

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

MONOLITHIC POWER SYSTEMS, INC.,
Petitioner,

v.

GREENTHREAD, LLC,
Patent Owner.

IPR2024-00468 (Patent 8,421,195 B2)
IPR2024-00469 (Patent 9,190,502 B2)
IPR2024-00470 (Patent 11,121,222 B2)
IPR2024-00550 (Patent 10,510,842 B2)
IPR2024-00551 (Patent 10,734,481 B2)
IPR2024-00552 (Patent 11,121,222 B2)
IPR2024-00553 (Patent 11,316,014 B2)¹

Before KRISTEN L. DROESCH, GRACE KARAFFA OBERMANN,
DONNA M. PRAISS, MONICA S. ULLAGADDI, and JULIA HEANEY,
Administrative Patent Judges.

ULLAGADDI, *Administrative Patent Judge.*

¹ This Order addresses similar requests filed in each of the above-captioned proceedings. We issue one Order to be filed in each proceeding. The listing of Judges here does not expand any of the panels. The parties are not permitted to use this style heading in any subsequent papers.

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IPR2024-00469; IPR2024-00552
IPR2024-00470; IPR2024-00553
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ORDER
Setting Oral Argument
37 C.F.R. § 42.70

I. ORAL ARGUMENT

The Scheduling Order entered in each of IPR2024-00551, IPR2024-00552, and IPR2024-00553 set the date for oral argument to be July 9, 2025, if requested by the parties and granted by the Board. *See, e.g.*, IPR2024-00551, Paper 27, 12. The Order of May 13, 2025, cancelled an earlier hearing date and reset the date for oral argument to be July 9, 2025, in IPR2024-00468, IPR2024-00469, IPR2024-00470. *See, e.g.*, IPR2024-00468, Paper 64. In IPR2024-00550, the Order of May 13, 2025, reset the date of oral argument to be July 9, 2025. IPR2024-00550, Paper 47, 2.

In an email to the Board dated June 30, 2025, the parties requested to move the hearing to a date no earlier than September 8, 2025, in order to accommodate the schedule for additional briefing concerning matters of privity. Ex. 3005, 2. In a responsive email, the July 9, 2025 hearing was cancelled. *Id.* at 1. This Hearing Order sets the date of the hearing as September 10, 2025.

The parties have requested oral argument in each of the captioned proceedings. IPR2024-00550, Papers 48, 49.² Both Petitioner and Patent Owner request that the oral argument be held in-person at the USPTO headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia. Paper 48, 3; Paper 49, 1. In IPR2024-00468, IPR2024-00469, IPR2024-00470, both parties requested 60 minutes.

² Similar oral hearing requests were filed in IPR2024-00551, IPR2024-00552, and IPR2024-00553.

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In other proceedings, Patent Owner requested 90 minutes and Petitioner requested 60 minutes of argument time for each side. Paper 48, 2–3; Paper 49, 1. We find 90 minutes to be an appropriate length of time for argument in view of the consolidated hearing for these proceedings.

The oral hearing will be held in-person at the USPTO headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia, on September 10, 2025, with an oral argument time of 90 minutes per side.

*A. Time and Format*³

Oral arguments will commence at **10:00 AM Eastern Time on September 10, 2025**, at the USPTO headquarters, on the 9th floor of Madison Building East, 600 Dulany Street, Alexandria, Virginia.⁴ The Board will provide a court reporter for the hearing, and the reporter’s transcript will constitute the official record of the hearing.

Petitioner will have **a total of ninety (90) minutes** to present argument in these cases and Patent Owner will have **a total of ninety (90) minutes** to respond. Petitioner will open the hearing by presenting its case regarding the challenged claims for which the Board instituted trial. Thereafter, Patent Owner will respond to Petitioner’s argument. Petitioner may reserve rebuttal time to respond to arguments presented by Patent

³ If a party is no longer able to appear in-person for the hearing, the party must contact PTABHearings@uspto.gov as soon as possible.

⁴ If there are any concerns about disclosing confidential information, the parties must contact the Board at Trials@uspto.gov at least ten (10) business days before the hearing date.

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Owner. In accordance with the Consolidated Trial Practice Guide⁵ (“CTPG”), issued in November 2019, Patent Owner may request to reserve time for a brief sur-rebuttal. See CTPG 83. Because this consolidated hearing will relate to seven (7) distinct proceedings, counsel shall make clear for the record which proceeding is under discussion at any given time during presentation of arguments.

The parties may request a pre-hearing conference in advance of the hearing. See *id.* at 82. “The purpose of the pre-hearing conference is to afford the parties the opportunity to preview (but not argue) the issues to be discussed at the hearing, and to seek the Board’s guidance as to particular issues that the panel would like addressed by the parties.” *Id.* If either party desires a pre-hearing conference, the parties should jointly contact the Board at Trials@uspto.gov at least seven (7) business days before the hearing date to request a conference call for that purpose.⁶

B. Demonstratives

As set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 42.70(b), demonstratives shall be served on opposing counsel at least seven (7) business days before the hearing date.⁷ The parties shall file their demonstratives as exhibits no later than two (2) business days before the hearing.

⁵ Available at <https://www.uspto.gov/TrialPracticeGuideConsolidated>.

⁶ The time period for requesting a pre-hearing conference set forth in this Order, i.e., at least seven (7) business days before the hearing date, supersedes the due date in the Scheduling Order.

⁷ The parties may stipulate to an alternative schedule for serving demonstratives, and request that the Board modify the schedule for serving demonstratives at least seven (7) business days before the hearing date.

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Demonstratives are not a mechanism for making new arguments. Demonstratives also are not evidence, and will not be relied upon as evidence. Rather, demonstratives are visual aids to a party's oral presentation regarding arguments and evidence previously presented and discussed in the papers. Accordingly, demonstratives shall be clearly marked with the words "DEMONSTRATIVE EXHIBIT – NOT EVIDENCE" in the footer. *See Dell Inc. v. Accelaron, LLC*, 884 F.3d 1364, 1369 (Fed. Cir. 2018) (holding that the Board is obligated under its own regulations to dismiss untimely argument "raised for the first time during oral argument"). "[N]o new evidence may be presented at the oral argument." CTPG 85; *see also St. Jude Med., Cardiology Div., Inc. v. The Bd. of Regents of the Univ. of Mich.*, IPR2013-00041, Paper 65, 2–3 (PTAB Jan. 27, 2014) (explaining that "new" evidence includes evidence already of record but not previously discussed in any paper of record).

Furthermore, because of the strict prohibition against the presentation of new evidence or arguments at a hearing, it is strongly recommended that each demonstrative include a citation to a paper in the record, which allows the Board to easily ascertain whether a given demonstrative contains "new" argument or evidence or, instead, contains only that which is developed in the existing record.

Due to the nature of the Board's consideration of demonstratives and the opportunity afforded for the parties to reach an agreement without involving the Board, the Board does not anticipate that objections to demonstratives are likely to be sustained. Nevertheless, to the extent that a party objects to the propriety of any demonstrative, the parties shall meet

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and confer in good faith to resolve any objections to demonstratives prior to filing the objections with the Board. If such objections cannot be resolved, the parties may file any objections to demonstratives with the Board no later than the time of the hearing. The objections shall identify with particularity which portions of the demonstratives are subject to objection (and should include a copy of the objected-to portions) and include a one (1) sentence statement of the reason for each objection. No argument or further explanation is permitted. The Board will consider any objections, and may reserve ruling on the objections.⁸ Any objection to demonstratives that is not timely presented will be considered waived.

Finally, the parties are reminded that each presenter should identify clearly and specifically each paper (e.g., by slide or screen number for a demonstrative) referenced during the hearing to ensure the clarity and accuracy of the court reporter's transcript and for the benefit of all participants appearing electronically.

C. Presenting Counsel

The Board generally expects lead counsel for each party to be present at the hearing. See CTPG 11. Any counsel of record may present the party's argument as long as that counsel is present in person.

D. Remote Attendance Requests

Members of the public may request to listen to and/or view this hearing. If resources are available, the Board generally expects to grant such

⁸ If time permits, the Board may schedule a conference call with the parties to discuss any filed objections.

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requests. If either party objects to the Board granting such requests, for example, because confidential information may be discussed, the party must notify the Board at PTABHearings@uspto.gov at least 3 (three) business days prior to the hearing date.

E. Audio/Visual Equipment Requests

Any special requests for audio-visual equipment should be directed to PTABHearings@uspto.gov. A party may also indicate any special requests related to appearing at a video hearing, such as a request to accommodate deaf or hard-of-hearing individuals and blind or low vision individuals, and indicate how the PTAB may accommodate the special request. Any special requests must be presented in a separate communication at least five (5) business days before the hearing date.

F. Legal Experience and Advancement Program

The Board has established the “Legal Experience and Advancement Program,” or “LEAP,” to encourage advocates with less legal experience to argue before the Board to develop their skills. The Board defines a LEAP practitioner as a patent agent or attorney having three (3) or fewer substantive oral arguments in any federal tribunal, including PTAB.⁹

The parties are encouraged to participate in the Board’s LEAP program. Either party may request that a qualifying LEAP practitioner

⁹ Whether an argument is “substantive” for purposes of determining whether an advocate qualifies as a LEAP practitioner will be made on a case-by-case basis with considerations to include, for example, the amount of time that the practitioner argued, the circumstances of the argument, and whether the argument concerned the merits or ancillary issues.

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participate in the program and conduct at least a portion of the party's oral argument. The Board will grant up to fifteen (15) minutes of additional argument time to that party, depending on the length of the proceeding and the PTAB's hearing schedule. A party should submit a request, no later than at least five (5) business days before the oral hearing, by email to the Board at PTABHearings@uspto.gov.¹⁰

The LEAP practitioner may conduct the entire oral argument or may share time with other counsel, provided that the LEAP practitioner is offered a meaningful and substantive opportunity to argue before the Board. The party has the discretion as to the type and quantity of oral argument that will be conducted by the LEAP practitioner.¹¹ Moreover, whether the LEAP practitioner conducts the argument in whole or in part, the Board will permit more experienced counsel to provide some assistance to the LEAP practitioner, if necessary, during oral argument, and to clarify any statements on the record before the conclusion of the oral argument. Importantly, the Board does not draw any inference about the importance of a particular issue or issues, or the merits of the party's arguments regarding that issue, from the party's decision to have (or not to have) a LEAP practitioner argue.

¹⁰ Additionally, a LEAP Verification Form shall be submitted by the LEAP practitioner, confirming eligibility for the program. A combined LEAP Practitioner Request for Oral Hearing Participation and Verification Form is available on the LEAP website, www.uspto.gov/leap.

¹¹ Examples of the issues that a LEAP practitioner may argue include claim construction argument(s), motion(s) to exclude evidence, or patentability argument(s) including, e.g., analyses of prior art or objective indicia of non-obviousness.

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In instances where an advocate does not meet the LEAP eligibility requirements due to the number of “substantive” oral hearing arguments, but nonetheless has a basis for considering themselves to be in the category of advocates that this program is intended to assist, the Board encourages argument by such advocates during oral hearings. Even though additional argument time will not be provided when the advocate does not qualify for LEAP, a party may share argument time among counsel and the Board will permit the more experienced counsel to provide some assistance, if necessary, during oral argument, and to clarify any statements on the record before the conclusion of the oral argument.

All practitioners appearing before the Board shall demonstrate the highest professional standards. All practitioners are expected to have a command of the factual record, the applicable law, and Board procedures, as well as the authority to commit the party they represent.

II. ORDER

Accordingly, it is

ORDERED that oral argument for this proceeding shall commence at **10:00 AM Eastern Time on September 10, 2025**, at the USPTO headquarters on the 9th floor of Madison Building East, 600 Dulany Street, Alexandria, Virginia, and proceed in the manner set forth herein.

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