

IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS

E-NUMERATE SOLUTIONS, INC. and
E-NUMERATE, LLC,

Plaintiffs,

v.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Defendant.

C.A. No. 19-859-RTH

PROTECTIVE ORDER

The Court enters the following protective order pursuant to Rule 26(c)(1) of the Rules of the United States Court of Federal Claims (“RCFC”).

1. Findings: The Court finds that the parties to this case and third parties may request or produce information involving trade secrets or confidential research and development or commercial information, the disclosure of which is likely to cause harm to the party producing such information.

2. Definitions:

a. “Party” means any named party to this Action, including all of its employees, consultants, retained experts, and outside counsel and their support staffs. Additionally, for Plaintiff, “Party” includes all of its officers and directors.

b. “Producer” means any Party or Third Party that discloses or produces any discovery material in this Action.

c. “Recipient” means any Party who receives a Producer’s discovery material in this case.

d. “Third Party” means a person, organization or entity who is not a Plaintiff

or Defendant in this Action.

e. “Litigation Support Contractor” means a contractor who is (a) subject to an obligation, either by contract or trade practice, to maintain the confidentiality of any material received in performance of the contracted services; (b) engaged in the business of providing litigation support services; and (c) retained to provide support service with respect to either a lawyer’s general professional activities or specifically in support of the lawyer’s activities in this case. By way of example and not limitation, “litigation support contractor” includes copying services, court reporters, videographers, document storage and management contractors, database management contractors, and information technology and network support contractors. The parties acknowledge that a Recipient may engage or employ contract attorneys, paralegals, or legal administrative personnel who may fall within the definition of Litigation Support Contractor.

f. “Confidential Information” means information that contains or reflects confidential, proprietary, and/or commercially sensitive information.

g. “Highly Confidential Information” means confidential information that is so sensitive that its dissemination deserves even further limitation beyond that of CONFIDENTIAL information. The Parties agree that the following information, if non-public, shall be presumed to merit the “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL” designation: trade secrets, pricing information, financial data, sales information, sales or marketing forecasts or plans, business plans, sales or marketing strategy, product development information, engineering documents, testing documents, employee information, and other non-public information of similar competitive and business sensitivity.

h. “Source Code” means Highly Confidential Information that contains or substantially discloses computer or source code, machine language, scripts, assembly, binaries, object code, source code listings and descriptions of source code, object code listings and

descriptions of object code, Hardware Description Language (HDL) or Register Transfer Level (RTL) files or other similar files that describe the hardware design of any ASIC or other chip, and Computer Aided Design (CAD) or other similar files that describe the hardware design of any component.

i. Information is not Confidential, Highly Confidential, or Source Code if it is known or available to the public, was known to the Recipient without obligation of confidentiality before the Producer disclosed it, or is or becomes known to the Recipient by means not constituting a breach of this Order. Information is likewise not Confidential, Highly Confidential or Source Code if a Recipient lawfully obtained it, without restriction as to its further dissemination by such Recipient, independently of this litigation.

3. Designation of Information as Confidential, Highly Confidential or Source Code:

a. A Producer's designation of information as Confidential, Highly Confidential, or Source Code means that the Producer believes in good faith, upon reasonable inquiry, that the information qualifies as such.

b. A Producer designates information in a document or thing as Confidential by clearly and prominently marking it on its face as "CONFIDENTIAL" (which shall include, at the Producer's option, adding the word "Confidential" (or an appropriate abbreviation thereof) to the file name of any natively produced computer file).

c. A Producer designates information in a document or thing as "Highly Confidential" by clearly and prominently marking it on its face as "HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL"

(which shall include, at the Producer's option, adding the words "Highly Confidential" (or an appropriate abbreviation thereof) to the file name of any natively produced computer file).

d. A Producer designates information in a document or thing as "Source Code" by clearly and prominently marking it on its face as "HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – SOURCE CODE" (which shall include, at the Producer's option, adding the words "Highly Confidential – Source Code" (or an appropriate abbreviation thereof) to the file name of any natively produced computer file).

e. A Producer may make documents or things containing Confidential, Highly Confidential, or Source Code information available for inspection and copying without marking them as such without forfeiting a claim of confidentiality, so long as the Producer causes copies of the documents or things to be marked as Confidential, Highly Confidential, or Source Code before providing them to the Recipient.

f. A Producer designates information in deposition testimony as Confidential, Highly Confidential, or Source Code by stating on the record at the deposition that the information is Confidential, Highly Confidential, or Source Code, or by advising the Recipients, Parties, and the stenographer and videographer in writing, within fourteen (14) days after receipt of the non-rough deposition transcript, that the information is Confidential, Highly Confidential, or Source Code. Until a Producer makes a designation pursuant to this paragraph, or the expiration of the fourteen (14)-day period described herein, whichever occurs earlier, deposition testimony shall be treated as Highly Confidential.

g. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a Producer's failure to designate a document, thing, or testimony as Confidential, Highly Confidential, or Source Code neither (i) waives any right hereunder, upon realizing such failure, to later promptly so designate such

document, thing, or testimony, nor (ii) constitutes forfeiture of a claim of confidentiality as to any other document, thing, or testimony.

h. A Producer who has designated information as Confidential, Highly Confidential, or Source Code may withdraw the designation by written notification to all Recipients.

i. If a Recipient disputes a Producer's designation of information as Confidential, Highly Confidential or Source Code, the Recipient shall notify the Producer in writing of the basis for the dispute, identifying the specific documents or things as to which the designation is disputed and proposing a new or lack of designation for such materials. The Recipient and the Producer shall then meet and confer to attempt to resolve the dispute without involvement of the Court. In conferring, the Recipient must explain the basis for its belief that the confidentiality designation was not proper and must give the Producer an opportunity to review the designated material, to reconsider the designation, and, if no change in designation is offered, to explain the basis for the designation. A Recipient that elects to challenge a confidentiality designation may file and serve a motion that identifies the challenged materials and sets forth in detail the bases for the challenge. Each such motion must be accompanied by a competent declaration that affirms that the movant has complied with the meet and confer requirement of this procedure. The burden of persuasion in any such challenge shall be on the Producer. Until the Court rules on the challenge, all parties shall continue to treat the materials as Confidential Information, Highly Confidential Information, or Source Code under the terms of this Order.

4. Use and Disclosure of Confidential, Highly Confidential, or Source Code Information:

a. Confidential, Highly Confidential, and Source Code information may be used exclusively for purposes of this litigation, subject to the restrictions of this Order.

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