

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

SPOTIFY USA INC.,

Petitioner,

v.

MANUEL TIJERINO,

Patent Owner.

IPR2025-01280

U.S. Patent No. 9,146,925 B2

PATENT OWNER'S CONDITIONAL REQUEST

TO PARTICIPATE IN ORAL ARGUMENT

AND REQUEST FOR VIRTUAL APPEARANCE

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 42.70(a), the Scheduling Order (Paper 11), and Due Date 4, Patent Owner Manuel Tijerino respectfully submits this Conditional Request to Participate in Oral Argument and Request for Virtual Appearance.

1. Patent Owner does not independently request that the Board conduct oral argument and would prefer that this proceeding be decided on the written record.
2. On August 3, 2026, counsel for Petitioner informed Patent Owner that Petitioner intends to request an in-person oral hearing in Alexandria, Virginia, with one hour of argument per side.
3. On August 4, 2026, Patent Owner responded in writing that Patent Owner prefers resolution on the written record, does not independently request oral argument, does not agree to an exclusively in-person hearing in Alexandria, and, if oral argument is scheduled, requests authorization to participate virtually because in-person attendance would impose severe financial hardship.
4. The parties met and conferred regarding oral argument through written correspondence. Petitioner confirmed in writing that the parties' email exchange satisfied the meet-and-confer requirement set forth in Paper 11.
5. The parties have different preferences concerning oral argument. Petitioner intends to request an in-person hearing in Alexandria, Virginia. Patent Owner prefers resolution on the written record and, if oral argument is scheduled, requests authorization to participate virtually by videoconference.
6. If Petitioner timely requests oral argument and the Board schedules a hearing,

Patent Owner respectfully requests the opportunity to participate fully and to receive argument time equal to that provided to Petitioner.

7. If oral argument is held, Patent Owner independently requests authorization to appear virtually by videoconference, as required by the Scheduling Order.
8. Good cause exists because requiring Patent Owner to travel from Gretna, Louisiana, to Alexandria, Virginia, would impose severe financial hardship. Patent Owner is proceeding pro se, is presently unemployed, and reported adjusted gross income of \$0.00 for tax year 2025. Patent Owner lacks sufficient financial resources to pay for transportation, lodging, meals, and related expenses required for an in-person appearance.
9. Patent Owner possesses documentary verification of his financial hardship, including his 2025 federal income tax return reflecting adjusted gross income of \$0.00. Patent Owner can provide an appropriately redacted copy of that return if requested by the Board. Patent Owner has not publicly filed the return because it contains sensitive personally identifiable information unnecessary to resolve this request.
10. Virtual participation would permit Patent Owner to participate meaningfully while avoiding the severe financial hardship associated with in-person attendance. Patent Owner respectfully submits that permitting virtual participation would not prejudice Petitioner or the orderly administration of the hearing.
11. If oral argument is held, Patent Owner requests argument concerning the

following issues previously raised in the parties' papers:

- a. The patentability of the challenged claims under the instituted grounds;
- b. The proper interpretation and application of the challenged claim limitations;
- c. The claimed relationships among RMS analysis, storage of RMS-derived information, subsequent playback processing, normalization, and compression;
- d. Whether the asserted prior-art references and proposed combinations disclose or render obvious the complete claimed inventions;
- e. The priority, written-description, and entitlement issues addressed in the parties' papers;
- f. The arguments and evidence presented in the Petition, Patent Owner Response, Petitioner's Reply, and Patent Owner's Sur-Reply;
- g. Petitioner's Motion to Strike and Patent Owner's Opposition, to the extent that the motion remains pending or affects the permissible scope of oral argument; and
- h. Any other issue properly raised in the parties' papers and authorized by the Board for oral argument.

RELIEF REQUESTED

Patent Owner respectfully requests that, if oral argument is scheduled at Petitioner's request, the Board:

1. Permit Patent Owner to participate fully and with argument time equal to that provided to Petitioner; and
2. Authorize Patent Owner to appear virtually by videoconference based upon the severe financial hardship described above.

Respectfully submitted,

/Manuel Tijerino/

Manuel Tijerino

Patent Owner, pro se

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(515) 803-8907

Dated: **August 5, 2026**

DECLARATION OF MANUEL TIJERINO

I, Manuel Tijerino, declare as follows:

1. I am the Patent Owner in this proceeding and make this declaration from personal knowledge.
2. I am presently unemployed.
3. My adjusted gross income for tax year 2025 was \$0.00.
4. I do not have sufficient financial resources to pay the transportation, lodging, meals, and related expenses necessary to travel from Gretna, Louisiana, to Alexandria, Virginia, for oral argument.
5. Requiring an in-person appearance would impose severe financial hardship and could prevent me from participating meaningfully in the hearing.
6. I can provide appropriately redacted documentary verification of these facts if requested by the Board.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on **August 5, 2026**, in Gretna, Louisiana.

/Manuel Tijerino/

Manuel Tijerino

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 42.6(e), I certify that on **August 5, 2026**, a true and correct copy of the foregoing **Patent Owner's Conditional Request to Participate in Oral Argument and Request for Virtual Appearance** was served by electronic mail upon counsel for Petitioner at:

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/Manuel Tijerino/

Manuel Tijerino

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Dated: **August 5, 2026**