

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

SEMICONDUCTOR COMPONENTS INDUSTRIES, LLC,
Petitioner,

v.

GREENTHREAD, LLC,
Patent Owner.

IPR2024-00266
Patent 8,421,195 B2

Before GRACE KARAFFA OBERMANN, DONNA M. PRAISS, and
STEPHEN E. BELISLE, *Administrative Patent Judges*.

PRAISS, *Administrative Patent Judge*.

ORDER
Granting in Part Patent Owner's Motion to Seal
37 C.F.R. § 42.14

I. INTRODUCTION

On February 27, 2024 and May 8, 2024, Patent Owner filed Motions to Seal (Papers 6, 12, “Patent Owner’s Motions”) in the above identified proceeding, in which Patent Owner moved to seal, in their entirety: Patent Owner’s Request to File a Motion for Additional Discovery (Paper 7) and Preliminary Response (Paper 13); and Exhibits 2002, 2014, 2022, 2028, 2029, 2049–2052, 2056, 2063, and 2901–2912.

On September 11, 2024, we denied Patent Owner’s Motions without prejudice and authorized Patent Owner to file new motions to seal and file proposed redacted versions for all documents subject to any new motion to seal. Paper 26, 4.

On May 28, 2025, we issued an Order authorizing Patent Owner to file redacted versions of documents it wishes to seal that are already the subject of a motion to seal, and requesting the parties to jointly file a chart that identifies: as yet undecided motions to seal and corresponding oppositions, replies, and sur-replies; documents sought to be sealed by each motion; corresponding redacted versions; and information sought to be sealed. Paper 60, 3–4.

Pursuant to our May 28, 2025 Order (Paper 60), on June 11, 2025, the parties jointly submitted a chart “that identifies all unresolved motion(s) to seal, the corresponding document(s) (papers or exhibits) sought to be sealed by these motions, the information sought to be sealed, and the status of any redacted versions of those document(s)” in this proceeding. Paper 61, 2.

On December 2, 2025, we issued an Order granting Patent Owner’s pending Motions to Seal, identifying the motions to seal that were denied

without prejudice, and ordering new motions to seal the unredacted versions of the papers and exhibits which Patent Owner earlier sought to seal. Paper 76.

II. MOTION TO SEAL

Pursuant to our December 2, 2025 Order (Paper 76), on December 9, 2025, Patent Owner filed a Motion to Seal. Paper 77. Patent Owner's motion seeks to seal the following unredacted documents in view of the redacted versions that Patent Owner has furnished in the record. Paper 77, 2–4 ("X" denotes the redacted version was filed contemporaneously with Paper 77).

Sealed Document Name	Sealed Document No.	Public/Redacted Document
Patent Owner's Request to File a Motion for Additional Discovery	Paper 7	Paper 19
Patent Owner's Preliminary Response	Paper 13	Paper 20
Email communication from Petitioner's counsel to Patent Owner's counsel October 16, 2023	Ex. 2002	7/29/2024
Email communication from Petitioner's counsel to Patent Owner's counsel October 11, 2023	Ex. 2014	7/29/2024
Confidential agreement	Ex. 2022	7/29/2024
Confidential declaration	Ex. 2028	7/29/2024
Email communication from Patent Owner's counsel to Petitioner's counsel between May 26 to June 1, 2023	Ex. 2029	X
Email communications between Petitioner's counsel and Patent Owner's counsel, dated Oct. 31, 2023-Nov. 1, 2023	Ex. 2049	X

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Sealed Document Name	Sealed Document No.	Public/Redacted Document
Email communications between Petitioner's counsel and Patent Owner's counsel, dated Nov. 2-7, 2023	Ex. 2050	X
Email communications between Petitioner's counsel and Patent Owner's counsel, dated Nov. 14-15, 2023	Ex. 2051	X
Email communications between Petitioner's counsel and Patent Owner's counsel, dated Dec. 12-13, 2023	Ex. 2052	7/29/2024
Email communications between the Board, Petitioner's counsel, and Patent Owner's counsel dated November 27, 2023	Ex. 2056	X
Confidential agreement	Ex. 2063	7/29/2024
IPR2023-01242 Patent Owner's Motion for Additional Discovery, Paper 8	Ex. 2901	7/29/2024
IPR2023-01242 Petitioner's Opposition to Patent Owner's Motion for Additional Discovery, Paper 11	Ex. 2902	7/29/2024
IPR2023-01242 Patent Owner's Reply In Support of PO's Motion for Additional Discovery, Paper 14	Ex. 2903	7/29/2024
IPR2023-01242 Order Denying Patent Owner's Motion for Additional Discovery, Paper 30	Ex. 2904	7/29/2024
IPR2023-01243 Patent Owner's Motion for Additional Discovery, Paper 7	Ex. 2905	7/29/2024
IPR2023-01243 Petitioner's Opposition to Patent Owner's Motion for Additional Discovery, Paper 10	Ex. 2906	7/29/2024

Sealed Document Name	Sealed Document No.	Public/Redacted Document
IPR2023-01243 Patent Owner's Reply In Support of PO's Motion for Additional Discovery, Paper 13	Ex. 2907	7/29/2024
IPR2023-01243 Order Denying Patent Owner's Motion for Additional Discovery, Paper 29	Ex. 2908	7/29/2024
IPR2023-01244 Patent Owner's Motion for Additional Discovery, Paper 8	Ex. 2909	7/29/2024
IPR2023-01244 Petitioner's Opposition to Patent Owner's Motion for Additional Discovery, Paper 11	Ex. 2910	7/29/2024
IPR2023-01244 Patent Owner's Reply In Support of PO's Motion for Additional Discovery, Paper 14	Ex. 2911	7/29/2024
IPR2023-012434 Order Denying Patent Owner's Motion for Additional Discovery, Paper 30	Ex. 2912	7/29/2024

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 unredacted papers 7 and 13 and the unredacted versions of exhibits 2002, 2014, 2022, 2028, 2029, 2050–2052, 2056, 2063, and 2901–2912 identified in Patent Owner’s Motions. *See* Paper 77, 5. Patent Owner asserts that sealing the identified documents is appropriate here “because Patent Owner is under confidentiality obligations regarding licensing information referenced therein.” *Id.* Although Patent Owner states that “Patent Owner itself does not desire to maintain the confidentiality of the information,” Patent Owner asserts that it nevertheless “owes confidentiality obligations” and requests sealing to avoid potential disputes. *Id.* We find 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 19, 20, and redacted versions of Exhibits 2002, 2014, 2022, 2028, 2029, 2050–2052, 2056, 2063, and 2901–2912.

Regarding Exhibit 2049, the only redaction in the redacted version is the heading “PROTECTIVE ORDER MATERIAL.” *Compare* Ex. 2049 (redacted version) *with* Ex. 2049 (sealed version). Because sealed Exhibit 2049 does not contain any information that is not already disclosed in the redacted version, we determine that sealed Ex. 2049 should be expunged.

Accordingly, it is

ORDERED that Patent Owner’s Motion to Seal (Paper 77) is *granted* with respect to Papers 7, 14, and Exhibits 2002, 2014, 2022, 2028, 2029, 2050–2052, 2056, 2063, and 2901–2912 in the above-captioned proceeding;

FURTHER ORDERED that Patent Owner’s Motion to Seal Exhibit 2049 in its entirety is denied; and

FURTHER ORDERED that Patent Owner’s sealed Exhibit 2049 is expunged.

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