

REQUEST FOR REFUND

Reference # <i>(Patent #, Application #, etc.)</i>		Title of Invention or Mark Information	
IPR2026-00002		Customization of Vehicle Controls and Settings Based on User Profile Data	
Attorney Docket # <i>(if applicable)</i>	Payment Date <i>(mm/dd/yyyy)</i>	Refund Request Amount	
FPGP0153IPR	10/02/2025	\$ 28,125.00	
Refund Option <i>(Select an option for your refund, if approved)</i>			
☐ Refund to the credit/debit card, electronic funds transfer (EFT), or deposit account associated with the original payment. If the original payment was a U.S. check from a personal or business checking account, I understand the refund will be issued by EFT to the same checking account. ☒ Refund to deposit account # <u>06-1510</u>. ☐ There is no deposit account available to issue the refund and the original payment was a foreign check, cashier's check, money order, or wire transfer; or the original payment account is unavailable (e.g., the account is closed). I understand you will contact me with additional instructions using the contact information entered below if the refund is approved.			
Reason for Refund Request <i>Refund requests must generally be filed within 2 years of payment date (37 CFR 1.26 and 2.209)</i>			
☐ Duplicate Payment ☐ No Fee Due ☐ Office Error ☒ Other: Discretionary denial ☐ Small Entity Later Established* *Must be filed within 3 months of payment date (37 CFR 1.28). There is no refund when micro entity is later established.			
Rationale <i>(Supporting documentation may be submitted with this form)</i>			
Institution of Petition for Inter Partes Review was denied based upon discretionary denial on January 27, 2026 (Exhibit A) and the opinion was received on February 10, 2026 (Exhibit B). The receipt for petition filing fees is attached as Exhibit C.			

Requester's Information

Company or Firm Name <i>(if applicable)</i>		
Brooks Kushman P.C.		
Address Line 1	City	State/Region
150 W. Second St.	Royal Oak	MI
Address Line 2 <i>(if applicable)</i>	Country	Zip/Postal Code
Suite 400N	United States	48067-3846
Email Address		Phone Number
aturner@brookskushman.com		(248) 358-4400
Requester's Name		Registration Number <i>(if applicable)</i>
Andrew B. Turner		63,121
Signature		Date <i>(mm/dd/yyyy)</i>
/Andrew B. Turner/		04/01/2026

Submit online via Patent Center (Patents customers who are registered users only): <https://patentcenter.uspto.gov> or

Fax to: 571-273-6500, or

Mail to: Mail Stop 16, Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

EXHIBIT A

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

NOTICE OF DECISIONS ON INSTITUTION

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

NOTICE

Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 314(a), after review of discretionary considerations, institution of *inter partes* review is denied in the following proceedings:

IPR2025-01272 ¹	IPR2025-01532	IPR2025-01565
IPR2025-01384 ²	IPR2025-01539	IPR2025-01569
IPR2025-01423	IPR2025-01551	IPR2025-01594
IPR2025-01436	IPR2025-01552	IPR2025-01595
IPR2025-01437	IPR2025-01553	IPR2026-00002 ³
IPR2025-01438	IPR2025-01554	IPR2026-00025
IPR2025-01463	IPR2025-01555	IPR2026-00026
IPR2025-01509	IPR2025-01564	IPR2026-00027
IPR2025-01511		

¹ Although previously referred, this case is now discretionarily denied in view of *Revvo Technologies, Inc. v. Cerebrum Sensor Technologies, Inc.*, IPR2025-00632, Paper 20 (Director Nov. 3, 2025) (precedential).

² Although previously referred, this case is now discretionarily denied in view of *Revvo Technologies, Inc. v. Cerebrum Sensor Technologies, Inc.*, IPR2025-00632, Paper 20 (Director Nov. 3, 2025) (precedential).

³ Opinion forthcoming.

Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 314(a) and § 324(a), after review of discretionary considerations, the following proceedings will be reviewed for merits and non-discretionary considerations:

IPR2025-01271	IPR2025-01573	IPR2025-01598
IPR2025-01457	IPR2025-01574	PGR2025-00084
IPR2025-01540	IPR2025-01575	PGR2025-00086
IPR2025-01541	IPR2025-01588	PGR2025-00088
IPR2025-01566	IPR2025-01593	PGR2025-00089
IPR2025-01567		

Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 314(a) and § 324(a), after review of the merits, the petitioner has shown a reasonable likelihood of prevailing with respect to at least one of the claims challenged in the petition, or that it is more likely than not that at least one of the claims challenged in the petition is unpatentable, as applicable, and no other non-discretionary considerations warrant denial of institution. Accordingly, institution of *inter partes* review or post-grant review is granted in the following proceedings:

IPR2025-01367	IPR2025-01391	PGR2025-00070
IPR2025-01374		

EXHIBIT B

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

FORD MOTOR COMPANY,
Petitioner,

v.

AUTOCONNECT HOLDINGS LLC,
Patent Owner.

IPR2026-00002
Patent 9,147,296 B2

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

DECISION
Denying Institution of *Inter Partes* Review

AutoConnect Holdings LLC (“Patent Owner”) filed a request for discretionary denial (Paper 6, “DD Req.”) in the above-captioned case, and Ford Motor Company (“Petitioner”) filed an opposition (Paper 8, “DD Opp.”). With authorization, Patent Owner filed a Reply (Paper 9).

After considering the parties’ arguments and the record, and in view of all relevant considerations, discretionary denial of institution is appropriate in this proceeding. *See* Paper 10 (“Notice of Decisions on Institution” or “Notice”), 1. This determination is based on the totality of the evidence and arguments the parties have presented.

In particular, after the Petition was filed in this proceeding, a petition for reexamination was filed by a third-party, and the Office ordered an *ex parte* reexamination¹ on November 21, 2025, prior to an institution decision in this proceeding. *See* Paper 7, 2. In the *ex parte* reexamination, the Office identified a substantial new question of patentability affecting all claims of the challenged patent. *See* Control No. 90/015,634 Order mailed Nov. 21, 2025. Absent exceptional circumstances, such as gamesmanship by Patent Owner filing a petition for reexamination or collusive litigation tactics, it would not be an efficient use of Office resources to institute a trial when there is an ongoing reexamination of the same claims at issue.²

¹ Control No. 90/015,634.

² On the other hand, if a trial already has been instituted, it may be an efficient use of Office resources to continue the proceeding because the Office typically will stay a reexamination pending resolution of the trial. *See* 35 U.S.C. § 315(d); 37 C.F.R. § 42.122(a); *Notice Regarding Options for Amendments by Patent Owner Through Reissue or Reexamination During a Pending AIA Trial Proceeding*, 84 Fed. Reg. 16,654, 16,656 (Apr. 22, 2019).

Although certain arguments are highlighted above, the determination to exercise discretion to deny institution is based on a holistic assessment of all of the evidence and arguments presented. Accordingly, the Petition is denied under 35 U.S.C. § 314(a).

In consideration of the foregoing, it is:

ORDERED that Patent Owner's request for discretionary denial is *granted*; and

FURTHER ORDERED that the Petition is *denied*, and no trial is instituted.

IPR2026-00002
Patent 9,147,296 B2

FOR PETITIONER:

Andrew Turner
John LeRoy
Christopher Smith
Cameron Anstess
BROOKS KUSHMAN P.C.
aturner@brookskushman.com
jleroy@brookskushman.com
csmith@brookskushman.com
canstess@brookskushman.com

FOR PATENT OWNER:

Eric A. Zelepugas
Robert A. Conley
AVANTECH LAW, LLP
zelepugas@avantechlaw.com
conley@avantechlaw.com

EXHIBIT C



United States Patent and Trademark Office

USPTO
P.O.Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

Fee payments receipt

AIA REVIEW NUMBER

IPR2026-00002

AIA REVIEW TYPE

Inter Partes Review

PATENT OWNER/RESPONDENT'S PATENT NUMBER

9147296

RECEIPT DATE

10/02/2025 16:14:26 ET

PAYMENT STATUS

CLEARED

TOTAL PAYMENT

\$51,875.00

Payment Summary

Transaction Date	Payment Method	Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Fee Amount	Fee Total
10/02/2025 16:14:26	DA	INTER PARTES REVIEW REQUEST FEE - UP TO 20 CLAIMS	1406	1	\$23,750.00	\$23,750.00
10/02/2025 16:14:26	DA	INTER PARTES REVIEW POST-INSTITUTION FEE - UP TO 20 CLAIMS	1414	1	\$28,125.00	\$28,125.00
					Total Fees	\$51,875.00