

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

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MOHAWK RESOURCES LTD.,  
Petitioner,

v.

VEHICLE SERVICE GROUP, LLC,  
Patent Owner.

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Case IPR2014-00464  
Patent 6,983,196 B2

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Before SCOTT E. KAMHOLZ, LYNNE E. PETTIGREW, and  
JAMES A. TARTAL, *Administrative Patent Judges*.

PETTIGREW, *Administrative Patent Judge*.

DECISION  
Institution of *Inter Partes* Review  
*37 C.F.R. § 42.108*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Petitioner, Mohawk Resources Ltd., filed a corrected petition requesting an *inter partes* review of claims 39, 42–51, 53, 55–61, 63–65, 68, 70, 71, 76, 77, 79, 84, 133–135, and 157 of U.S. Patent No. 6,983,196 B2 (Ex. 1001, “the ’196 patent”). Paper 6 (“Pet.”). Patent Owner, Vehicle Service Group, LLC, did not file a preliminary response. We have jurisdiction under 35 U.S.C. § 314(a), which provides that an *inter partes* review may not be instituted “unless . . . the information presented in the petition . . . shows that there is a reasonable likelihood that the petitioner would prevail with respect to at least 1 of the claims challenged in the petition.”

Upon consideration of the petition, we conclude the information presented shows there is a reasonable likelihood that Petitioner would prevail in showing the unpatentability of the challenged claims. Accordingly, we authorize an *inter partes* review to be instituted as to claims 39, 42–51, 53, 55–61, 63–65, 68, 70, 71, 76, 77, 79, 84, 133–135, and 157 of the ’196 patent.

### A. The ’196 Patent

The ’196 patent, titled “Electronically Controlled Vehicle Lift and Vehicle Service System,” describes a vehicle lift with an electronic control configured to control the raising and lowering of the lift and to display a variety of information regarding the operation of the lift. Ex. 1001, Abstract. One embodiment of a vehicle lift is shown in Figure 1 of the ’196 patent, reproduced below:

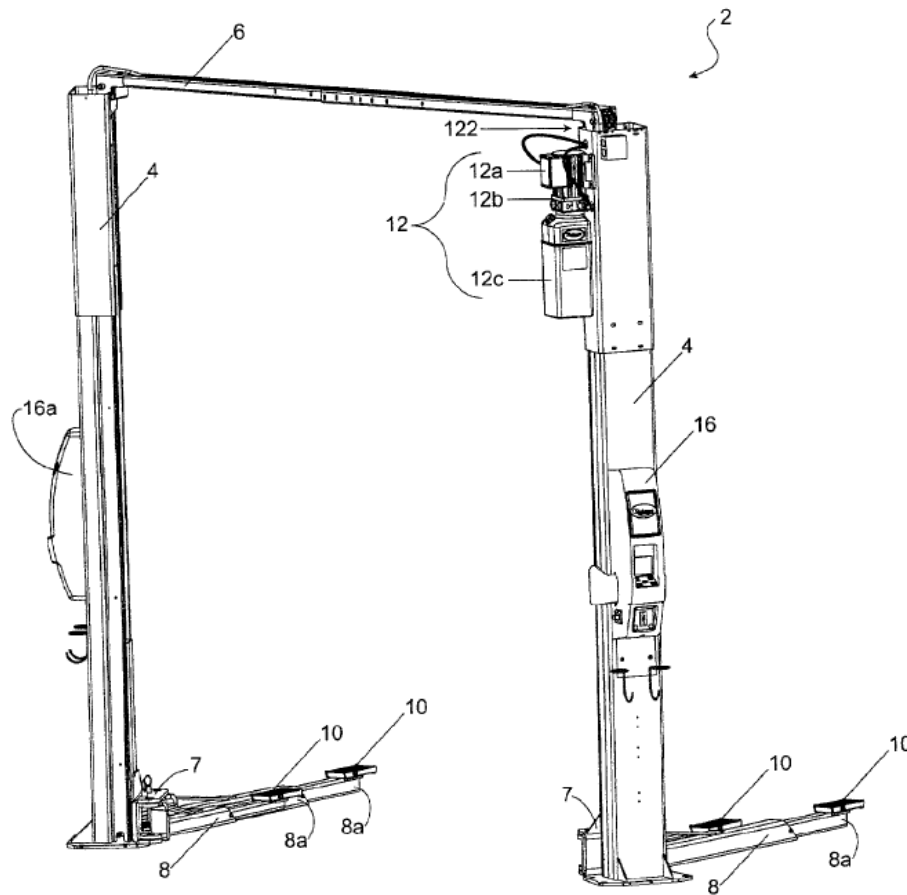


Fig. 1

Figure 1 illustrates vehicle lift 2 with two posts 4. *Id.* at 3:24–29. Carriages 7 move vertically along the posts. *Id.* at 3:29–31. Arms 8 with flip up adapters 10 extend from each carriage 7 and engage the underside of a vehicle to be lifted. *Id.* at 3:31–35. Control assembly 16 is located on one of the posts and includes a user interface comprising a display screen and key pad. *Id.* at 3:50–51, 4:28–35, Fig. 3. Control assembly 16 includes components for selectively controlling the raising and lowering of the moveable lift engagement structure (including arms 8) and for displaying data pertaining to operation, control, and maintenance of the lift. *Id.* at 7:6–27, 8:58–61.

*B. Illustrative Claims*

Of the challenged claims, claims 39, 71, 79, 84, 133, and 157 are independent. Claims 39, 71, 84, and 157 are illustrative of the claimed subject matter:

39. A vehicle lift comprising:

a. a moveable lift engagement structure; and

b. an electronic control configured to selectively control raising and lowering said moveable lift engagement structure based upon user input and configured to enable display of lift data regarding use of said lift.

71. A vehicle lift comprising:

a. a moveable lift engagement structure; and

b. an electronic control comprising control logic operative to generate a signal indicative of a maintenance condition based upon predetermined criteria.

84. A vehicle lift comprising:

a. a moveable lift engagement structure; and

b. an electronic control configured to monitor operation conditions, and to determine whether an operation fault condition exists based on the application of predetermined criteria to said operation conditions, and comprising control logic configured to control the raising and lowering of said moveable lift engagement structure in response to whether an operation fault condition has been determined to exist.

157. A vehicle lift comprising:

a. a frame work;

b. a moveable lift engagement structure moveably supported by said frame work; and

c. a communications port carried by said frame work.

*Id.* at 19:15–20; 20:53–57; 21:34–43; 28:7–12.

*C. Asserted Grounds of Unpatentability*

Petitioner contends that claims 39, 42–51, 53, 55–61, 63–65, 68, 70, 71, 76, 77, 79, 84, 133–135, and 157 of the '196 patent are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 based on the following specific grounds:

Reference[s]	Basis	Challenged Claims
Kogyo <sup>1</sup>	§ 102(b)	39, 42, 44–51, 53, 55, 57–61, 63–65, 71, 76, 79, 84, 133–135, and 157
Kogyo	§ 103(a)	39, 42, 44–51, 53, 55, 57–61, 63–65, 71, 76, 79, 84, 133–135, and 157
Kogyo and de Bellefeuille <sup>2</sup>	§ 103(a)	43, 68, and 70
Kogyo and SEFAC <sup>3</sup>	§ 103(a)	56 and 77
Kogyo and Chu <sup>4</sup>	§ 103(a)	157

II. ANALYSIS

*A. Claim Construction*

As a step in our analysis for determining whether to institute a review, we determine the meaning of the claims for purposes of this decision. In an *inter partes* review, we construe claim terms in an unexpired patent

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<sup>1</sup> Japanese Patent Appl. Publ'n H8-333093, published Dec. 17, 1996 (Ex. 1003, "Kogyo"). Citations to this reference are to its English translation (Ex. 1004).

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Patent No. 6,285,932 B1, issued Sept. 4, 2001 (Ex. 1006, "de Bellefeuille").

<sup>3</sup> *SEFAC Mobile Electromechanical Lift with Isolevelling System* (Ex. 1007, "SEFAC"). Petitioner asserts that this user manual was publicly available at least as early as March 13, 1991. *See* Ex. 1008 (Linzer Decl.).

<sup>4</sup> German Patent Appl. DE 91 15 317, published Apr. 30, 1992 (Ex. 1009, "Chu"). Unless otherwise indicated, citations to this reference are to its English translation (Ex. 1010).

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