UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

SMAXTEC, INC. and
SMAXTEC ANIMAL CARE GMBH,
Petitioners

v.

ST REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGIES, LLC,
Patent Owner.

Case No. IPR2024-00885
Patent No. 8,823,515

PETITIONERS' UNOPPOSED MOTION FOR WITHDRAWAL AND SUBSTITUTION OF COUNSEL

I. 37 C.F.R. § 42.10—STATEMENT OF RELIEF REQUESTED

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 42.10 and the Board's April 25, 2025 email authorization, smaXtec Inc. and smaXtec Animal Care GmbH ("Petitioners") respectfully request that the Board authorize withdrawal of Jeffrey B. Plies of Dechert LLP as lead counsel and Blaine Hackman of Dechert LLP as backup counsel, and appointment of Brian M. Buroker of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP as lead counsel and Benjamin Hershkowitz and Nathan R. Curtis of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP as backup counsel for Petitioners.

II. STATEMENT SHOWING GOOD CAUSE FOR THE REQUESTED RELIEF

On May 2, 2024, Petitioners filed the Petition in this action. The Petition included Petitioners' Mandatory Notices under 37 C.F.R. § 42.8 appointing Jeffrey B. Plies as lead counsel and Blaine Hackman as backup counsel. Paper 1. For good cause, Petitioners request that the designations of Jeffrey B. Plies as lead counsel and Blaine Hackman as backup counsel be withdrawn and that new counsel, Brian M. Buroker of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, be designated as lead counsel and Benjamin Hershkowitz and Nathan R. Curtis, both of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, be designated as backup counsel to represent Petitioners in this proceeding.

Petitioners' new counsel meet the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 42.10(c) as all are registered to practice before the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Substitution and withdrawal of counsel is requested due to a change in representation of Petitioners. Petitioners have engaged the law firm of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, including the identified lead and backup counsel, to handle this matter going forward.

Granting this motion will not hinder the economy, the integrity of the patent system, the efficient administration of the Office, or the ability of the Office to timely complete this proceeding. *See* 35 U.S.C. § 316(b). Substitute counsel is fully prepared to assume responsibility for this matter, and Petitioner will continue to meet all deadlines and obligations in this proceeding without disruption.

III. PATENT OWNER AND PETITIONERS' COUNSEL DO NOT OBJECT TO THE WITHDRAWAL AND SUBSTITUTION OF COUNSEL

Patent Owner has confirmed that it does not oppose the requested withdrawal and substitution of new counsel for Petitioners. Petitioners' withdrawing counsel, Jeffrey B. Plies and Blaine Hackman, consent to the substitution of counsel.

IV. CONCLUSION

Petitioners respectfully request that the Board grant their motion and authorize withdrawal and substitution of counsel. Upon grant of this motion, new lead and backup counsel for Petitioners will promptly file Amended Mandatory Notices and an Updated Power of Attorney.

DATED: May 1, 2025

/Brian M. Buroker/

Brian M. Buroker (Reg. No. 39,125)
GIBSON, DUNN & CRUTCHER LLP
1700 M St. NW
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: (202) 955-8500
Fax: (202) 467-0539
Email: BBuroker@gibsondunn.com

Counsel for Petitioners

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned certifies that on May 1, 2025, a complete copy of the foregoing document was served via electronic mail on counsel of record for Petitioners at the address indicated:

AG-ST-SMAXTEC@akingump.com

DATED: May 1, 2025

/Brian M. Buroker/
Brian M. Buroker (Reg. No. 39,125)
GIBSON, DUNN & CRUTCHER LLP
1700 M St. NW
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: (202) 955-8500
Fax: (202) 467-0539
Email: BBuroker@gibsondunn.com

Counsel for Petitioners