

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

WESTERN DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES, INC.,
Petitioner,

v.

GODO KAISHA IP BRIDGE 1,
Patent Owner.

Case IPR2024-01447, -1493, and -1494
Patent 11,968,909 B2

PREHEARING CONFERENCE

- Conducted telephonically -

Arbitrators: John D. Hamann
Sheila F. McShane
Justin Arbes

Tuesday, January 13, 2026
2:00 p.m.

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 JUDGE HAMANN: This is Judge Hamann. If
3 the parties will wait one moment, please.

4 Also on the call are Judges Arbes and
5 McShane.

6 This is a prehearing conference for
7 IPR2024-01447, -1493, and -1494.

8 I'd like to start with getting appearances
9 for the parties.

10 Who is on the line on behalf of
11 petitioner?

12 MR. WILSON: Your Honor, this is Douglas
13 Wilson on behalf of petitioner. And with me are
14 Michelle Armond, our lead counsel, and also Monica
15 Arnold.

16 And we brought the court reporter,
17 Michelle Keegan, as well.

18 JUDGE HAMANN: Thank you.

19 I'd ask if petitioner can file as an
20 exhibit a copy of the transcript of this call in
21 the normal course.

22 MR. WILSON: Sure.

1 JUDGE HAMANN: And for patent owner, who
2 is on the line on its behalf?

3 MR. GIUNTA: Good afternoon, Your Honor.
4 This is Rich Giunta from Wolf Greenfield for the
5 patent owner IP Bridge. And I'm joined by my
6 colleague Adam Wichman.

7 JUDGE HAMANN: And forgive me, Counsel.
8 Could you repeat your last name? I couldn't quite
9 hear it.

10 MR. GIUNTA: Yes, Your Honor. It's
11 Giunta, G-I-U-N-T-A.

12 JUDGE HAMANN: Thank you, sir. With that,
13 let me begin.

14 Obviously this is the prehearing
15 conference. And there have been two questions put
16 to the panel, and we've had an opportunity to
17 discuss those, so we wanted to give the guidance I
18 think that is warranted at this point.

19 The first of those being a question as to
20 whether the panel plans on ruling on pending
21 motions to strike prior to the hearing.

22 And the panel plans on actually not ruling

1 on those prior to the hearing. Rather, the panel
2 would like -- I think it would benefit from
3 argument on those motions as part of the hearing
4 that's scheduled for the 23rd.

5 So to that end, currently the 1447 and the
6 1493 case I believe are scheduled to begin at
7 10:00. We're going to modify that and begin that
8 hearing at 9:00 and give each side an additional
9 30 minutes to argue as you see fit.

10 Obviously we're not going to separate --
11 some of that time, if not all, should be devoted
12 to the motions and its impact on the other
13 arguments if they're related to the underlying
14 papers. But we're not going to separate it out.
15 It's just going to be how the parties decide to
16 allocate that additional time and hopefully
17 address any pending motions in addition to the
18 papers.

19 And as to the hearing that begins at 1:00,
20 the 1494 case, we're going to add -- it's still
21 going to begin at 1:00, but we're going to add 15
22 minutes for each side for the same reason, to

1 address any pending motions, and go from there.

2 So that's the answer to the first
3 question.

4 And before I turn to the parties, I think
5 we can answer the second question briefly.

6 The panel believes that it doesn't have
7 particular guidance to give to the parties as to
8 particular issues at this point.

9 Obviously during the hearing we may
10 have -- and experience from other hearings, we may
11 have questions, things we think should be focused
12 on. We will ask those questions at that time and
13 maybe direct the parties to the particular items
14 of interest.

15 But in general, the parties should devote
16 their time as they see appropriate to cover the
17 issues in the papers or the motions.

18 So with that, let me turn to petitioner
19 first. Is there -- does petitioner have any
20 questions at this point?

21 MR. WILSON: No, Your Honor.

22 JUDGE HAMANN: And patent owner? Does

1 patent owner have any questions at this point?

2 MR. GIUNTA: Yes, Your Honor. Just to
3 clarify, I believe I understood what you said
4 about you're going to add some more time but that
5 the panel is not necessarily looking for the
6 parties to argue in a discrete, for example, in
7 the afternoon session 15 minutes, just the
8 motions, and that we can sort of allocate our time
9 across the merits and the motions, however we
10 think it makes the most sense. Is that correct?

11 JUDGE HAMANN: That is correct. But let
12 me suggest that, you know, the panel feels it will
13 benefit from argument on some of the pending
14 motions. And therefore, we may have -- to the
15 extent that a party doesn't particularly cover
16 some of the aspects, we may have questions on the
17 motions themselves. So some of that time, at
18 least to that vehicle, may be devoted to the
19 motions.

20 Does that answer your question, Counsel?

21 MR. GIUNTA: Yes, Your Honor.

22 JUDGE HAMANN: Do you have any other

1 questions?

2 MR. GIUNTA: I do not.

3 Mr. Wichman, do you have any questions?

4 MR. WICHMAN: No, no. Thank you, Your
5 Honor.

6 JUDGE HAMANN: Okay. And for petitioner,
7 any further questions at this point?

8 MR. WILSON: No, Your Honor. Thank you.

9 THE ARBITRATOR: Let me just confer for a
10 moment with my colleagues to make sure there is
11 not an additional point or item they want to
12 raise.

13 (Pause)

14 JUDGE HAMANN: With that, this prehearing
15 conference is adjourned. Thank you for your time.

16 (Off the record at 2:07 p.m.)

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1 COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

2 SUFFOLK, SS.

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4 I, Michelle Keegan, Registered Merit Reporter
5 and Notary Public in and for the Commonwealth of
6 Massachusetts, do hereby certify that the above is
7 a true and accurate transcription, to the best of
8 my ability, of my stenographic notes taken on
9 Tuesday, January 13, 2026.

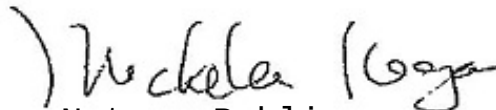
10 I further certify that I am neither related to
11 or employed by any of the parties in or counsel to
12 this action, nor am I financially interested in
13 the outcome of this action.

14 In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand
15 and seal this 13th day of January, 2026.

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Notary Public

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My commission expires:

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May 15, 2026

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