

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

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RENESAS ELECTRONICS CORPORATION, RENESAS ELECTRONICS  
AMERICA, INC., ADVANCED MICRO DEVICES, INC.,  
GLOBALFOUNDRIES U.S., INC., GLOBALFOUNDRIES DRESDEN  
MODULE ONE LLC & CO. KG, GLOBALFOUNDRIES DRESDEN  
MODULE TWO LLC & CO. KG, TOSHIBA AMERICA ELECTRONIC  
COMPONENTS, INC., TOSHIBA AMERICA INC., TOSHIBA  
AMERICA INFORMATION SYSTEMS, INC., AND  
TOSHIBA CORPORATION,  
Petitioners,

v.

ZOND, LLC,  
Patent Owner.

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Case IPR2014-001066  
Patent 6,806,652 B1

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Before KEVIN F. TURNER, JONI Y. CHANG, SUSAN L. C. MITCHELL,  
and JENNIFER M. MEYER, *Administrative Patent Judges*.

MITCHELL, *Administrative Patent Judge*.

DECISION  
Granting Revised Motion for Joinder  
*37 C.F.R. § 42.122*

## INTRODUCTION

Renesas Electronics Corporation, Renesas Electronics America, Inc., Advanced Micro Devices, Inc., GlobalFoundries U.S., Inc., GlobalFoundries Dresden Module One LLC & Co., KG, Global Foundries Dresden Module Two LLC & Co. KG, Toshiba America Electronic Components, Inc., Toshiba America Inc., Toshiba America Information Systems, Inc., and Toshiba Corporation (collectively, “Renasas”) filed a Petition requesting an *inter partes* review of claims 18–34 of U.S. Patent 6,806,652 B2 (Ex. 1101, “the ’652 patent”). Paper 1 (“Pet.”). Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 42.122(b), Renesas also filed a revised Motion for Joinder, seeking to join the instant proceeding with *Taiwan Semiconductor Manuf. Co., Ltd. v. Zond, LLC*, Case IPR2014-00861 (“IPR2014-00861”). Paper 11 (“Mot.”).

Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company, Ltd. and TSMC North America Corporation (collectively, “TSMC”), the Petitioner in IPR2014-00861, does not oppose Renesas’s revised Motion for Joinder. Mot. 2. Patent Owner, Zond, LLC (“Zond”), filed a Preliminary Response to the Petition (Paper 12, “Prelim. Resp.”) and an Opposition to Renesas’ revised Motion for Joinder (Paper 11, “Opp.”). In a separate decision, entered concurrently, we institute an *inter partes* review as to the same claims on the same grounds of unpatentability for which we instituted trial in IPR2014-00861. For the reasons set forth below, Renesas’s revised Motion for Joinder is *granted*.

## ANALYSIS

The Leahy-Smith America Invents Act, Pub. L. No. 112-29, 125 Stat. 284 (2011) (“AIA”) permits joinder of like review proceedings. The Board,

acting on behalf of the Director, has the discretion to join an *inter partes* review with another *inter partes* review. 35 U.S.C. § 315.

The statutory provision governing joinder of *inter partes* review proceedings is 35 U.S.C § 315(c), which provides:

JOINDER.—If the Director institutes an *inter partes* review, the Director, in his or her discretion, may join as a party to that *inter partes* review any person who properly files a petition under section 311 that the Director, after receiving a preliminary response under section 313 or the expiration of the time for filing such a response, determines warrants the institution of an *inter partes* review under section 314.

Joinder may be authorized when warranted, but the decision to grant joinder is discretionary. 35 U.S.C. § 315(c); 37 C.F.R. § 42.122. When exercising its discretion, the Board is mindful that patent trial regulations, including the rules for joinder, must be construed to secure the just, speedy, and inexpensive resolution of every proceeding. *See* 35 U.S.C. § 316(b); 37 C.F.R. § 42.1(b). The Board considers the impact of both substantive issues and procedural matters on the proceedings.

As the moving party, Renesas bears the burden to show that joinder is appropriate. 37 C.F.R. §§ 42.20(c), 42.122(b). In its revised Motion for Joinder, Renesas contends that joinder, in this particular situation, is appropriate because: (1) “it is the most expedient way to secure the just, speedy, and inexpensive resolution of the related proceedings” (Mot. 7); (2) Renesas’s Petition is substantively identical to TSMC’s Petition filed in IPR2014-00861 (*id.* at 7–8); (3) Renesas agrees to consolidated filings and discovery (*id.* at 8–9); (4) joinder would not affect the schedule in IPR2014-00861 (*id.* at 9); (5) joinder would streamline the proceedings,

reduce the costs and burdens on the parties, and increase efficiencies for the Board without any prejudice to Zond (*id.* at 10).

We agree that the substantive issues in IPR2014-00861 would not be affected by joinder, because Renesas's Petition is substantively identical to TSMC's Petition filed in IPR2014-00861. Notably, Renesas's Petition asserts identical grounds of unpatentability, challenging the same claims of the '652 patent. *Compare* Pet. 20–60, with IPR2014-00861, Paper 2 (“'861 Pet.”), 20–60. Renesas also submits identical claim constructions, as well as the same Declaration of Dr. Uwe Kortshagen. *Compare* Pet. 11–13, with '861 Pet. 13–15; *compare* Ex. 1102, with '861, Ex. 1102. Moreover, we institute the instant trial based on the same grounds for which we instituted trial in IPR2014-00861. Therefore, Renesas's Petition raises no new issues beyond those already before us in IPR2014-00861.

In its Opposition, Zond indicates that it is *not opposed to joinder*. Opp. 1. Rather, Zond proposes a procedure for the joined proceeding to consolidate the schedule, filings, and discovery. Opp. 2–3.

We agree with the parties that conducting a single joined proceeding for reviewing claims 18–34 of the '652 patent is more efficient than conducting multiple proceedings, eliminating duplicate filings and discovery. Renesas agrees to consolidated filings for all substantive papers. Mot. 8–9. Renesas indicates that it will not file any paper with arguments different from those advanced by the consolidated filings, eliminating duplicate briefing. *Id.* at 8. Renesas further agrees to consolidated discovery, as each Petitioner proffers the same Declaration of Dr. Kortshagen. *Id.* at 8. Renesas indicates that Petitioners, collectively,

will designate an attorney to conduct the cross-examination of any witnesses produced by Zond and the redirect of any witnesses produced by Petitioners, within the timeframe normally allotted by the rules for one party. *Id.* at 8–9. Moreover, joinder will not require any change to the trial schedule in IPR2014-00861, allowing the trial still to be completed within one year. *Id.* at 9. Given that Renesas’s Petition raises no new issues, and Petitioners agree to consolidated filings and discovery, the impact of joinder on IPR2014-00861 will be minimal, and joinder will streamline the proceedings, reducing the costs and burdens on the parties and the Board.

For the foregoing reasons, Renesas has met its burden of demonstrating that joinder of the instant proceeding with IPR2014-00861 is warranted under the circumstances.

#### ORDER

In consideration of the foregoing, it is hereby:

ORDERED that Renesas’s Motion for Joinder with IPR2014-00861 is *granted*;

FURTHER ORDERED that the instant proceeding is joined with IPR2014-00861;

FURTHER ORDERED that the grounds of unpatentability on which a trial was instituted in IPR2014-00861 are unchanged;

FURTHER ORDERED that the Scheduling Order for IPR2014-00861 shall govern the joined proceeding; an initial conference call will be held on January 12, 2015 at 2:00 pm ET;

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