

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

CRÜZR SADDLES LLC,

Petitioner,

v.

TETHRD, LLC,

Patent Owner.

Case No. IPR2025-01407

Patent No. 11,964,175

SECOND DECLARATION OF NICHOLAS P. GODICI

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	INTRODUCTION	1
A.	Qualifications	1
B.	Prior Testimony	4
C.	Compensation.....	4
D.	Materials Considered.....	4
II.	THE PTAB, AS OPPOSED TO THE PATENTS ORGANIZATION, IS THE BEST FORUM TO RESOLVE THIS UNIQUE PATENTABILITY DISPUTE, INCLUDING PARTICULARLY THE CORRECT PRIORITY DATE BENEFIT.....	5
III.	USPTO EFFICIENCY FAVORS A SINGLE <i>INTER PARTES</i> PROCEEDING WITH ONE PTAB PANEL TO EVALUATE THE INVENTION SET FORTH IN THE '175 PATENT, AS OPPOSED TO MULTIPLE <i>EX PARTE</i> PROCEEDINGS WITH SEVERAL DIFFERENT EXAMINERS TO EVALUATE THE SAME INVENTION	12
IV.	THE PTAB'S FACTORS FOR EVALUATING A STAY INVOLVING PARALLEL USPTO PROCEEDINGS ALL FAVOR STAYING THE '004 REISSUE APPLICATION	15

TABLE OF AUTHORITIES

Page(s)

Cases

<i>Acrux DDS PTY Ltd. v. Kaken Pharm. Co., Ltd.</i> , IPR2017-00190 (Paper 31) (PTAB Aug. 31, 2017)	15
<i>Legend3D v. Prime Focus Creative Servs. Canada</i> , IPR2016-00806 (Paper 38) (PTAB Feb. 2, 2017)	15
<i>Unified Patents v. Harry Heslop</i> , IPR2016-01464 (Paper 13) (PTAB Feb. 10, 2017)	15

Statutes

35 U.S.C. § 3(b)(2)	2
35 U.S.C. § 102(b)	7
35 U.S.C. § 120	5
35 U.S.C. § 311	18

Other Authorities

37 C.F.R. § 1.56	7
37 C.F.R. § 1.103	17
84 Fed. Reg. 16,654 (Apr. 22, 2019)	16-18
M.P.E.P. § 1442.02	17-18
M.P.E.P. § 2001	7-8

SECOND GODICI DECLARATION EXHIBIT LIST

Paper 1 - Petition for Inter Partes Review of US 11,964,175
Paper 14 - Patent Owner Motion for Discretionary Denial
Paper 15 - Petitioner's Motion to Terminate or Stay Patent Owner's Reissue Application
Paper 16 - Patent Owner Brief Opposing Motion to Terminate or Stay
Ex. 1001 - US 11,964,175 (Power, II)
Ex. 1005 - US App. No. 17-867553
Ex. 1006-1 - US App. No. 18-602822 (updated)
Ex. 1137 - Cruzr's Initial Invalidity and Unenforceability Contentions (2025-07-02)
Ex. 1138 - Tethrd's Initial Validity and Enforceability Contentions (2025-07-23)
Ex. 1145 - SaddleHunter - Water under the Bridge[Q] Tethrd v. Latitude mavericks (pp1-4)
Ex. 1149 - US App. No. 19-331004
Ex. 1150 - US App. No. 19-330989
Ex. 1151 - US App. No. 18-671581
Ex. 1153 - In re Dahl, Office of Petitions (2006)
Ex. 2014 - Declaration of Walter Ernest Power, II

I, Nicholas P. Godici, being over the age of 18 and competent to make the statements herein, hereby declare that:

I. INTRODUCTION

1. I have been retained by counsel for Crüzr Saddles LLC (“Crüzr”) as an expert witness in connection with the above-captioned matter. I have been asked to provide expert testimony on rules, practices, and procedures related to the examination of patent applications by the United States Patent and Trademark Office (“USPTO”), including reissue applications.

A. Qualifications

2. My name is Nicholas P. Godici. I am currently an independent patent consultant based in Carlsbad, California. I have over 50 years of experience in the patent field. I spent 33 years of my career employed at the USPTO, as well as over 8 years as the Executive Advisor at the intellectual property law firm of Birch, Stewart, Kolasch & Birch LLP.

3. My curriculum vitae is attached to my First Declaration (Ex. 1152) as **Exhibit A**, which includes a list of all publications authored by me in the previous 10 years.

4. I began my career at the USPTO in 1972 as a patent examiner and rose through the ranks holding the positions of Supervisory Patent Examiner, Group Director, Deputy Assistant Commissioner, and Acting Assistant

Commissioner for Patents before being named Commissioner for Patents by the Secretary of Commerce on March 29, 2000. I served in that position for 5 years until my retirement from federal service in 2005.

5. During my time as an examiner at the USPTO, I examined several thousand patent applications. My name appears as the assistant or primary examiner on over 3,700 U.S. patents. During my career in the USPTO, I served as a lecturer in the “Patent Academy,” training hundreds of examiners on the USPTO practices and procedures for examining patent applications. Additionally, as a primary examiner and supervisory patent examiner, I provided one-on-one training to dozens of examiners regarding USPTO examination procedures. While in my various positions at the USPTO, and particularly as an examiner at the USPTO, an instructor at the USPTO Academy, a trainer of Patent Examiners at the USPTO, and as Commissioner for Patents at the USPTO with responsibility for writing and maintaining the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (“M.P.E.P.”).

6. As Commissioner for Patents, I was the Chief Operating Officer for all patent matters and responsible for the management and direction of all aspects and activities of patent operations at the USPTO.¹ My responsibilities included the

¹ 35 U.S.C. § 3(b)(2).

establishment and implementation of all patent examination policies, regulations, and guidelines as well as execution of a budget of over \$750 million and management of a staff of over 5,000 employees.

7. I also served as the Acting Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO from January to December 2001. In that capacity I reported directly to and advised the Secretary of Commerce on all intellectual property matters and was responsible for all operational aspects of the USPTO. I have testified before Congressional committees of both the House and Senate on various USPTO related issues.

8. After my retirement from the USPTO, I held the position of Executive Advisor for the intellectual property law firm of Birch, Stewart, Kolasch & Birch LLP from April 2005 to September 2013. My responsibilities included advising clients on USPTO regulations and procedures, assisting attorneys in patent prosecution matters including client development, consulting on patent related matters, and acting as an expert witness on USPTO related issues. I also served on the firm's policy and procedures committee.

9. I returned to the USPTO to serve on a temporary assignment from July through September 2009, at the request of the Secretary of Commerce. During that assignment I served as an expert advisor to the Secretary on USPTO management issues, prior to Senate confirmation of the new Under Secretary

nominated by the President.

B. Prior Testimony

10. A list of cases in which I have testified as an expert by deposition and/or trial in the last four years is attached to my First Declaration (Ex. 1152) as **Exhibit**

B.

C. Compensation

11. I am being compensated for my time spent on this matter at my regular billing rate of \$850 per hour. The compensation received from this matter is not contingent upon my opinions or performance, the outcome of the case, or any issues involved in or related to the case.

D. Materials Considered

12. The list of materials that I have considered in whole or in part in reaching my conclusions is set forth in the Second Godici Declaration Exhibit List above. My opinions are also based on my education, training, research, knowledge, and personal and professional experience. In forming my opinions, I have particularly relied on the knowledge gained from my experience while serving in my various positions at the USPTO and in private practice after retiring from the USPTO.

II. THE PTAB, AS OPPOSED TO THE PATENTS ORGANIZATION, IS THE BEST FORUM TO RESOLVE THIS UNIQUE PATENTABILITY DISPUTE, INCLUDING PARTICULARLY THE CORRECT PRIORITY DATE BENEFIT

13. The PTAB is the best forum to evaluate the patentability issues presented in Crüzr's IPR Petition for a number of reasons, including the following:

14. The PTAB has unique expertise and discovery authority in evaluating disputes about patent application priority dates (and particularly relevant here, breaks in continuity in applicants' priority claims) for patent family chains under 35 U.S.C. § 120. To date, Tethrd has submitted two separate fact declarations² regarding this issue, both of which fail to support Tethrd's conclusions that the entire delay in filing the corrected priority claim was unintentional. An IPR proceeding provides the USPTO with the ability to authorize discovery (*e.g.*, cross-examination) on this important issue. In contrast, the Patents Organization will typically accept the statements made by a declarant on their face, relying principally on the applicant's and their counsel's duty of candor set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56. The USPTO's goal of providing greater predictability and certainty in the Patent System favors review by a panel of highly trained APJs evaluating

² (1) Statement of Adam J. Thompson (Ex. 1149 at 321-23); and

(2) Declaration of Walter Ernest Power, II (Ex. 2014).

disputed and belated priority date claims, especially when declarants provide facially inadequate factual declarations and the patent is asserted in litigation.

15. In the circumstances here, after Crüzr explicitly raised the break in continuity of the '175 Patent's priority benefit claim, Tethrd chose to litigate the disputed priority date issue in the district court rather than raise it with the USPTO:

For further example, using the '175 Patent's correct priority date (*viz.*, April 15, 2021, because of a break in continuity of the priority benefit claim), the claim chart below demonstrates how the asserted claims are anticipated and rendered obvious in view of the following selected and non-exhaustive prior art references:

Ex. 1137 (Cruzr's Invalidity Contentions (July 2, 2025)), at 14-20.

The Correct Priority Date for the 175 Patent

Inexplicably, Cruzr fails to explain how or why it believes the purported "correct" priority date is April 15, 2021. Specifically, U.S. Patent Application 16/736,345 was filed on January 7, 2020, and subsequently the decision granting abandonment was dated September 22, 2020. Before that date, U.S. Patent Application No. 17/022,844 was filed on September 16, 2020, and that application was abandoned on June 2, 2021. Before that date, the 717 Application was filed on April 15, 2021, which issued as U.S. Patent No. 11,504,556 on November 22, 2022. Before that date, U.S. Patent Application No. 17/867,553 was filed on July 18, 2022, and issued as the 175 Patent. Accordingly, the 175 Patent properly claims priority to the earliest application date of January 7, 2020.

Therefore, art published after January 7, 2020, including those cited in pages 14-20 of Cruzr's contentions are not prior art.

Ex. 1138 at 29.

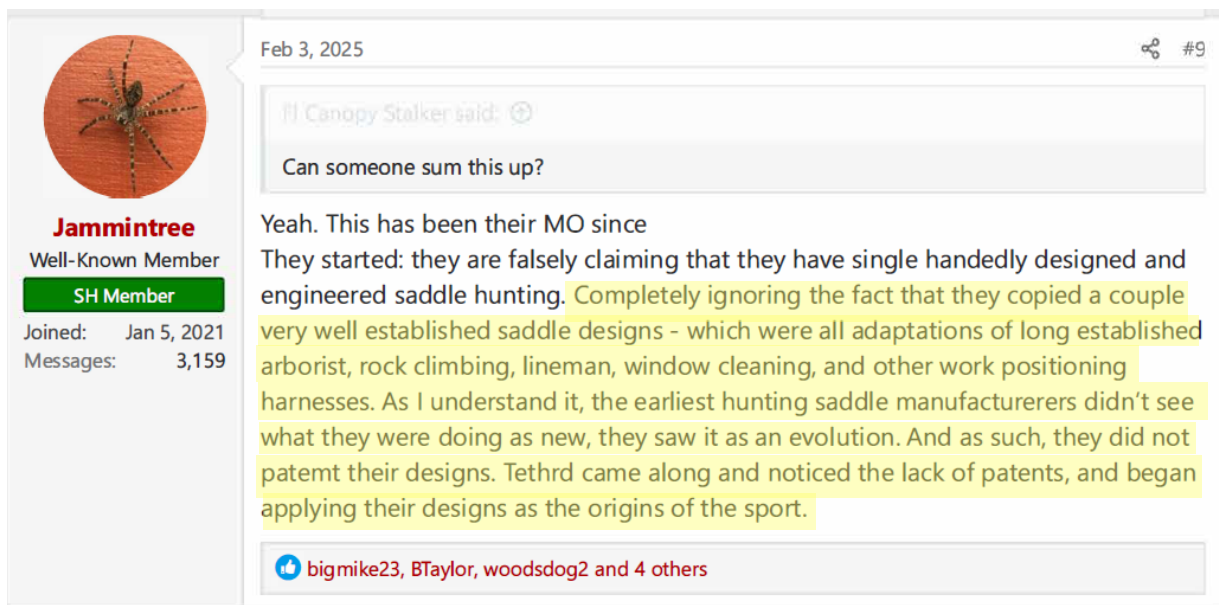
16. A highly experienced PTAB panel would be a considerably better forum for the parties to correctly and fairly resolve this priority date dispute, at least in part because of the PTAB's discovery authority, as opposed to a limited *ex parte* process in the Patents Organization.

17. Second, the PTAB has unique expertise in evaluating status of information on the Internet (and particularly relevant here, YouTube videos and public message forums) as printed publications under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Where potential disputes are likely to arise about whether an Internet message board posting or YouTube video qualifies as a printed publication under Section 102, the PTAB has specific experience in deciding these issues. Indeed, authentication declarations from librarians and Internet archivists (*e.g.*, the Wayback Machine), including potential cross-examinations relating to those declarations, are commonly assessed by PTAB panels, but are uncommon in *ex parte* prosecution.

18. Third, the PTAB has an important public policy interest in reinforcing inventors' ongoing duty to disclose *all* material prior art known to them under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and M.P.E.P. § 2001, not just submitting only patent documents obtained from a routine patent search. The USPTO's goal of high quality patent

examination requires disclosure of all known material prior art from any source by patent applicants and their counsel. *See* M.P.E.P. § 2001.06.

19. In this case, members of the saddle hunting community have recognized that printed publications on the Internet, and particularly posts on the *SaddleHunter* message forum, are a key source of prior art in this field (none which Tethrd provided to the USPTO during the prosecution of the '175 Patent):





FI Canopy Stalker
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Feb 4, 2021
Messages: 5,499

Feb 3, 2025 #11

Piebe said: 

[View attachment 114293](#)

I remember the assassin being around 18 by 14 and weighing around 6lbs. Which was pretty light and definitely folded flat. Add in that the old ameristeps and cranford steps were "ultralight" as well.... The kestrel was heavier than the mantis but the kite was pretty ultralight and both were more comfortable. Everything about these claims can be debunked... comfort is subjective but I bet if someone did any sort of meaningful polling, they would not be voted most comfortable or safest... While they were the first commercial saddle to use amsteel, they couldn't patent it. And if memory serves me, quite a few DIY guys on here had publicly used amsteel Whoopi slings as bridges prior to the phantom being released. They weren't the first company to make an adjustable rope bridge. So the scope of their patent boils down to the length of the bury. By full burying the splice, it creates a double braided rope. This allows better holding for knots and hitches which is common practice in the rope world as a whole. Samson literally has splicing instructions on their website for amsteel with an eye. They list a minimum length of bury, however they do not have a maximum bury suggestion. So the patent office literally gave them a patent for splicing a rope. Which never should have happened. To me it just further shows the lack of "due diligence" performed by the USPO... without sounding political here; It's one of the government organizations that if DOGE cut, I wouldn't be the least bit upset about 🤔

Last edited: Feb 3, 2025

 millz, Bwhana, BTaylor and 3 others



Jammintree
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Jan 5, 2021
Messages: 3,159

Feb 3, 2025 #28

I wonder if all the saddle hunting companies will pool their resources and hire a patent lawyer to prove that many of tethrds patents were issued without cause. Certainly some searches on this forum would generate lots of evidence that undermines tethrds claims of origination.

  bowhuntr09, Sage, Topdog and 7 others



FI Canopy Stalker
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Feb 4, 2021
Messages: 5,499

Feb 3, 2025 #37

Truth is, this forum and its archives may literally be the thing that helps, Cruzr, latitude, hang free and timber ninja win this... Anyone who takes the time to read up in here should be able to find where any of their "patent" ideas came from as they aren't patent-able if they are already out on a public space or if they aren't new or non-obvious

bowhuntr09, Topdog, Porter and 8 others



Jammintree
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Jan 5, 2021
Messages: 3,159

Feb 6, 2025 #68

woodsdog2 said:

This is the sad reality and is what is most at stake. There should always be consumer choice. An attempt at oligarchical price controls via.... patent and copyright loopholes heck even a potential monopoly on saddle gear would be third world type crud. I knew I didn't like 'em!!!

It'll be interesting to see what happens. If any other saddle company can afford legal fees there's a good chance a judge will find at least some of the patents don't hold up. This forum will be submitted as evidence of the timeline of events. Our little site does count as publishing of ideas and documentation of product development.

I think tethrds strategy is to hit the small companies while they are in startup phase, before they can afford representation.

Do any of you know much about patent law? Is there a period of time in which a patent that has been issued can be contested?

woodsdog2 and FI Canopy Stalker

Ex. 1145 at 4, 5, 12, 14, 25.

20. In the circumstances here, the PTAB's highly experienced APJs would be the far better forum for the USPTO to publicly articulate the obligations of disclosure that are imposed upon patent applicants and their counsel, and to fully evaluate the facts relevant to the disputed priority claim. In particular, while high quality patent examination is an important goal of the Office, that goal can

only be achieved when parties are forthcoming with all information required by their duty of disclosure.

21. In this case, Crüzr has undertaken extensive research to present to the USPTO *for the first time* dozens of Internet prior art references, including forum message board posts and YouTube videos. While Tethrd was aware of much of this Internet prior art, having actively participated in those forums, Tethrd chose to disclose *none* of it to the USPTO during prosecution of the '175 Patent.

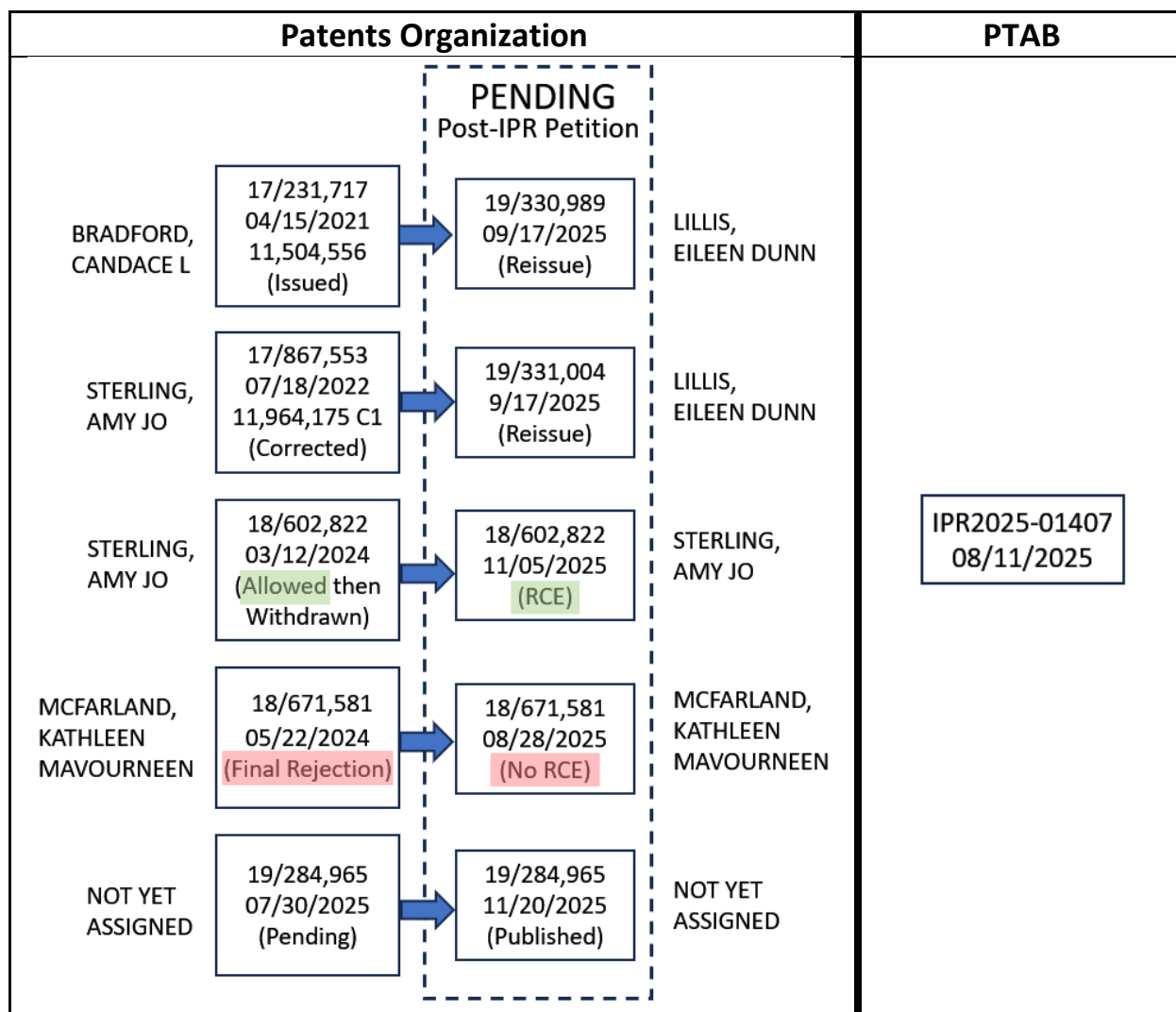
22. In this case, while some of the Internet prior art is self-explanatory, some of that art would benefit considerably from an expert's contextual discussion. Thus, simply providing several different patent examiners with a laundry list of Internet prior art in the *ex parte* examination of multiple applications is unfair and unduly burdensome for the examiners to consider. The proper forum for this prior art to be evaluated in the context of a POSA's understanding would be in an *inter partes* proceeding supported by expert testimony, not in *ex parte* examination.

23. Further, as discussed above, where the challenged patent's broken priority claim remains in dispute, those complex issues would be best decided in a single proceeding before the PTAB rather than in multiple *ex parte* examinations.

III. USPTO EFFICIENCY FAVORS A SINGLE *INTER PARTES* PROCEEDING WITH ONE PTAB PANEL TO EVALUATE THE INVENTION SET FORTH IN THE '175 PATENT, AS OPPOSED TO MULTIPLE *EX PARTE* PROCEEDINGS WITH SEVERAL DIFFERENT EXAMINERS TO EVALUATE THE SAME INVENTION

24. In conducting a preliminary review of Tethrd's prosecution activity, it becomes readily apparent that Tethrd is attempting to improperly exploit the USPTO's *ex parte* processes—including the patent reissue process—to Tethrd's advantage (and likely to the disadvantage of Tethrd's competitors, like Crüzr).

25. In particular, in the patent family of the challenged '175 Patent, there are currently five (5) separate pending patent applications, assigned to at least three (3) different patent examiners:



26. I have included the currently pending claim sets for the first four of the above Tethrd patent applications as **Exhibit H**, which I am informed and believe is accurate.

27. As Tethrd's pending patent claims reveal, Tethrd is pursuing substantially similar and likely patentably indistinct claim sets in at least four different patent applications—including two reissue applications—before at least three different patent examiners. *Id.*

Claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 11,964,175 (the Challenged '175 Patent), same as Claim 1 of U.S. Pat. App. No. 19/331,004 (the '004 Reissue Application) (Filed Sept. 17, 2025)	Claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 11,504,556 (the Parent '556 Patent), same as Claim 1 of U.S. Pat. App. No. 19/330,989 (the Parallel '989 Reissue Application) (Filed Sept. 17, 2025)	Claim 1 of U.S. Pat. App. No. 18/602,822 (the Child '822 Application) (Allowed/Withdrawn/RCE Nov. 5, 2025)	Claim 1 of U.S. Pat. App. No. 18/671,581 (the Grandchild '581 Application) (Final Rejection Aug. 25, 2025 / No RCE)
Examiner: EILEEN DUNN LILLIS	Examiner: EILEEN DUNN LILLIS	Examiner: AMY JO STERLING	Examiner: KATHLEEN MAVOURNEEN MCFARLAND
1. A bridge rope assembly configured to couple together a tree rope to a first bridge loop and a second bridge loop on a harness, the bridge rope assembly including: a main body comprising a rope having a first end and a second end, the main body having a splice therein to form an eye loop in the main body, the eye loop being configured to engage the first bridge loop, the main body comprising a first portion including the first end and a second portion including the second end, the first portion extending through the second portion of the main body such that the first end is positioned within the second portion adjacent to the second end; and a friction hitch being positioned on the main body between the second end and the eye loop, the friction hitch being configured to engage the second bridge loop, the friction hitch comprising a closed loop.	1. A bridge rope assembly configured to couple together a tree rope to a first bridge loop and a second bridge loop on a harness, the bridge rope assembly including: a main body comprising a rope having a first end and a second end, the main body having a splice therein to form an eye loop in the main body, the eye loop being configured to engage the first bridge loop, the main body comprising a first portion including the first end and a second portion including the second end, the first portion extending through the second portion of the main body such that the first end is positioned within the second portion adjacent to the second end, a friction hitch being positioned on the main body between the second end stop knot and the eye loop, the friction hitch being configured to engage the second bridge loop, the friction hitch comprising a closed loop,	1. A bridge rope assembly configured to couple together a tree rope to ~~a first bridge loop and a second bridge loop on a harness~~, the bridge rope assembly including: a main body comprising a rope having a first end and a second end, the main body having a splice therein to form an eye loop in the main body, ~~the eye loop being configured to engage the first bridge loop~~, the main body comprising a first portion including the first end and a second portion including the second end, the first portion extending through the second portion of the main body such that the first end is positioned within the second portion adjacent to the second end; and <u>the main body being attached to the tree rope between the eye loop and the second end.</u> [2. . . . a friction hitch being positioned on the main body between the second end and the eye loop, ~~the friction hitch being configured to engage the second bridge loop~~, the friction hitch comprising a closed loop.	1. A bridge rope assembly configured to couple together a tree rope to a first bridge loop and a second bridge loop on a harness, the bridge rope assembly including: a main body comprising a rope having a first end and a second end, the main body having a splice therein to form an eye loop in the main body, the eye loop being configured to permanently or releasably engage with the first bridge loop to permanently or releasably secure the main body to the first bridge loop, the main body comprising a first portion including the first end and a second portion including the second end, the first portion extending through the second portion of the main body such that the first end is positioned within the second portion adjacent to the second end; and a friction hitch being positioned on the main body between the second end and the eye loop, the friction hitch being configured to permanently or releasably engage with the second bridge loop to permanently or releasably secure the friction hitch to the second bridge loop, the friction hitch comprising a closed loop.

See Ex. H (complete claim listings and side-by-side comparisons).

28. Further, Tethrd has disclosed different prior art references in its various pending applications, creating an inconsistent prosecution record and an unfair burden on the several patent examiners. The prosecution strategy adopted

by Tethrd here is likely to lead to inconsistent results in the *ex parte* examination process. It is therefore unsurprising that Tethrd has recently filed a Request for Continuing Examination (“RCE”) with Examiner Sterling, who previously allowed Tethrd’s claims, but Tethrd has *not* pursued an RCE with Examiner McFarland, who previously rejected Tethrd’s claims.

29. In the circumstances here, USPTO efficiency favors a single *inter partes* proceeding with a single PTAB panel to evaluate the invention set forth in the ’175 patent as opposed to multiple *ex parte* proceedings with several different patent examiners to evaluate the same invention.

30. Avoiding duplication of efforts and wasting resources “outweigh[s]” any concerns of delaying the reissue. *Legend3D v. Prime Focus Creative Servs. Canada*, IPR2016-00806 (Paper 38) (PTAB Feb. 2, 2017). Such duplicative effort and the resulting risk of inconsistent results favors a stay of at least Tethrd’s pending ’004 Reissue Application. *E.g.*, *Unified Patents*, Paper 13, at 2; *Acrux DDS PTY Ltd. v. Kaken Pharm. Co., Ltd.*, IPR2017-00190, Paper 31, at 3 (PTAB Aug. 31, 2017); *Legend3D, Inc.*, Paper 38, at 3-4.

IV. THE PTAB’S FACTORS FOR EVALUATING A STAY INVOLVING PARALLEL USPTO PROCEEDINGS ALL FAVOR STAYING THE ’004 REISSUE APPLICATION

31. The USPTO’s “Notice Regarding Options for Amendments by Patent Owner Through Reissue or Reexamination During a Pending AIA Trial

Proceeding (April 2019)” provides relevant factors for the PTAB to evaluate when considering the stay of a co-pending reissue application:

In deciding whether to grant a stay of a parallel proceeding involving the same patent within the Office, the Office (typically the Board) may consider a number of factors, including, but not limited to:

- Whether the claims challenged in the AIA proceeding are the same as or depend directly or indirectly from claims at issue in the concurrent parallel Office proceeding;
- Whether the same grounds of unpatentability or the same prior art are at issue in both proceedings;
- Whether the concurrent parallel Office proceeding will duplicate efforts within the Office;
- Whether the concurrent parallel Office proceeding could result in inconsistent results between proceedings (*e.g.*, whether substantially similar issues are presented in the concurrent parallel Office proceeding);
- Whether amending the claim scope in one proceeding would affect the claim scope in another proceeding;
- The respective timeline and stage of each proceeding;
- The statutory deadlines of the respective proceedings;
- Whether a decision in one proceeding would likely simplify issues in the concurrent parallel Office proceeding or render it moot.

84 Fed. Reg. 16,654, 16657 (Apr. 22, 2019) (citing case).

32. Based on my current review of this AIA proceeding and Tethrd’s

multiple parallel applications, including two separate reissue applications, each of these factors weighs in favor of the PTAB staying the '004 Reissue Application in view of this IPR. In particular, this IPR and the '004 Reissue Application involve the same 14 claims of the same '175 Patent; involve the same Section 102 and Section 103 patentability challenges; will duplicate efforts within the USPTO; and could result in inconsistent results between proceedings. Further, amending the claim scope in this IPR would affect the claim scope in the reissue application; this IPR was filed before the '004 Reissue Application; the statutory deadline for this IPR is shorter than the typical duration of a reissue proceed, which has no statutory deadline; and a decision in this IPR would likely simplify issues in the parallel reissue proceeding, and will likely render it moot.

33. Tethrd requests that “the Reissue Application be allowed to proceed [because] it is [Tethrd’s] desire that the application be examined at that time.” Motion for Discretionary Denial, Paper 14, at 2 n.2 (quoting M.P.E.P. § 1442.02). But Tethrd’s reliance on that MPEP provision is misplaced because it is directed to requests to the Patents Organization (“Patents”) as opposed to the PTAB:

The *Patents Organization* (which are the offices under the Commissioner for Patents, *hereinafter* “*Patents*”) also may decide to suspend proceedings in a parallel reissue application either *sua sponte* or on request of the applicant under 37 CFR 1.103. *See also MPEP 1442.02. Patents typically will consider similar factors to those*

discussed above but will weigh them in view of relevant facts and circumstances at the time suspension is being considered.

84 Fed. Reg. at 16657 (emphases added).

34. In the circumstances here, Patents has not (at least to date) indicated that it intends to stay the '004 Reissue Application *sua sponte*, and at this time neither party has requested that Patents do so. Accordingly, because the currently pending motions are before the PTAB, not Patents, the factors for consideration of a stay by Patents pursuant to M.P.E.P. § 1442.02 are not directly relevant. When the PTAB considers whether to stay the parallel '004 Reissue Application, as here, the non-exhaustive factors for the PTAB to evaluate are set forth above.

35. Further, Tethrd's reliance on the "applicant's desire that the application be examined at that time" makes little sense in the context of contested PTAB motions, like the ones here. In this IPR, Tethrd's "desire" is nothing more than opposing Crüzr's Motion to Stay. *See* Papers 15 & 16. Not surprisingly, after receiving the highly persuasive IPR petition, Tethrd now wishes to convert a rigorous *inter partes* proceeding into an *ex parte* one, thereby avoiding the scrutiny of highly trained APJs and limiting Crüzr's participation. Such a result would provide an unjustifiable end run around AIA proceedings, contrary to Congress' intent. *See* 35 U.S.C. § 311 ("[A] person who is not the owner of a patent may file with the Office a petition to institute an inter partes review of the patent").

I declare under penalty of perjury under the law of the United States that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and believe are believed to be true, and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code.

Dated: 11/24, 2025

Nicholas P. Godici
Nicholas P. Godici

EXHIBIT H

Claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 11,964,175 (the Challenged '175 Patent), same as Claim 1 of U.S. Pat. App. No. 19/331,004 (the '004 Reissue Application) (Filed Sept. 17, 2025)	Claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 11,504,556 (the Parent '556 Patent), same as Claim 1 of U.S. Pat. App. No. 19/330,989 (the Parallel '989 Reissue Application) (Filed Sept. 17, 2025)	Claim 1 of U.S. Pat. App. No. 18/602,822 (the Child '822 Application) (Allowed/Withdrawn/ RCE Nov. 5, 2025)	Claim 1 of U.S. Pat. App. No. 18/671,581 (the Grandchild '581 Application) (Final Rejection Aug. 25, 2025 / No RCE)
Examiner: EILEEN DUNN LILLIS	Examiner: EILEEN DUNN LILLIS	Examiner: AMY JO STERLING	Examiner: KATHLEEN MAVOURNEEN MCFARLAND
1. A bridge rope assembly configured to couple together a tree rope to a first bridge loop and a second bridge loop on a harness, the bridge rope assembly including: a main body comprising a rope having a first end and a second end, the main body having a splice therein to form an eye loop in the main body, the eye loop being configured to engage the first bridge loop, the main body comprising a first portion including the first end and a second portion including the second end, the first portion extending through the second portion of the main body such that the first end is positioned	1. A bridge rope assembly configured to couple together a tree rope to a first bridge loop and a second bridge loop on a harness, the bridge rope assembly including: a main body comprising a rope having a first end and a second end, the main body having a splice therein to form an eye loop in the main body, the eye loop being configured to engage the first bridge loop, the main body comprising a first portion including the first end and a second portion including the second end, the first portion extending through the second portion of the main body such that the first end is positioned	1. A bridge rope assembly configured to couple together a tree rope to ~~a first bridge loop and a second bridge loop on a~~ harness, the bridge rope assembly including: a main body comprising a rope having a first end and a second end, the main body having a splice therein to form an eye loop in the main body, ~~the eye loop being configured to engage the first bridge loop,~~ the main body comprising a first portion including the first end and a second portion including the second end, the first portion extending through the second portion of the main body such that the first end is positioned	1. A bridge rope assembly configured to couple together a tree rope to a first bridge loop and a second bridge loop on a harness, the bridge rope assembly including: a main body comprising a rope having a first end and a second end, the main body having a splice therein to form an eye loop in the main body, the eye loop being configured to <u>permanently or releasably</u> engage <u>with</u> the first bridge loop <u>to permanently or releasably secure the main body to the first bridge loop,</u> the main body comprising a first portion including the first end and a second portion including the second end, the first

within the second portion adjacent to the second end; and [14. . . . a distance between the first and second ends is less than 2.0 inches.] [2. . . . the rope has a length from the first end to the second end between 72.0 inches and 126.0 inches.] [3/12. . . . a distance of the eye loop to the second end is between 24.0 inches and 40.0 inches.] [5. . . . a securing member being positioned on the main body at a juncture of the first and second ends to retain the first and second ends at a static position relative to each other.] [4. . . . the main body includes a stop knot in the second portion adjacent to the second end.]	within the second portion adjacent to the second end, a distance between the first and second ends being less than 2.0 inches, the rope having a length from the first end to the second end between 72.0 inches and 126.0 inches, a distance of the eye loop to the second end being between 24.0 inches and 40.0 inches; a securing member being positioned on the main body at a juncture of the first and second ends to retain the first and second ends at a static position relative to each other; the main body including a stop knot in the second portion adjacent to the second end;	within the second portion adjacent to the second end; and <u>the main body being attached to the tree rope between the eye loop and the second end.</u> [15. . . . a distance between the first and second ends is less than 2.0 inches.] [3. . . . the rope has a length from the first end to the second end between 72.0 inches and 126.0 inches.] [4/13. . . . a distance of the eye loop to the second end is between 24.0 inches and 40.0 inches.] [6. . . . a securing member being positioned on the main body at a juncture of the first and second ends to retain the first and second ends at a static position relative to each other.] [5. . . . the main body includes a stop knot in the second portion adjacent to the second end.]	portion extending through the second portion of the main body such that the first end is positioned within the second portion adjacent to the second end; and [14. . . . a distance between the first and second ends is less than 2.0 inches.] [2. . . . the rope has a length from the first end to the second end between 72.0 inches and 126.0 inches.] [3/12. . . . a distance of the eye loop to the second end is between 24.0 inches and 40.0 inches.] [5. . . . a securing member being positioned on the main body at a juncture of the first and second ends to retain the first and second ends at a static position relative to each other.] [4. . . . the main body includes a stop knot in the second portion adjacent to the second end.]
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a friction hitch being positioned on the main body between the second end and the eye loop, the friction hitch being configured to engage the second bridge loop, the friction hitch comprising a closed loop. [6. . . . the closed loop comprises a single rope being formed into the closed loop.] [7. . . . the single rope of the closed loop has a length between 40.0 inches and 60.0 inches.] [8/9/13. . . . the closed loop has a total circumference of between 20.0 inches and 30.0 inches.]	a friction hitch being positioned on the main body between the ~~second end~~ stop knot and the eye loop, the friction hitch being configured to engage the second bridge loop, the friction hitch comprising a closed loop, the closed loop comprising a single rope being formed into the closed loop <u>with a splice,</u> <u>the splice having a pair of ends, each end of the pair of ends being buried into the closed loop a distance of at least 40% of a total circumference of the closed loop,</u> the single rope of the closed loop having a length between 40.0 inches and 60.0 inches, the closed loop having a total circumference of between 20.0 inches and 30.0 inches;	[2. . . . a friction hitch being positioned on the main body between the second end and the eye loop, ~~the friction hitch being configured to engage the second bridge loop,~~ the friction hitch comprising a dosed loop. [7. . . . the closed loop comprises a single rope being formed into the closed loop.] [8. . . . the single rope of the closed loop has a length between 40.0 inches and 60.0 inches.] [9/10. . . . the closed loop has a total circumference of between 20.0 inches and 30.0 inches.]	a friction hitch being positioned on the main body between the second end and the eye loop, the friction hitch being configured to <u>permanently or releasably</u> engage <u>with</u> the second bridge loop <u>to permanently or releasably secure the friction hitch to the second bridge loop,</u> the friction hitch comprising a closed loop. [6. . . . the closed loop comprises a single rope being formed into the closed loop.] [7. . . . the single rope of the closed loop has a length between 40.0 inches and 60.0 inches.] [8/9/13. . . . the closed loop has a total circumference of between 20.0 inches and 30.0 inches.]
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[10/11. . . . the main body and the friction hitch each are comprised of UMWPE.]	the main body and the friction hitch each being comprised of UHMWPE.	[11. . . . the main body and the friction hitch each are comprised of UHMWPE.]	[10. . . . the main body and the friction hitch each are comprised of UHMWPE.]
Ex. 1001 at 14; Ex. 1149 at 376.	Ex. 1004 at 30-31; Ex. 1150 at 173.	Ex. 1006-1 at 40-41.	Ex. 1151 at 152-53.