

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

LG ELECTRONICS, INC. and LG ELECTRONICS U.S.A., INC.,
Petitioner,

v.

MULTIMEDIA TECHNOLOGIES PTE. LTD.,
Patent Owner.

IPR2025-00300
Patent 9,578,384 B2

Before ST. JOHN COURTENAY III, ROBERT L. KINDER, and
SHARON FENICK, *Administrative Patent Judges*.

FENICK, *Administrative Patent Judge*.

DECISION
Granting Institution of *Inter Partes* Review
35 U.S.C. § 314

Granting Motion for Joinder
35 U.S.C. § 315(c); 37 C.F.R. § 42.122

I. INTRODUCTION

A. *Background and Summary*

On December 17, 2024, LG Electronics, Inc. and LG Electronics U.S.A. Inc. (“Petitioner”) filed a Petition (Paper 1, “Pet.”) seeking *inter partes* review of claims 1–12 (“the Challenged Claims”) of U.S. Patent No. 9,578,384 B2 (Ex. 1001, “the ’384 patent”). With the Petition, Petitioner filed a Motion for Joinder (Paper 3, “Motion” or “Mot.”), seeking to join as a party to *VIZIO, Inc. v. Multimedia Technologies Pte. Ltd.*, IPR2024-00723 (“the Vizio IPR”). Patent Owner, Multimedia Technologies Pte. Ltd., did not timely file an opposition to the Motion, a preliminary response to the Petition, or a brief requesting discretionary denial of institution. On April 30, 2025, the Office of the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office issued a notice referring this case to our panel to consider the merits and non-discretionary considerations. Paper 7.

The Board has authority to determine whether to institute an *inter partes* review. *See* 35 U.S.C. § 314(b); 37 C.F.R. § 42.4(a) (2020). Under 35 U.S.C. § 314(a), an *inter partes* review may not be authorized unless the information in the Petition and any preliminary response “shows that there is a reasonable likelihood that the petitioner would prevail with respect to at least 1 of the claims challenged in the petition.”

For the reasons that follow, we institute an *inter partes* review as to the Challenged Claims of the ’384 patent on all grounds of unpatentability presented. We also grant Petitioner’s Motion for Joinder.

B. *Real Parties In Interest*

Petitioner identifies only LG Electronics, Inc. and LG Electronics U.S.A. Inc. as real parties in interest. Pet. 110. Patent Owner identifies only

itself as a real party in interest. Paper 4 (Patent Owner’s Mandatory Notices), 1.

C. Related Matters

The parties inform us that the ’384 patent is at issue in: *Multimedia Technologies Pte. Ltd. v. VIZIO, Inc.*, No. 2:22-cv-00124 (E.D. Tex.); *Multimedia Technologies Pte. Ltd. v. LG Electronics Inc. and LG Electronics USA, Inc.*, No. 2:22-cv-00494 (E.D. Tex.); and *VIZIO, Inc. v. Multimedia Technologies Pte. Ltd.*, IPR2024-00723 (PTAB). Pet. 110; Paper 4, 1.

D. The ’384 Patent (Ex. 1001)

The ’384 patent is titled “Systems and Methods for Providing Video On Demand in an Intelligent Television,” and concerns user interfaces for providing video on demand (“VOD”) on an intelligent television intended to “allow the user to utilize the intelligent television more easily and more effectively.” Ex. 1001, codes (54), (57); *see id.* at 19:11–16 (defining VOD).

Figure 16, reproduced immediately below, is “a flowchart view of an embodiment of a method for providing VOD in an [i]ntelligent TV” by “provid[ing] a series of contextual and easily understood panels to navigate through VOD content.” *Id.* at 22:64–65, 43:41–42.

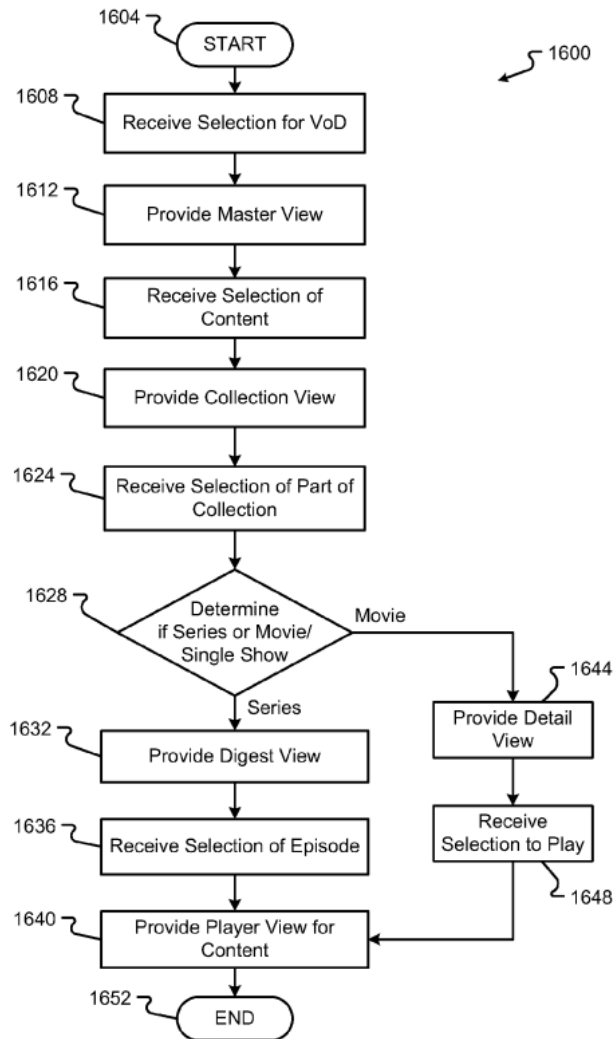


Fig. 16

Figure 16 depicts a flowchart that includes steps specifying the receipt of selections and the provision of views by an intelligent TV; in one portion, the flowchart includes a decision diamond that leads to the provision of either a digest view or a detail view. *Id.* at 43:59–44:3, 44:52–45:31.

The intelligent TV as described in the '384 patent receives selections for VOD content and displays user interfaces, which may include user interfaces (views) in a hierarchical order of four types. *Id.* at 44:4–25, 45:40–42, Fig. 16 (elements 1608, 1612, 1616, 1620, 1624, 1632, 1636, 1640, 1644, 1648), Fig. 18. First, a master view selection is a top tier user

interface that allows the user to select a type of collection. *Id.* at 44:9–12. Second, a collection view displays a list of media based on a target or sort criteria. *Id.* at 44:12–13. Third, when a user makes a selection of content from the collection view, a digest view or detail view is provided, depending on whether the user selection was of a series (yielding a digest view) or of a single show, movie, or episode movie (yielding a detail view). *Id.* at 44:13–16, 44:52–45:31, Fig. 16 (elements 1628, 1632, 1644). A digest view shows a view of a television series or series of episodes, where a description or view of the series and a set of episodes is provided, with the ability to select one or more episodes in the series. *Id.* at 44:16–18, 45:6–8. A detail view provides information specific to a single show, movie, or episode. *Id.* at 44:19–21, 45:21–24. Lastly, from either of the digest or detail views, the user may select content to play or select a play icon, and the intelligent TV then provides a player view providing the selected content to the user. *Id.* at 44:21–25, Fig. 16 (elements 1636, 1648, 1640).

Figure 17, reproduced immediately below, is “a view of an embodiment of a user interface for an [i]ntelligent TV” depicting four tiers of views that a user might navigate to select and play VOD content. *Id.* at 22:66–67, 44:4–25.

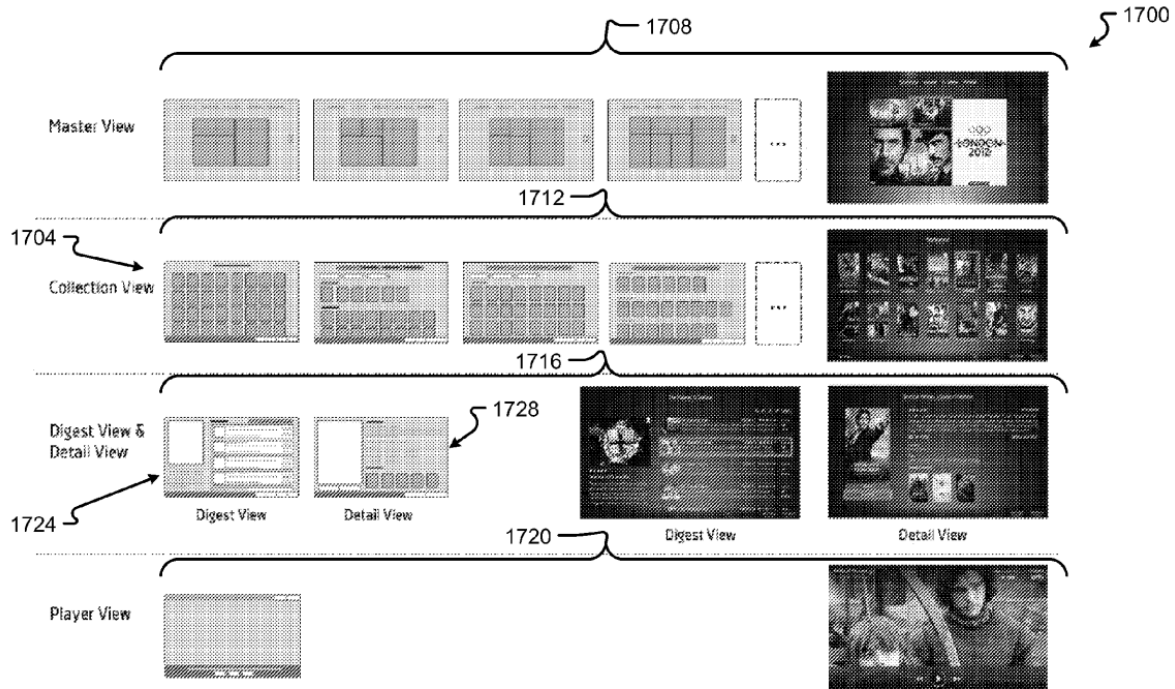


Fig. 17

Figure 17 includes four rows of labelled views: (1) master view, (2) collection view, (3) digest view and detail view, and (4) player view. *Id.* at 44:4–25, Fig. 17. Digest view is shown both as element 1724 and in a second view reproduced in the third row of views, and detail view is shown both as element 1728 and also in a second view reproduced in the third row of views. *Id.* at 44:13–21, 44:58–66, 45:5–31, Fig. 17.

E. Illustrative Claims

Claims 1, 2, and 11 are independent. Claims 1, 3, 4, and 5, reproduced below with limitation identifications in brackets corresponding to those used in the Petition, are illustrative.

1. [1.0] A method for providing video-on-demand (VOD) in an intelligent television, the method comprising:

[1.1] receiving, by a processor of the intelligent television, a first selection for a VOD content;

- [1.2] in response to the first selection, providing, by the processor, a master view of the VOD content, wherein the master view presents two or more collections of the VOD content organized by a characteristic of the VOD content;
 - [1.3] receiving, by the processor, a second selection for a VOD content;
 - [1.4] in response to the second selection, providing, by the processor, a collection view of VOD content, wherein the collection view presents two or more items of the VOD content having the characteristic;
 - [1.5] receiving, by the processor, a third selection for a VOD content;
 - [1.6] in response to the third selection, providing, by the processor, either a detail view or a digest view of VOD content, wherein the detail view presents information about a selected item of the VOD content, and wherein the digest view presents information about a set of the VOD content that are associated with a series, wherein providing either a detail view or a digest view of the VOD content comprises:
 - [1.7] determining, by the processor, if the selection in the collection view is for a series or one of a movie or single show;
 - if the selection in the collection view is for a series, providing, by the processor, the digest view; and
 - if the selection in the collection view is for one of a movie or single show, providing, by the processor, a detail view, [1.8] wherein a navigation to view VOD content is an ordered set of user interfaces, and wherein the order includes a master view at a top level, a collection view at a second level, either a digest view or detail view at a third level, and a player view at a fourth and bottom level.
3. The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the digest view provides a listing of two or more episodes associated with the series.

4. The method as defined in claim 3, further comprising:
receiving a fourth selection of an episode in the digest view;
and

in response to the fourth selection, providing a player to
present the episode to the user.

5. The method as defined in claim 4, further comprising:
receiving a fifth selection of a user interface device to play
the movie or single show; and

in response to the fifth selection, providing a player to present
the movie or single show to the user.

Ex. 1001, 56:35–57:5, 57:49–61.

F. Evidence

Petitioner relies on the following patent evidence.

Name	Patent Document	Exhibit
Hunleth	US 7,634,793 B2	Ex. 1021
Hunt	US 8,365,235 B2	Ex. 1020
Ma	US 2012/0054679 A1	Ex. 1022
Kim	US 2012/0054794 A1	Ex. 1019

Petitioner relies on the following non-patent literature evidence.

Name	Non-Patent Literature Title	Author	Exhibit
TechnoBuffalo	“Connected TV: VIZIO LED HDTV with VIA Apps Part 1 of 2” and “Connected TV: VIZIO LED HDTV with VIA Apps Part 2 of 2”	Noah Kravitz ¹	Exs. ² 1005– 1017
MissingRemote	“Apple TV Netflix Walkthrough”	Andrew Van Til ³	Ex. 1018

Petitioner additionally relies on a declaration of Henry Houh (Ex. 1003).

G. Prior Art and Asserted Grounds

Petitioner asserts that claims 1–12 would have been unpatentable on the following grounds:

Claim(s) Challenged	35 U.S.C. § ⁴	Reference(s)/Basis
1–12	103(a)	Kim, TechnoBuffalo, MissingRemote, Hunt, Hunleth
1–12	103(a)	Kim, Ma, Hunt, Hunleth

Pet. 1–2.

¹ On the present record, we understand Noah Kravitz to be an author of the TechnoBuffalo videos. *See* Ex. 1005, 0:00–0:05; Ex. 1011, 0:00–0:05; Ex. 1017, 0:33–0:35; Ex. 1025 (Declaration of Noah Kravitz) ¶ 4.

² The two TechnoBuffalo videos were broken up into 13 exhibits by Petitioner due to upload size limitations. Pet. 5 n.4.

³ On the present record, we understand Andrew Van Til to be an author of the MissingRemote video. *See* Ex. 1018, 0:02–0:05; Ex. 1026 (Declaration of Andrew Van Til) ¶ 3.

⁴ The Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (“AIA”), Pub. L. No. 112–29, 125 Stat. 284 (2011), amended 35 U.S.C. § 103, effective March 16, 2013. Because the earliest claimed priority date of the ’384 patent is before March 16, 2013, we apply the pre-AIA version of § 103. *See* Ex. 1001, code (60) (claiming priority to numerous provisional applications, including six provisional applications filed before March 16, 2013). Our analysis in this Decision would be the same if we applied the AIA version of § 103.

II. ANALYSIS

A. *Institution of Inter Partes Review*

We instituted an *inter partes* review in the Vizio IPR on all challenged claims and all asserted grounds of unpatentability. Vizio IPR, Paper 12; *see also* Vizio IPR, Paper 1 (the “Vizio Petition”). Petitioner here challenges the same claims and asserts the same grounds of unpatentability as those on which we instituted the Vizio IPR. *Compare* Pet. 1–2, *with* Vizio Petition, 1–2. Petitioner also relies on an identical declaration from the same declarant as relied upon by the petitioner in the Vizio IPR. Mot. 1 (“[Petitioner] . . . relies upon the same expert declaration as relied upon in the Vizio IPR.”); Ex. 1003, 1 (cover page indicating Declaration of Henry Houh in support of the petition submitted in IPR2024-00723), 134 (signature page dated March 21, 2024).

Because the grounds of unpatentability in the instant Petition are identical to those in the Vizio IPR, for the same reasons stated in our Decision to Institute in the Vizio IPR we institute *inter partes* review in this proceeding on the grounds presented in the Petition. *See* Vizio IPR, Paper 12, 12–41 (analyzing challenges in the Vizio Petition).

B. *Motion for Joinder*

Joinder in an *inter partes* review is subject to the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 315(c):

(c) JOINDER.—If the Director institutes an *inter partes* review, the Director, in his or her discretion, may join as a party to that *inter partes* review any person who properly files a petition under section 311 that the Director, after receiving a preliminary response under section 313 or the expiration of the time for filing such a response, determines warrants the institution of an *inter partes* review under section 314.

To join Petitioner to the instituted Vizio IPR, the Board first determines whether the Petition “warrants” institution under § 314, which we determined above. *See Facebook, Inc. v. Windy City Innovations, LLC*, 973 F.3d 1321, 1332 (Fed. Cir. 2020). The Board next determines whether to exercise “discretion to decide whether to ‘join as a party’ the joinder applicant,” who is the Petitioner in this proceeding. *Id.* Petitioner timely filed its Motion for Joinder on December 17, 2024 (i.e., within one month after the institution of the Vizio IPR on November 22, 2024). *See* Mot. 3; Vizio IPR, Paper 12; 37 C.F.R. § 42.122(b).

As the moving party, Petitioner bears the burden of proving that it is entitled to the requested relief. 37 C.F.R. § 42.20(c). A motion for joinder should (1) set forth the reasons joinder is appropriate; (2) identify any new grounds of unpatentability asserted in the petition; and (3) explain what impact (if any) joinder would have on the trial schedule for the existing review. *See Kyocera Corp. v. SoftView LLC*, IPR2013-00004, Paper 15 at 4 (PTAB Apr. 24, 2013).

We determine that Petitioner has met its burden of showing that joinder is appropriate because the “Petition is substantively identical to the petition in the Vizio IPR,” “challenging the same claims of the ’384 Patent on the same grounds while relying on the same prior art, arguments, and evidence,” and relying “upon the same expert declaration as relied upon in the Vizio IPR.” Mot. 1, 4–5. Petitioner represents that joinder will not impact the Vizio IPR schedule. *Id.* at 5–6. Petitioner also represents that it “explicitly agrees to take an ‘understudy’ role” and “will assume the primary role only if Vizio cease to participate in the Vizio IPR.” *Id.* at 6–7.

Petitioner represents that in its understudy role, it agrees that the following conditions will apply:

“(a) all filings by [Petitioner] in the joined proceeding be consolidated with [the filings of the petitioners in the Vizio IPR], unless a filing solely concerns issues that do not involve [the petitioners in the Vizio IPR];”

“(b) [Petitioner] shall not be permitted to raise any new grounds not already instituted by the Board in the [Vizio IPR], or introduce any argument or discovery not already introduced by [the petitioners in the Vizio IPR];”

“(c) [Petitioner] shall be bound by any agreement between [Patent Owner] and [the petitioners in the Vizio IPR] concerning discovery and/or depositions; and”

“(d) [Petitioner] at deposition shall not receive any direct, crossexamination or redirect time beyond that permitted for [the petitioners in the Vizio IPR] alone under either 37 C.F.R. § 42.53 or any agreement between [Patent Owner] and [the petitioners in the Vizio IPR].”

Mot. 6–7.

Petitioner further represents that counsel for Petitioner “has conferred with petitioner’s counsel in the Vizio IPR, and this Motion for Joinder is not opposed,” and “[t]he petitioners in the Vizio IPR have no objection to [Petitioner] joining in an ‘understudy’ role.” Mot. 1, 7. As indicated above, Patent Owner did not timely file an opposition to the Motion. *See* 37 C.F.R. § 42.23 (setting default filing times).

We determine above that the Petition warrants the institution of an *inter partes* review. Under these circumstances, we agree with Petitioner that joinder is appropriate and will not unduly impact the ongoing trial in the Vizio IPR. We limit Petitioner’s participation in the Vizio IPR as follows: (1) the current petitioner, i.e., VIZIO, Inc., is responsible for all petitioner

filings in the proceeding until such time that it is no longer an entity in the proceeding, and (2) Petitioner is bound by all filings by the current petitioner in the proceeding, except for (a) filings regarding termination or settlement, and (b) filings where Petitioner receives permission to file an independent paper. Petitioner must obtain prior Board authorization to file any paper or take any action on its own in the proceeding, so long as the current petitioner remains as a non-terminated petitioner in the proceeding.

This arrangement promotes the just and efficient administration of the ongoing trial in the Vizio IPR, and protects the interests of VIZIO, Inc. as the original petitioner in that proceeding and of Patent Owner.

III. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, we institute *inter partes* review of the Challenged Claims of the '384 patent based on the grounds of unpatentability set forth in the Petition. We also grant the Petitioner's Motion for Joinder and join Petitioner to IPR2024-00723, with the limitations set forth herein.

IV. ORDER

In consideration of the foregoing, it is hereby:

ORDERED that, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 314(a), an *inter partes* review is hereby instituted as to claims 1–12 of the '384 patent on all the grounds set forth in the Petition;

FURTHER ORDERED that, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 315(c) and 37 C.F.R. § 42.122, Petitioner's Motion for Joinder (Paper 3) is granted, and Petitioner is joined as a petitioner in IPR2024-00723, subject to the above-described limitations in Petitioner's participation in that proceeding;

FURTHER ORDERED that the asserted grounds of unpatentability on which the Board instituted *inter partes* review in IPR2024-00723 are unchanged and remain the only instituted grounds;

FURTHER ORDERED that the scheduling order in IPR2024-00723, and any modifications thereto, shall govern the schedule of the joined proceeding;

FURTHER ORDERED that all further filings are to be made only in IPR2024-00723;

FURTHER ORDERED that the case caption in IPR2024-00723 for all further submissions shall be modified to add LG Electronics, Inc. and LG Electronics U.S.A., Inc. as a named petitioner via footnote indicating the joinder of Petitioner as a party to that proceeding, as indicated in the attached sample case caption; and

FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this decision shall be entered into the record in IPR2024-00723.

IPR2025-00300
Patent 9,578,384 B2

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Sample Case Caption

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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VIZIO, INC., LG ELECTRONICS, INC., and
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IPR2024-00723
Patent 9,578,384 B2

¹ LG Electronics, Inc. and LG Electronics U.S.A., Inc., which filed a petition in IPR2025-00300, have been joined as a petitioner in this proceeding.