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IPR2024-01132 - BOE
Exhibit 1014 - Page 2

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Exhibit 1014 - Page 3

part-winding starter A starter that applies voltage successively to the partial sections of the primary winding of an alternating-current motor. *See also:* starter. (IA/ICTL/IAC) [60]

part-winding starting (rotating machinery) A method of starting a polyphase induction or synchronous motor, by which certain specially designed circuits of each phase of the primary winding are initially connected to the supply line. The remaining circuit or circuits of each phase are connected to the supply in parallel with initially connected circuits, at a predetermined point in the starting operation. (PE) [9]

party line (1) (data transmission) A subscriber line arranged to serve more than one main station, with discriminatory ringing for each station. (PE) 599-1985w

(2) (telephone switching systems) A line arranged to serve more than one main station, with distinctive ringing for each station. (COM) 312-1977w

(3) A communication channel that services multiple terminals. (SUB/PE) 999-1992w

Pascal A general-purpose programming language standardized by IEEE & ASC X3 adapted for use on a variety of computers; characterized by its ability to handle algorithms, various data types, and block-structured. *Note:* Often used in teaching programming concepts, Pascal was named after Blaise Pascal, a French mathematician, and was developed by Niklaus Wirth. *See also:* block-structured language; MODULA II; JOSEF; Rascal; high-order language. (C) 610.13-1993w

Paschen's law (gas) The law stating that, at a constant temperature, the breakdown voltage is a function only of the product of the gas pressure by the distance between parallel plane electrodes. *See also:* discharge. (ED) [45], [84]

pass (1) A single cycle in the processing of a set of data, usually performing part of an overall process. For example, a pass of an assembler through a source program; a pass of a sort program through a set of data. (C) 610.12-1990

(2) The lack of any deviation from the expected post condition of a test case signifies a pass for that specific test case. Adherence to specification or documentation, or functional baseline indicates a pass. (C/PA) 2000.2-1999

pass band (1) (data transmission) A range of frequency spectrum that can pass at low attenuation. *See also:* band-pass filter. (T&D/PE) 1308-1994, 599-1985w

(2) A range of frequencies transmitted to a terminal at low attenuation. *See also:* bandwidth. (C/CAS) 610.7-1995, [13]

(3) A band of frequencies that pass through a filter with little attenuation (relative to other frequency bands such as a stop band). (CAS/T&D/PE) 1308-1994

pass-band ripple The difference between maxima and minima of loss in a filter passband. If the differences are of constant amplitude then the filter is said to be equiripple. (CAS) [13]

pass element (power supplies) A controlled variable-resistance device, either a vacuum tube or power transistor, in series with the source of direct-current power. The pass element is driven by the amplified error signal to increase its resistance when the output needs to be lowered or to decrease its resistance when the output must be raised. *See also:* series regulator. (AES) [41]

passenger elevator An elevator used primarily to carry persons other than the operator and persons necessary for loading and unloading. *See also:* elevator. (EEC/PE) [119]

passenger information sign A device that displays or annunciates transit trip information to passengers. (VT) 1477-1998

passenger vessel A vessel that carries more than 12 persons in addition to the crew. (IA/MT) 45-1998

pass/fail criteria Decision rules used to determine whether a software item or a software feature passes or fails a test. (C/SE) 829-1998

pass gate The transistor(s), controlled by the word-line, to enable the programming of bits along the selected word-line and

the isolating of bits on unselected word-lines from the array source. (ED) 1005-1998

passivation The process or processes (physical or chemical) by means of which a metal becomes passive. (IA) [59]

passivator An inhibitor that changes the potential of a metal appreciably to a more cathodic or noble value. (IA) [59]

passive-active cell A cell composed of passive and active areas. *See also:* electrolytic cell. (IA) [59]

passive angle tracking (PAT) A tracking technique that uses a received signal other than the backscattered radar emissions with which to track an object, jammer, or other signal source. Passive homing, home-on-jam (HOJ), and track-on-jam (TOJ) are examples of PAT using a radar receiving system. (AES) 686-1997

passive concentrator A type of token ring concentrator that contains no active elements in the signal path of any lobe port. Embedded repeater functions may be provided by the ring in and ring out port. (C/LM) 8802-5-1998

passive data dictionary A data dictionary that is only a repository for data definitions. *Note:* No active measures are taken to ensure that the data dictionary is consistent with the data items actually used in the system. *Synonym:* stand-alone data dictionary. *Contrast:* active data dictionary. (C) 610.5-1990w

passive device A device that does not require power and contains no active components. The term encompasses taps, directional couplers, splitters, power inserters, and in-line equalizers. (LM/C) 802.7-1989r

passive electric network An electric network containing no source of energy. *See also:* network analysis. (EEC/PE) [119]

passive filter A filter network containing only passive elements, such as inductors, capacitors, resistors and transformers. (CAS) [13]

passive fire protection The selection of materials that resist ignition and fire propagation, and produce low levels of fire products. (DEI) 1221-1993w

passive graphics A method of operation of a computer graphics system in which the graphics system does not accept input from a user and does not allow the user to influence its processing while it is in progress. *Contrast:* interactive graphics. (C) 610.6-1991w

passive homing guidance (navigation aid terms) Guidance in which a craft or missile is directed toward a destination by means of natural radiation from the destination. (AES/GCS) 172-1983w

passive limiter (nonlinear, active, and nonreciprocal waveguide components) A nonlinear device that suppresses input radio-frequency (rf) power without the aid of an external bias. (MTT) 457-1982w

passive satellite (communication satellite) A communication satellite that is a reflector and performs no active signal processing. (COM) [24]

passive sensor (test, measurement, and diagnostic equipment) A sensor requiring no source of power other than the signal being measured. (MIL) [2]

Passive-Star Coupler A component of a 10BASE-FP fiber optic mixing segment that divides optical power received at any of N input ports among all N output ports. The division of optical power is approximately uniform. (C/LM) 802.3-1998

passive station (data transmission) All stations on a multipoint network, other than the master and slave(s), that, during the information message transfer state, monitor the line for supervisory sequences, ending characters, etc. (PE) 599-1985w

passive test (test, measurement, and diagnostic equipment) A test conducted upon an equipment or any part thereof when the equipment is not energized. *Synonym:* cold test. (MIL) [2]

passive transducer A transducer that has no source of power other than the input signal(s), and whose output signal-power