

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

RINGCONN LLC,
Petitioner,

v.

OURARING, INC.,
Patent Owner.

PGR2025-00018
Patent 11,868,178 B2

Before COKE MORGAN STEWART, *Acting Under Secretary of
Commerce for Intellectual Property and Acting Director of the United States
Patent and Trademark Office.*

DECISION
Granting Patent Owner's Request for Discretionary Denial
and Denying Institution of *Inter Partes* Review

Ouraring, Inc. (“Patent Owner”) filed a request for discretionary denial (Paper 8, “DD Req.”) in the above-captioned case. RingConn LLC (“Petitioner”) did not file an opposition.¹

After considering Patent Owner’s arguments and the record, and in view of all relevant considerations, discretionary denial of institution is appropriate in this proceeding. This determination is based on the totality of the evidence and arguments presented.

Petitioner filed the Petition and an accompanying motion for joinder to PGR2024-00030, a proceeding that the Board instituted on December 6, 2024. *Samsung Elecs. Co. Ltd. v. Ouraring, Inc.*, PGR2024-00030, Paper 9 at 29 (PTAB Dec. 6, 2024). The Board first determines whether to institute a proceeding before considering a motion for joinder. 35 U.S.C. § 315(c). Accordingly, discretionary considerations are first reviewed for the Petition on its own, and then reviewed if joinder were to be granted.

The projected final written decision due date in this Board proceeding is July 29, 2026. *See* Paper 6. The International Trade Commission (“ITC”) has conducted a full evidentiary hearing, issued an initial determination, and set a target date for August 18, 2025. Ex. 2005, 3. As such, it is unlikely that a final written decision in this proceeding will issue before the conclusion of the ITC investigation. Furthermore, there has been substantial investment by the parties in the ITC proceeding. DD Req. 8–11. These considerations favor discretionary denial.

Second, review of the facts as if joinder were to be granted also favors discretionary denial. The projected final written decision due date for

¹ According to Patent Owner, on January 6, 2026, Petitioner indicated “that a motion to withdraw this Petition would be forthcoming but one . . . was never filed.” DD Req. 1 (citing Ex. 2018, 15).

PGR2024-00030 is December 6, 2025. *See Samsung*, PGR2024-00030, Paper 9. Therefore, even if joinder were granted, it is unlikely that a final written decision will issue before the conclusion of the ITC investigation.

Furthermore, if the petitioner in PGR2024-00030 settles or is otherwise no longer involved in that proceeding, the Office would have to maintain a proceeding that it would not have instituted with respect to the Petitioners here, even if they would have filed their Petition at the same time as the petitioner in PGR2024-00030. Petitioner also has not identified any other benefits that outweigh the other discretionary considerations. Accordingly, discretionary denial of the Petition is appropriate.

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.

PGR2025-00018
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