

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

SEMICONDUCTOR COMPONENTS INDUSTRIES, LLC,
Petitioner,

v.

GREENTHREAD, LLC,
Patent Owner.

IPR2023-01242¹
Patent 11,121,222 B2

Before KRISTEN L. DROESCH, GRACE KARAFFA OBERMANN, and
MONICA S. ULLAGADDI, *Administrative Patent Judges*.

ULLAGADDI, *Administrative Patent Judge*.

ORDER
Granting Patent Owner's Motions to Seal
Conduct of the Proceeding
37 C.F.R. §§ 42.5, 42.14, 42.54

¹ Texas Instruments Incorporated, which filed a petition in IPR2024-00673, has been joined as a petitioner in this proceeding.

I. INTRODUCTION

On September 11, 2024, we entered Patent Owner’s modified version of the Board’s Default Protective Order. Paper 63, 9; Paper 24, App. A (“Modified Protective Order”).

In the same Order, we granted Patent Owner’s request to seal the unredacted versions of Papers 8, 14, 18, 28, 37, and 47 and Exhibits 2002, 2014, 2022, 2028, and 2072. Paper 63, 8.

In the absence of any identification of the portions of each paper and exhibit to be redacted, we also authorized Patent Owner to file new motions to seal as to Paper 22 and Exhibits 2029 and 2056 and Petitioner to file new motions to seal as to Paper 11 and Exhibits 1046 and 1047. *Id.* at 5, 9.

We subsequently ordered the parties to file within 7 days new motions to seal the unredacted versions of Papers 11, 22, and Exhibits 2029, 2056, 1046, 1047 in addition to Paper 62 and Exhibit 1053, which were not accompanied by any motion to seal. Paper 96, 7–8.

II. MOTIONS TO SEAL

On May 2, 2025, Patent Owner filed a renewed motion to seal Papers 11, 22, 62, and Exhibits 1046, 1047, 1053, 2029, and 2056. Paper 98, 2. The Motion states that redacted versions of Paper 22 and Exhibits 2029 and 2056

are being concurrently filed. *Id.* at 4.² A redacted version of Paper 22 was filed concurrently as Paper 99. Petitioner filed redacted versions of Papers 11 and 62 as Papers 70 and 71, respectively, and redacted versions of Exhibits 1046, 1047, and 1053.

On May 30, 2025, the parties filed a Joint Motion to Seal Joint Paper Concerning Additional Discovery (Paper 108). Paper 107. A redacted version of Paper 108 was filed concurrently as Paper 109.

On August 12, 2025, Patent Owner filed a Motion to Seal Patent Owner's Post-Remand Brief Concerning Board-Ordered Discovery (Paper 117) along with Exhibit 2104. Paper 116, 1.³ Patent Owner also filed redacted versions of Paper 117 and Exhibit 2104. Paper 119; Ex. 2104 (redacted version).

On October 10, 2025, the Board's Final Written Decision on Remand was filed. Paper 125. The parties were ordered to "within one week of this Decision, jointly submit to the Board via email to Trials@uspto.gov, a version of this Decision to be filed in the public record, with any redactions

² Patent Owner acknowledged that the motion was necessitated by the redacted versions not being provided together with the previous motion to seal. Paper 98, 2 n.1. Patent Owner's Motion states "Upon entry of that modified protective order, Patent Owner designates the above papers and exhibits in their entirety as 'PROTECTIVE ORDER MATERIAL.'" *Id.* at 3. The modified protective order was entered with our order described at the outset. Paper 63.

³ Patent Owner's Motion states "Upon entry of that modified protective order, Patent Owner designates Patent Owner's Post-Remand Brief Concerning Board-Ordered Discovery and Exhibit 2104 in their [sic] as 'PROTECTIVE ORDER MATERIAL.'" Paper 116, 2. The modified protective order was entered with our order. Paper 63.

proposed by either party.” *Id.* at 95. To date, the parties have not filed a redacted version of Paper 125 accompanied by a motion to seal Paper 125, although a redacted version was filed accompanied by a motion to seal in related proceeding IPR2023-01243. *See* IPR2023-01243, Papers 124, 125.

The record of an *inter partes* review shall be made available to the public, except as otherwise ordered, and a document filed with a motion to seal shall be treated as sealed until the motion is decided. 35 U.S.C.

§ 316(a)(1); 37 C.F.R. § 42.14. Only “confidential information” may be protected against public disclosure. 35 U.S.C. § 316(a)(7); 37 C.F.R.

§ 42.54. The Board observes a strong public policy in favor of making information filed in *inter partes* review proceedings open to the public. *See Argentum Pharms. LLC v. Alcon Research, Ltd.*, IPR2017-01053, Paper 27 at 3–4 (PTAB Jan. 19, 2018) (informative).

The standard for granting a motion to seal is “good cause.” 37 C.F.R. § 42.54(a). The moving party bears the burden of showing that the relief requested should be granted. 37 C.F.R. § 42.20(c). That includes a sufficient showing that

(1) the information sought to be sealed is truly confidential, (2) a concrete harm would result upon public disclosure, (3) there exists a genuine need to rely in the trial on the specific information sought to be sealed, and (4), on balance, an interest in maintaining confidentiality outweighs the strong public interest in having an open record.

Argentum, Paper 27 at 3–4; *see also Corning Optical Commc’ns RF, LLC v. PPC Broadband, Inc.*, IPR2014-00440, Paper 46 at 2 (PTAB April 6, 2015) (requiring a showing that information has not been “excessively redacted”).

Upon review of Patent Owner's Motions to Seal, we are persuaded that good cause exists to seal the unredacted versions of the papers and exhibits identified in Patent Owner's Motions. *See* Papers 98, 107, 116. Patent Owner has narrowly tailored the redacted portions of each paper and exhibit so as to protect sensitive or otherwise confidential information while balancing the public interest in an open record. *See* Papers 70, 71, 99, 109, 119; Ex. 1046 (redacted version), 1047 (redacted version), 1053 (redacted version), 2029 (redacted version), and 2056 (redacted version), Ex. 2104 (redacted version).

III. ORDER

Accordingly, it is

ORDERED that Patent Owner's Motions to Seal (Papers 98, 107, 116) are *granted* with respect to Papers 11, 22, 62, 117, and Exhibits 1046, 1047, 1053, 2029, 2056, and 2104 in the above-captioned proceeding; and

FURTHER ORDERED that, within 7 days of this Order, Patent Owner shall file a public version of the Final Written Decision on Remand (Paper 125) accompanied by a Motion to Seal.

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