and at least one vehicle device connected to the data communications bus, the control system comprising:
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> . . . .
>
> a multi-vehicle compatible controller at the vehicle and cooperating with said transmitter and receiver, said multi-vehicle compatible controller generating at least one set of command signals on the data communications bus for at least one vehicle device, the at least one set of command signals comprising at least *one working and at least one non-working command signal* for a given vehicle to thereby provide command compatibility with a plurality of different vehicles.

(*Id.* at 11:30–48) (emphasis added).

The claim makes it clear that the control system uses a working and non-working command signal because "multiple signals or codes can be generated on the data communications bus, and only that code for the *given vehicle and device* will cause an operation or response from the vehicle device." (*Id.* at 3:17–20) (emphasis added). Further, "an object of the invention [is] to provide a control system and related method for

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a vehicle comprising a data communications bus and at least one vehicle device connected to the data communications bus, and wherein the system is *adapted to operate with different vehicles.*" (*Id.* at 2:66–3:4) (emphasis added). Since the system is designed to operate with a variety of vehicle platforms, not every signal generated on the data communications bus will cause a function to be performed. In order for a signal to cause a function to be performed, the signal must be received by a device contained within a compatible vehicle platform.[8] Accordingly, Calamp's proposed construction incorrectly includes within the definition of the "command signal" the requirement that a signal generated on the data communication bus must always cause a desired function to be performed.

Based on the foregoing, the Court construes "command signal" as follows: **"signal generated on the data communications bus for operating a vehicle device."**

E. The '876 and '885 Patent Term: "Device Code"

Claim Term	OMEGA's Construction	CALAMP's Construction
Device codes	*No construction needed; alternatively, it should be defined as follows:* Signal to or from a vehicle device	Signal from a vehicle device read on the vehicle bus. *Amended at the Markman hearing as follows:* Signal from a vehicle device read on the vehicle bus and/or stored in the controller

Calamp asserts that the '876 and '885 Patents describe "device code" as a signal from a vehicle device that is read on the vehicle bus. (Doc. 39, p. 15). Calamp's

[8] "In other words, multiple signals or codes can be generated on the data communications bus, and only that code for the given vehicle will cause an operation or response from the vehicle device." (Doc. 39-2, 7:31–34).

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proposed construction is based on select language from the '876 and '885 Patents. For example, both the '876 and '885 Patents discuss "reading a device code *from* the data communications bus." (Doc. 39-1, 9:22–23; Doc. 39-2, 3:12-13) (emphasis added). The complete text of the specification is, as always, helpful in construing the claim terms:

> More particularly, the multi-vehicle compatible controller is for storing a set of device codes for a given vehicle device for a plurality of different vehicles, for reading a device code from the data communications bus, and for determining a match between a read device code and the stored device codes to thereby provide compatibility with a plurality of different vehicles.

(Doc. 39-1, 9:19–25).

The '885 Patent further elaborates upon the manner in which the multi-vehicle compatible controller functions:

> Moreover, the multi-vehicle compatible controller is also for storing a set of device codes for a given vehicle device for a plurality of different vehicles, for reading a device code from the data communications bus, and for determining a match between a read device code and the stored device codes to thereby provide compatibility with a plurality of different vehicles.

(Doc. 39-2, 3:10–16). Both of these patents clearly state that when a device code is read, it is read "from" the data communications bus and not "on" the vehicle bus. To the extent Calamp's proposed construction describes the signal from the vehicle device as being read "on" the vehicle bus, the claims and specifications of the pertinent patents contradict this interpretation.

The next issue is whether the device codes travel "from" a vehicle device, as Calamp contends, or travels "to and from" a vehicle device, as Omega suggests. As previously discussed, the relevant specifications state: "[T]he multi-vehicle compatible controller is also for storing a set of device codes for a given vehicle device for a plurality

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of different vehicles, for reading a device code from the data communications bus [and determining whether a match exists] . . . ." (*Id.*). The specifications, therefore, certainly state that device codes, or signals, are stored on the multi-vehicle compatible controller, and codes received from the data communications bus can be read to determine if the stored code matches the code received from the data communications bus. The claims and specifications do not describe any scenario wherein the device code is a signal sent "to" a vehicle device, which appears to be accomplished by command signals. Omega does not direct the Court to any intrinsic evidence to support its contention that a device code, or signal, travels both to and from a vehicle device.

Based on the foregoing, the Court agrees with Calamp that the claims and specifications of the pertinent patents-in-suit describe "device codes" as **signal from a vehicle device.** The Court, however, declines to adopt Calamp's construction to the extent it describes device codes as being "read on the vehicle bus." The description proffered by Calamp is contradicted by the clear wording of the claims and specifications, which state the signal or code is read "from" the bus and not "on" the bus. Additionally, Calamps's construction focuses on the signal being "read" and fails to address the storage of device codes and the comparison of stored codes to codes received from the communications bus. The Court finds it is not necessary to include a partial description of how device codes are utilized by the multi-vehicle compatible controller, because the ordinary meaning of the claim language relative to the uses made of the device codes is readily apparent to those skilled in the art.

Thus, the term "device codes" is construed by the Court to mean: **"signal from a vehicle device."**

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F. The '885 Patent Term: "Function"

Claim Term	OMEGA's Construction	CALAMP's Construction
Function	*No construction needed; alternatively, it should be defined as follows:* An operation of a vehicle device	An operation of a vehicle device, such as remote starting the engine, remotely unlocking the vehicle doors, or changing the mode of a security system between armed and disarmed

Calamp contends that the definition of the term "function" found in claim 24 of the '885 patent should be limited to the three embodiments identified in Calamp's proposed claim construction. (Doc. 39, p. 17). Omega asserts the term "function" does not require construction because the ordinary meaning of the claim language is readily apparent to persons of ordinary skill in the art and even to lay judges. (Doc. 40, pp. 9–10). The Court agrees that the claim language is sufficiently clear and unambiguous to enable an individual of ordinary skill in the art, as well as lay judges, to apply the language in the context of this litigation.

The patent states the invention may be embodied in "many different forms and should not be construed as limited to the illustrated embodiments set forth herein." (Doc. 39-2, 4:63–65). The term "function" is self-evident from the context of the list of embodiments:

> The second transmitter/receiver pair may be used to cause a *desired function* to be performed at the vehicle, such as remote starting the engine, remotely unlocking the vehicle doors, or changing the mode of a security system between armed and disarmed modes, for example. Many other similar applications are contemplated by the present invention as will be appreciated by those skilled in the art.

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(*Id.* at 5:24–31) (emphasis added). Clearly, a function is the operation of one of the vehicle devices. Accordingly, the Court declines to construe this term.

G. The '727 Patent Term: "Remote Vehicle Speed Exceeded Notification"

Claim Term	OMEGA's Construction	CALAMP's Construction
Remote vehicle speed exceeded notification	*No construction needed; alternatively, it should be defined as follows:* Notification sent when a vehicle speed exceeds a speed threshold for a first time period	A message sent from a vehicle indicating that the vehicle speed has exceeded a particular speed

The term "remote vehicle speed exceeded notification" is found in the '727 Patent. Calamp proposes a construction of the term which emphasizes that the message indicating that a preset speed has been exceeded is sent "from" the vehicle. (Doc. 39, p. 18). Calamp asserts that the patent, and Omega's proposed construction, fail to state that the message originates from within the vehicle. (*Id.*). Omega argues that no construction is required because the ordinary meaning of the claim language is readily apparent. (Do. 40, p. 11). The Court agrees with Omega and finds that the term "remote vehicle speed exceeded notification" does not require construction or clarification.

Claim 1 of the '727 Patent clearly identifies that the speed exceeded notification device includes "at least one vehicle device *generating* data related to vehicle speed." (Doc. 39-3, 7:6–7) (emphasis added). Therefore, the message is clearly sent from the vehicle, where the vehicle devices reside. The claim language further states that the

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device determines "when a vehicle speed exceeds a speed threshold *for the first time period*" and sends a remote vehicle speed exceeded notification. (*Id.*) (emphasis added). That is, a device internal to the vehicle sends the notification outside of the vehicle. To the extent the patent provides for multiple speed exceeded notifications being sent from the vehicle, the claim language clearly addresses the manner in which this is accomplished. (*Id.* at 7:18–22, 27–29).

Based on the foregoing, the Court declines Calamp's request for construction of the term "remote vehicle speed exceeded notification."

H. The '278 Patent Term: "Downloading Interface"

Claim Term	OMEGA's Construction	CALAMP's Construction
Downloading interface	No construction needed	Connection that can receive data

Calamp asserts that the term "downloading interface" is unclear and may result in jurors concluding the term involves a software interface for downloading or some other type of interface. (Doc. 39, p. 19). Calamp contends that the patent describes the downloading interface as "hardware" or a connection to the tracking unit. (*Id.*). However, the plain language of the patent describes downloading interface more broadly. The patent provides the following variety of methods for data to be received from the downloading interface:

> The downloading interface may comprise either a wired or wireless signal downloading interface. The wired signal downloading interface may comprise a connector for temporary connection to a downloading device, for example. The wireless signal downloading interface may include a wireless receiver for temporary connection

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> to a downloading device . . . . The downloading interface may also be for permitting downloading of at least one programming instruction for the multi-vehicle compatible controller, in some embodiments.

(Doc. 39-4, 3:4–16). The summary of the invention, cited above, tracks the language found in claims 1, 2, 4, and 8. (*Id.* at 25:63–26:39).

The ordinary meaning of "download interface" is readily apparent to persons of ordinary skill in the art. To the extent one may desire additional context for the term "downloading interface," that context is found in the background and summary of the invention. The background statement provides, "For a company with hired drivers, it may be desirable to know the driver's whereabouts during the course of the day. Similarly, a rental car agency or other fleet operator, for example, may wish to know the whereabouts of its fleet of vehicles." (*Id.* at 1:37–41). To facilitate these objectives, the summary of the invention informs the reader that, "[t]he tracking unit may also include a downloading interface for permitting downloading of enabling data related to the at least one corresponding vehicle device code . . . ." (*Id.* at 2:63–66). The embodiment section of the patent further educates the reader that data received via the downloading interface may provide a number of pieces of information regarding the vehicle, including whether the vehicle is being moved by an unauthorized driver, whether the vehicle is being broken into, whether the vehicle is being driven in excess of an authorized speed, and the like. (*Id.* at 11:36–12:10).

Accordingly, the ordinary meaning of the language of the patent, including the term downloading interface, instructs the reader, including lay judges and jurors, of the type of data transmitted from the vehicle device and the manner of its transmission: wired,

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wireless, and for permitting downloading of at least one programming instruction, for example. A downloading interface is, therefore, not limited to a hardwired connection.

Based on the foregoing, the Court declines to construe the term "downloading interface."

I. The '278 Patent Term: "Enabling Data"

Claim Term	OMEGA's Construction	CALAMP's Construction
Enabling data	*No construction needed; alternatively, it should be defined as follows:* Data related to the at least one corresponding vehicle device code for use by said multi-vehicle compatible controller	A vehicle device code or codes, and instruction to select a code or codes, or the data or sequence to allow the controller to generate a vehicle device code or codes

The term "enabling data" appears in the '278 Patent. (Doc. 39-4). Calamp avers that the term lacks any common meaning or specific structure to one of ordinary skill in the art and should be construed. (Doc. 39, p. 20). Calamp acknowledges the term enabling data is referenced in several places, but submits the term is not defined other than at column 24, lines 8–12 of the '278 Patent. (*Id.*) The specification provides, in pertinent part:

> The multi-vehicle compatible tracking unit also illustratively includes a downloading interface for permitting downloading of enabling data related to the at least one corresponding vehicle device code for use by the multi-vehicle compatible controller. The enabling data may be the vehicle device code or codes, an instruction to select a code or codes from among those already stored, or the data or sequence

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> to allow the controller to generate the vehicle device code or codes, for example.

(Doc. 39-4, 24:4–12). Other references to "enabling data" include references to figures within the patent, stating, "Enabling data related to at least one corresponding vehicle device code for use by the multi-vehicle compatible controller is downloaded via a downloading interface." (*Id.* at 25:14–16).

Calamp suggests that any construction of enabling data should be limited to claim 1 of the '278 Patent (Doc. 39-4, 26:13–15), which provides, in part, "[E]nabling data related to the at least one corresponding vehicle device code for use by said multi-vehicle compatible controller." (Doc. 40, p. 13). Omega objects to Calamp's inclusion of some of the preferred embodiments into their proposed definition, citing *Northern Telecom Ltd. v. Samsung Elecs. Co.,* 215 F.3d 1281, 1293 (Fed. Cir. 2000) ("This court consistently declines to construe claim terms according to the preferred embodiment."). The Court agrees that Calamp's proffered construction improperly restricts or narrows the scope of this term.

Based on the foregoing, the Court construes the term "enabling data" as follows: **data related to the at least one corresponding vehicle device code for use by said multi-vehicle compatible controller.**

J. The '278 Patent Term: "Programming Instruction"

Claim Term	OMEGA's Construction	CALAMP's Construction
Programming instructions	No construction needed	Code which instructs the controller to perform an operation

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The term "programming instructions" is found in the '278 Patent. (Doc. 39-4). Calamp submits that this term should be construed by the Court because the term is susceptible to multiple meanings. (Doc. 39, p. 21). Omega advised the Court during the *Markman* hearing that it does not object to Calamp's proposed construction. The Court therefore adopts Calamp's proposed construction.

V. CONCLUSION

The Court adopts the following constructions:

CLAIM TERM	AGREED CONSTRUCTION
Controller	Electronic circuitry that performs one or more control functions.
Multi-vehicle compatible controller	Electronic circuitry that performs one or more control functions, and can operate with more than one vehicle.

[ORDER CONTINUES ON FOLLOWING PAGE]

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CLAIM TERM	COURT'S CONSTRUCTION
Transmitter	Radio frequency transmitter.
Receiver	Radio frequency receiver.
Data communication bus/ vehicle data communications bus/ vehicle data bus	Wired connection for communication of digital messages among vehicle devices, with each message including one or more device addresses.
Vehicle device	Plain meaning
Command signal	Signal generated on the data communications bus for operating a vehicle device.
Device codes	Signal from a vehicle device.
Function	Plain meaning
Remote vehicle speed exceeded notification	Plain meaning
Downloading interface	Plain meaning
Enabling data	Data related to the at least one corresponding vehicle device code for use by said multi-vehicle compatible controller.
Programming instructions	Code which instructs the controller to perform an operation.

DONE AND ORDERED in Orlando, Florida on February 20, 2015.

PAUL G. BYRON
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Copies furnished to:

Counsel of Record

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APPENDIX A

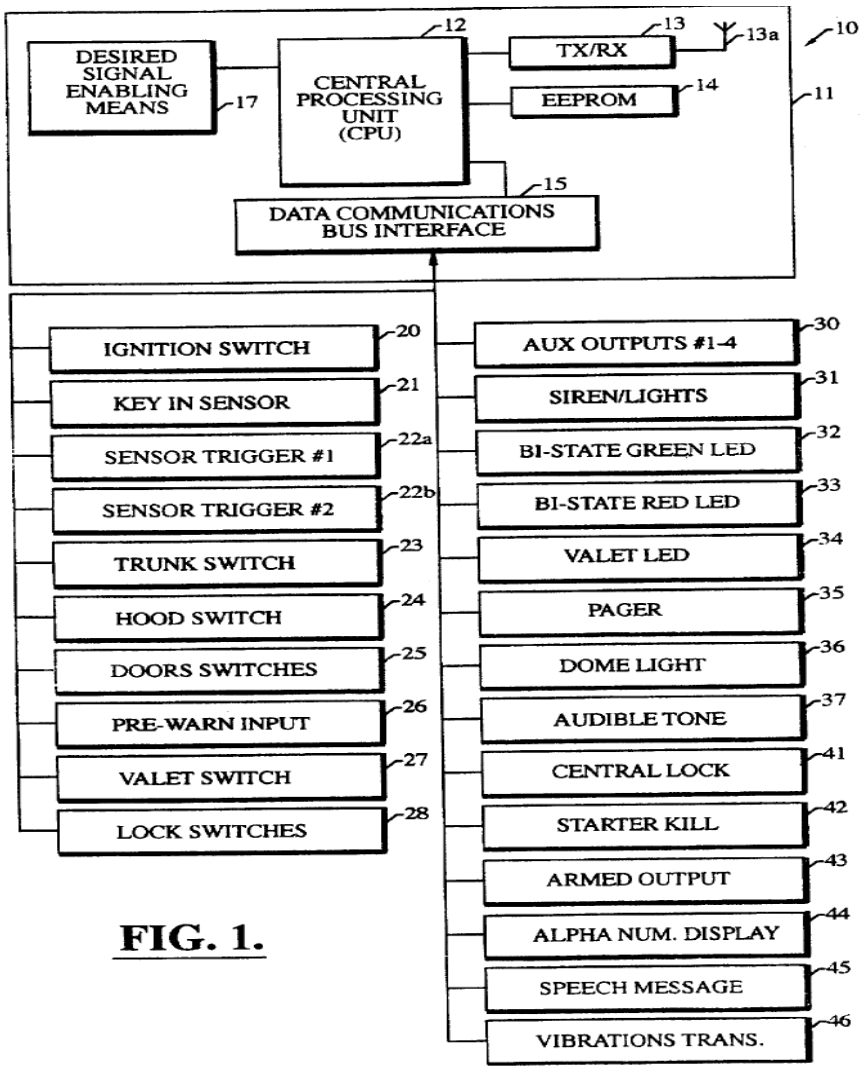

FIG. 1.

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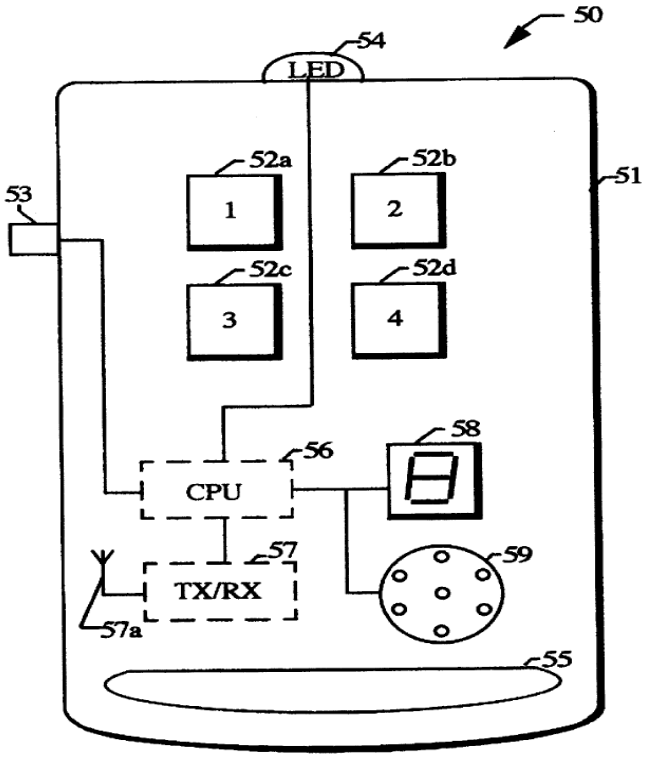

FIG. 2.

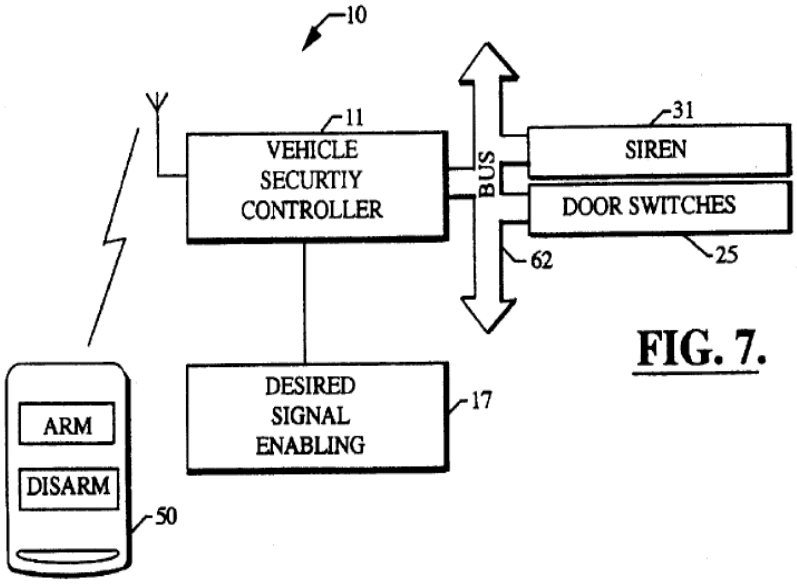

FIG. 7.

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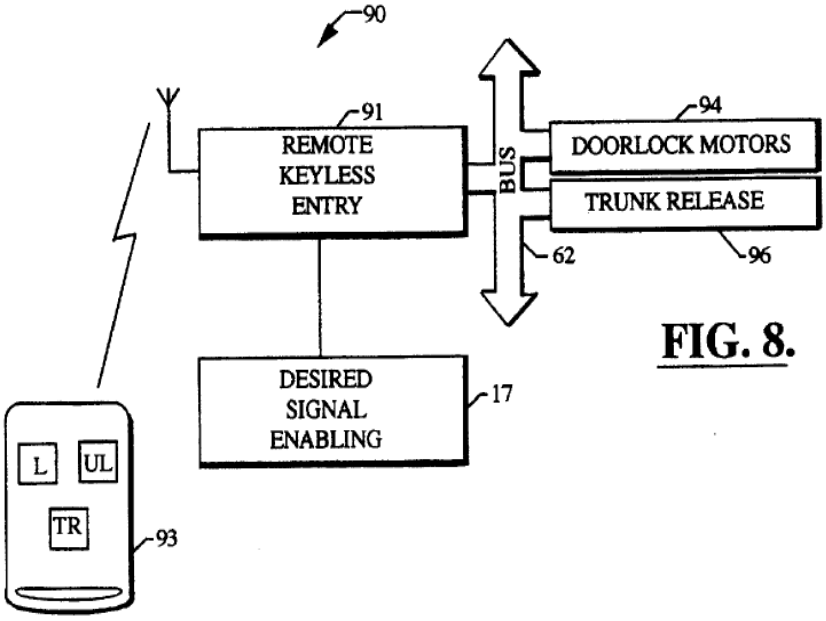

FIG. 8.

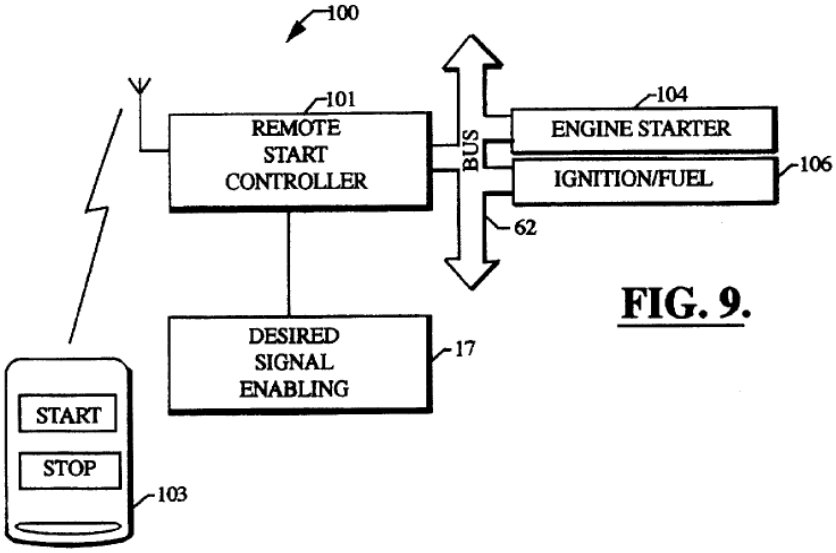

FIG. 9.

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