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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

AMAZON.COM, INC., AMAZON.COM SERVICES LLC,
Petitioner,

v.

NOKIA TECHNOLOGIES OY,
Patent Owner.

IPR2024-01507
Patent 8,996,693 B2

Before JAMESON LEE, STEVEN M. AMUNDSON, and JASON M. REPKO, *Administrative Patent Judges*.

REPKO, *Administrative Patent Judge*.

SCHEDULING ORDER

A. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. INITIAL AND ADDITIONAL CONFERENCE CALLS

The parties must contact the Board within one month of this Order if there is a need to discuss proposed changes to this Order or proposed motions that have not been authorized in this Order or other prior Order or Notice. *See* PTAB Consolidated Trial Practice Guide ("Consolidated Practice Guide")[1] at 9–10, 65 (guidance in preparing for a conference call); *see also* 84 Fed. Reg. 64,280 (Nov. 21, 2019). A request for an initial conference call must include a list of proposed motions, if any, to be discussed during the call.

The parties may request additional conference calls as needed. Any email requesting a conference call with the Board must: (a) copy all parties, (b) indicate generally the relief being requested or the subject matter of the conference call, (c) include multiple times when all parties are available, (d) state whether the opposing party opposes any relief requested, and (e) if opposed, either (i) certify that the parties have conferred telephonically or in person to attempt to reach agreement or (ii) explain why such a conference did not occur. The email must not contain substantive argument and, unless otherwise authorized, must not include attachments. *See* Consolidated Practice Guide at 9–10.

2. PROTECTIVE ORDER

No protective order will apply to this proceeding until the Board enters one. If either party files a motion to seal before entry of a protective order, a jointly proposed protective order must be filed as an exhibit with the

[1] *Available at* https://www.uspto.gov/TrialPracticeGuideConsolidated.

motion. It is the responsibility of the party whose confidential information is at issue, not necessarily the proffering party, to file the motion to seal.[2] The Board encourages the parties to adopt the Board's default protective order if they conclude that a protective order is necessary. *See* Consolidated Practice Guide at 107–22 (App. B, Protective Order Guidelines and Default Protective Order). If the parties choose to propose a protective order deviating from the default protective order, they must submit the proposed protective order jointly along with a marked-up comparison of the proposed and default protective orders showing the differences between the two and explain why good cause exists to deviate from the default protective order.

The Board and the public have a strong interest in the public availability of trial proceedings. Redactions to documents filed in this proceeding must be limited to the minimum amount necessary to protect confidential information, and the thrust of the underlying argument or evidence must be clearly discernible from the redacted versions. We also advise the parties that information subject to a protective order may become public if identified in a final written decision in this proceeding, and that a motion to expunge the information will not necessarily prevail over the public interest in maintaining a complete and understandable file history. *See* Consolidated Practice Guide at 21–22.

3. DISCOVERY DISPUTES

The Board encourages parties to resolve disputes relating to discovery on their own. To the extent that a dispute arises between the parties relating to discovery, the parties must meet and confer to resolve the dispute before

[2] If the entity whose confidential information is at issue is not a party to the proceeding, the parties should contact the Board to arrange a conference call.

contacting the Board. If attempts to resolve the dispute fail, a party may request a conference call with the Board and the other party to seek authorization to move for relief.

4. TESTIMONY

The Testimony Guidelines appended to the Consolidated Practice Guide at 127–30 (App. D, Testimony Guidelines) apply to this proceeding. The Board may impose an appropriate sanction for failure to adhere to the Testimony Guidelines. 37 C.F.R. § 42.12 (2024). For example, reasonable expenses and attorneys' fees incurred by any party may be levied on a person who impedes, delays, or frustrates the fair examination of a witness.

Whenever a party submits a deposition transcript as an exhibit in this proceeding, the submitting party must file the full transcript of the deposition rather than excerpts of only the cited portions. After a deposition transcript has been submitted as an exhibit, all parties who subsequently cite to portions of the transcript must cite to the already submitted exhibit instead of submitting another copy of the same transcript. *See* 37 C.F.R. § 42.6(d) ("A document already in the record of the proceeding must not be filed again, not even as an exhibit or an appendix, without express Board authorization.").

5. CROSS-EXAMINATION

Except as the parties might otherwise agree, for each due date:

Cross-examination ordinarily takes place after any supplemental evidence is due. 37 C.F.R. § 42.53(d)(2).

Cross-examination ordinarily ends no later than a week before the filing date for any paper in which the cross-examination testimony may be used. *Id.*

6. MOTION TO AMEND

Patent Owner may file a motion to amend without prior authorization from the Board. Nevertheless, Patent Owner must confer with the Board before filing a motion to amend. 37 C.F.R. § 42.121(a). To satisfy this requirement, Patent Owner should request a conference call with the Board no later than two weeks before DUE DATE 1. *See* Section B below regarding DUE DATES.

Any motion to amend and briefing related to the motion must comply with the rules pertaining to motions to amend (37 C.F.R. § 42.121) and the practices and procedures described in *Lectrosonics, Inc. v. Zaxcom, Inc.*, IPR2018-01129, Paper 15 (PTAB Feb. 25, 2019) (precedential).

Patent Owner has the option to receive preliminary guidance from the Board concerning a motion to amend. *See* 37 C.F.R. § 42.121(e). If Patent Owner elects to request preliminary guidance from the Board concerning a motion to amend, Patent Owner must do so in its motion to amend filed on DUE DATE 1. *Id.* § 42.121(a)(1)(ii).

At DUE DATE 3, Patent Owner may file a reply to Petitioner's opposition to the motion to amend and/or the Board's preliminary guidance. 37 C.F.R. § 42.121(e)(3). In lieu of a reply, Patent Owner has the option to file a revised motion to amend that addresses the issues raised in the Board's preliminary guidance or in Petitioner's opposition to the motion to amend. *Id*. § 42.121(f)(1)–(2). Patent Owner may elect to file a revised motion to amend even if Patent Owner did not request to receive preliminary guidance concerning its motion to amend. A revised motion to amend must include one or more new proposed substitute claims in place of the previously

presented substitute claims, where each new proposed substitute claim presents a new claim amendment. *Id.*

If Patent Owner files a revised motion to amend, the Board may determine whether to request the Chief Administrative Patent Judge to extend the final written decision deadline more than one year from the date a trial is instituted in accordance with § 42.100(c) and whether to extend any remaining deadlines under § 42.5(c)(2). 37 C.F.R. § 42.121(f)(1). Typically, the Board will enter a revised scheduling order setting the briefing schedule for the revised motion to amend and adjusting other due dates as needed.

At DUE DATE 5, Petitioner may file a sur-reply that is limited to responding to the Board's preliminary guidance and/or arguments made in Patent Owner's reply brief. 37 C.F.R. § 42.121(e)(3). Petitioner's sur-reply may not be accompanied by new evidence, but may comment on any new evidence filed with Patent Owner's reply brief and/or point to cross-examination testimony of a reply witness if relevant to arguments made in Patent Owner's reply brief. *Id.*

If the Board issues preliminary guidance concerning the motion to amend and Patent Owner files neither a reply to the opposition to the motion to amend nor a revised motion to amend at DUE DATE 3, Petitioner may file a reply to the Board's preliminary guidance no later than three (3) weeks after DUE DATE 3 or at any other DUE DATE that the Board specifies in a revised scheduling order. Petitioner's reply may only respond to the Board's preliminary guidance and may not be accompanied by new evidence. 37 C.F.R. § 42.121(e)(4). Patent Owner may file a sur-reply in response to Petitioner's reply to the Board's preliminary guidance. *Id.* Patent Owner's

sur-reply may only respond to Petitioner's reply and may not be accompanied by new evidence. *Id.* Patent Owner's sur-reply must be filed no later than three (3) weeks after Petitioner's reply or at any other DUE DATE that the Board specifies in a revised scheduling order.

In the event the Board requests examination assistance under 37 C.F.R. § 42.121(d)(3)(ii), the parties will be notified of the request and may adjust the scheduling order as needed.

7. ORAL ARGUMENT

Requests for oral argument must comply with 37 C.F.R. § 42.70(a). To permit the Board sufficient time to schedule the oral argument, the parties may not stipulate to an extension of the request for oral argument beyond the date set forth in the Due Date Appendix.

Unless the Board notifies the parties otherwise, oral argument, if requested, will be held at the USPTO headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia. The parties may also request that the oral argument instead be held virtually by videoconference. For the parties' information in making this decision, even if the parties elect an in-person hearing, it is anticipated that one judge will appear remotely by video and two judges will appear in person at the USPTO headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia. The parties should state in the request for oral argument (DUE DATE 4) whether the parties would prefer either a video hearing or an in-person hearing. The Board will conduct an in-person hearing only when requested by all parties.

Note that the Board may not be able to honor the parties' preferences due to, among other things, the availability of hearing room resources, the needs of the panel, and USPTO policy at the time of the hearing. The Board

will consider the parties' request and notify the parties of how and where the hearing will be conducted.

For in-person hearings, seating in the Board's hearing rooms may be limited, and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. If either party anticipates that more than five (5) individuals will attend the argument on its behalf, the party should notify the Board as soon as possible, and no later than the request for oral argument. Parties should note that the earlier a request for accommodation is made, the more likely the Board will be able to accommodate additional individuals.

The Board has established the "Legal Experience and Advancement Program," or "LEAP," to encourage advocates before the Board to develop their skills and to aid in succession planning for the next generation. 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. Parties are encouraged to participate in the Board's LEAP program.[3] 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 Board's hearing schedule. A party should submit a request, no later than five (5) business days before the oral argument, by email to the Board at PTABHearings@uspto.gov.[4] The Board encourages LEAP participation.

[3] Information about the LEAP program can be found at www.uspto.gov/leap.
[4] Additionally, a LEAP Verification Form must 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 at www.uspto.gov/leap.

8. MOTION TO EXCLUDE

A motion to exclude may only raise admissibility matters under the Federal Rules of Evidence. Any matter pertaining to an allegation that a reply or sur-reply exceeds the proper scope of a reply or sur-reply must not be raised in a motion to exclude. Failure to comply may lead to summary dismissal of the motion to exclude. If an issue arises pertaining to whether a reply or sur-reply exceeds the proper scope of a reply or sur-reply, the party raising the issue must initiate a conference call with the Board within one week of the filing of the reply or sur-reply, whichever is the case, to discuss how to resolve the issue.

B. DUE DATES

This Order sets due dates for the parties to act after institution of the proceeding. The parties may stipulate different dates for DUE DATES 1, 5, and 6, as well as the portion of DUE DATE 2 related to Petitioner's reply (earlier or later, but no later than DUE DATE 3 for Patent Owner's sur-reply) and the portion of DUE DATE 3 related to Patent Owner's sur-reply (earlier or later, but no later than DUE DATE 7). The parties may not stipulate to a different date for the portion of DUE DATE 2 related to Petitioner's opposition to a motion to amend or for the portion of DUE DATE 3 related to Patent Owner's reply to an opposition to a motion to amend (or Patent Owner's revised motion to amend) without prior authorization from the Board. In stipulating to move any due dates in this Order, the parties should be aware that the Board requires four weeks after the filing of an opposition to the motion to amend (or the due date for the opposition, if none is filed) for the Board to issue its preliminary guidance, if requested by Patent Owner. The parties must promptly file a notice of the

stipulation, specifically identifying the changed due dates. The parties may not stipulate an extension of DUE DATES 4, 7, and 8.

In stipulating different dates, the parties should consider the effect of the stipulation on times to object to evidence (37 C.F.R. § 42.64(b)(1)), to supplement evidence (37 C.F.R. § 42.64(b)(2)), to conduct cross-examination (37 C.F.R. § 42.53(d)(2)), and to draft papers depending on the evidence and cross-examination testimony.

1. DUE DATE 1

Patent Owner may file—

a. a response to the petition (37 C.F.R. § 42.120). If Patent Owner elects not to file a response, Patent Owner must arrange a conference call with the parties and the Board. Patent Owner is cautioned that any patentability arguments not raised in the response may be deemed forfeited; and

b. a motion to amend the patent (37 C.F.R. § 42.121).

2. DUE DATE 2

Petitioner may file a reply to Patent Owner's response.

Petitioner may file an opposition to the motion to amend.

3. DUE DATE 3

Patent Owner may file a sur-reply to Petitioner's reply.

Patent Owner may also file either:

a. a reply to the opposition to the motion to amend and the preliminary guidance (if provided by the Board); or

b. a revised motion to amend.

NOTE: If Patent Owner files neither of the above papers (a reply to the opposition or a revised motion to amend), and the Board has provided

preliminary guidance, Petitioner may file a reply to Board's preliminary guidance no later than three (3) weeks after DUE DATE 3. Patent Owner may file a sur-reply to Petitioner's reply to Board's preliminary guidance no later than three (3) weeks after Petitioner's reply.

4. DUE DATE 4

Either party may file a request for oral argument (may not be extended by stipulation).

5. DUE DATE 5

Petitioner may file a sur-reply to Patent Owner's reply to the opposition to the motion to amend.

Either party may file a motion to exclude evidence (37 C.F.R. § 42.64(c)).

6. DUE DATE 6

Either party may file an opposition to a motion to exclude evidence.

Either party may request that the Board hold a prehearing conference.

7. DUE DATE 7

Either party may file a reply to an opposition to a motion to exclude evidence.

8. DUE DATE 8

Oral argument (if requested by either party) will be held on this date. Approximately one month before the hearing, the Board will issue an order setting the start time of the hearing and the procedures that will govern the parties' arguments.

DUE DATE APPENDIX

DUE DATE 1 ..... June 20, 2025

Patent Owner's response to the petition

Patent Owner's motion to amend the patent

DUE DATE 2 ..... September 12, 2025

Petitioner's reply to Patent Owner's response to the petition

Petitioner's opposition to Patent Owner's motion to amend

DUE DATE 3 ..... October 24, 2025

Patent Owner's sur-reply to Petitioner's reply to the response to the petition

Patent Owner's reply to Petitioner's opposition to the motion to amend OR Patent Owner's revised motion to amend

DUE DATE 4 ..... November 14, 2025

Request for oral argument (may not be extended by stipulation)

DUE DATE 5 ..... December 5, 2025

Petitioner's sur-reply to Patent Owner's reply to the opposition to the motion to amend

Motion to exclude evidence

DUE DATE 6 ..... December 12, 2025

Opposition to motion to exclude

Request for prehearing conference

DUE DATE 7 ..... December 19, 2025

Reply to opposition to motion to exclude

DUE DATE 8 ..... January 7, 2026

Oral argument (if requested)

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