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Paper 15
Date: May 1, 2026

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT PARTNERS, LLC and
AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT PARTNERS, INC.,
Petitioner,

v.

HYDRAFACIAL LLC,
Patent Owner.

IPR2025-01169 (Patent 9,550,052 B2)
IPR2025-01217 (Patent 11,446,477 B2)[1]

Before JOHN A. SQUIRES, *Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.*

ORDER
Initiating *Sua Sponte* Director Review

[1] This Order applies to each of the listed cases.

On January 16, 2026, I issued a Notice granting institution of the above-referenced *inter partes* reviews ("IPRs") but stayed them in view of the pending Director Review of the institution decision in IPR2025-00145 ("145 IPR"). Paper 17 ("Notice"), 3.[2] On February 12, 2026, I vacated the Board's Decision granting institution the 145 IPR because the U.S. International Trade Commission ("ITC") already had found in an Initial Determination that the same challenged patent was not invalid based on the same prior art asserted in the 145 IPR. 145 IPR, Paper 41, Paper 46 (denying Request for Rehearing).

In light of my Decision in the 145 IPR, I determine that Director Review of the decision to institute these IPRs is appropriate to consider whether these IPRs also should be de-instituted and terminated in view of the ITC's findings on closely related claims. *See* Ex. 2161, 99–184. Accordingly, the parties are each authorized to file an additional brief addressing whether the challenged claims and asserted prior art in each of these IPRs are so closely related to the challenged claims and asserted prior art at issue in the 145 IPR that maintaining these IPRs in light of the ITC's determination would result in significant duplication of effort, additional expense for the parties, and a risk of inconsistent decisions. Each party shall file a brief of no more than ten pages no later than May 8, 2026. Additional evidence is not authorized at this time. An opinion will issue in due course.

[2] All citations are to IPR2025-01169. The Notice was also filed in IPR2025-01217.

Accordingly, it is:

ORDERED that a *sua sponte* Director Review of the Notice granting institution of *inter partes* review is initiated;

FURTHER ORDERED that the proceedings remain stayed pending a decision on Director Review or separate order lifting the stay; and

FURTHER ORDERED that the parties are authorized to file a ten-page brief addressing the issues set forth above no later than May 8, 2026.

FOR PETITIONER:

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