

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE**

ACCELERATION BAY LLC,)
)
Plaintiff,)
)
v.) C.A. No. 16-453 (RGA)
)
ACTIVISION BLIZZARD, INC.,)
)
Defendant.)

**ACCELERATION BAY LLC'S MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION OF
THE COURT'S MEMORANDUM OPINION (D.I. 692) STRIKING THE
SEER-SEM METHODOLOGY USED BY DR. RICARDO VALERDI**

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INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to Local Rule 7.1.5, Plaintiff Acceleration Bay LLC (“Acceleration Bay”) respectfully moves for reconsideration of the Court’s Order striking the SEER-SEM methodology used by Dr. Ricardo Valerdi for estimating the costs to build new software because: (1) the Court misapprehended the SEER-SEM methodology, and (2) the Court erred finding the SEER-SEM methodology unreliable, as this model for estimating the cost to develop new software is the preferred approach that numerous government agencies and many of the largest corporations in the world use for cost estimation of software to be built. Thus, it is not only reliable – it is the *actual* methodology used in the marketplace.

Acceleration Bay also seeks reconsideration of the Court’s exclusion of Mr. Russell Parr’s damages opinion based on software maintenance cost, which is distinct from Mr. Parr’s other damages opinions and should be separately evaluated.

BACKGROUND

A. The Hypothetical Negotiation Construct for Damages

A consideration during the hypothetical negotiation mandated by U.S. patent law is costs and savings. Dr. Valerdi determined the cost to build a hypothetical, non-existing non-infringing alternative network that functioned in the same manner as the existing infringing system. This analysis identified the money Activision would save if it decided to license the existing infringing network instead of building a new non-infringing network with the specific functionalities. The costs that Activision did not have to expend are its savings and a reasonable basis for assessing the amount of a reasonable royalty.

Indeed, the primary tool for assessing a reasonable royalty is the hypothetical negotiation from the seminal *Georgia-Pacific Corp. v. United States Plywood Corp.* decision in 1970. 318 F.Supp. 1116 (S.D.N.Y. 1970). This imaginary construct assesses all the considerations real patentees and infringers would have when determining the appropriate royalty for use of a patented

invention at the time of first infringement. Thus, an admitted infringer of valid patents (Activision in this case) engages in a hypothetical negotiation with the patent owner (Boeing in this case) for a license to the infringed patents. For the cost savings in this case, Acceleration Bay alleged that Boeing's hypothetical negotiation with Activision in this imaginary world would have involved certain real-world considerations that would play into what reasonable royalty the parties would agree upon.

The first consideration for the hypothetical negotiation is whether there is an existing suitable non-infringing alternative to the infringing software that infringer Activision could use instead of paying patent owner Boeing for a license. Acceleration Bay's technical experts all agree that there is not a suitable non-infringing alternative, which means a feasible equivalent, not that one cannot exist. A non-infringing alternative must be available at the time of infringement and both technically and commercially acceptable. *Mars, Inc. v. Coin Acceptors, Inc.*, 527 F.3d 1359, 1373 (Fed. Cir. 2008).

The second consideration for the hypothetical negotiation in this imaginary world is what would be the infringer's options since there are no suitable non-infringing alternatives on the market. In this case, infringer Activision had two options: (1) use the existing infringing software and take a license, or (2) develop new non-infringing software. To figure out what is the best economic decision, infringer Activision would have to determine how much a hypothetical non-infringing alternative that had the functionalities contained within the infringing network would cost to develop. Here, an estimated cost for a non-infringing alternative was determined using the SEER-SEM methodology – the best in breed for making such estimates.¹

The final consideration for the hypothetical negotiation in this imaginary world is how

¹ The model Dr. Valerdi used to estimate the cost of the software is SEER-SEM, widely used industry and government, is considered the gold standard by the International Society of Parametric Analysts (Parametric Estimating Handbook at A-20), NASA (NASA Handbook at 20), and the Department of Defense (Software Cost Estimation Metrics Manual at 12).

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