

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

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LG ELECTRONICS, INC.,  
LG ELECTRONICS U.S.A., INC., and  
LG ELECTRONICS MOBILECOMM U.S.A., INC.,  
Petitioner,

v.

CYPRESS SEMICONDUCTOR CORP.,  
Patent Owner.

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Case IPR2014-01386  
Patent 6,012,103

Before SALLY C. MEDLEY, DONNA M. PRAISS, and  
PATRICK M. BOUCHER, *Administrative Patent Judges*.

PRAISS, *Administrative Patent Judge*.

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

LG Electronics, Inc., LG Electronics U.S.A., Inc., and LG Electronics Mobilecomm U.S.A., Inc. (“Petitioner”) filed a Petition (Paper 1, “Pet.”) to institute an *inter partes* review of claims 14–16, 18–20, and 23–27 of U.S. Patent No. 6,012,103 (“the ’103 patent”) pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §§ 311–319. A Preliminary Response (Paper 7, “Prelim. Resp.”) was filed by Cypress Semiconductor Corporation (“Patent Owner”). We have jurisdiction under 35 U.S.C. § 314. For the reasons that follow, we authorize institution of an *inter partes* review.

## I. BACKGROUND

We have jurisdiction under 35 U.S.C. § 314, which provides that an *inter partes* review may be authorized only if “the information presented in the petition . . . and any [preliminary] response . . . 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.” 35 U.S.C. § 314(a).

Petitioner challenges claims 14–16, 18–20, and 23–27 of the ’103 patent under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Pet. 3. We institute an *inter partes* review as to claims 14–16, 18–20, and 23–27 as discussed below.

### A. *Related Proceedings*

The ’103 patent was asserted in a complaint filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California in *Cypress Semiconductor, Corp. v. LG Electronics, Inc.*, No. 4:13-cv-04034. *Id.* at 2. U.S. Patents 6,249,825 and 6,493,770, which are related to the ’103 patent through continuation applications, are also asserted in the litigation and are the subject of concurrently-filed *inter partes* review proceedings IPR2014-01396 and IPR2014-01405, respectively. *Id.*

*B. The '103 Patent (Ex. 1001)*

The '103 patent, titled “Bus Interface System and Method,” is directed to a system and method for emulating a physical disconnection and reconnection of a peripheral device connected by a computer bus and port to a host computer to reconfigure the bus and port for a particular peripheral device. Ex. 1001, Abstr. The need to physically disconnect and reconnect a peripheral device to reconfigure the device is solved by a switch connected to a data line in the peripheral device. *Id.* at 6:54–62, 6:65–7:11. The switch changes the voltage state of the data lines, which the host computer monitors and uses to detect the connection of a peripheral device. *Id.* at 6:17–20, 7:1–11.

*C. Illustrative Claims*

Independent claims 14 and 24 are illustrative of the claims at issue:

14. A method for reconfiguring a peripheral device connected by a computer bus and port to a host computer, the method comprising the steps of:

detecting the peripheral device connected to the port, wherein the peripheral device has a first configuration;

downloading a second set of configuration information from the host computer into the peripheral device over the computer bus; and

electronically simulating a physical disconnection and reconnection of the peripheral device to reconfigure the peripheral device to a second configuration based on the second set of configuration information.

24. A peripheral interface device for a computer peripheral bus and port, comprising:

means for physically connecting a peripheral device to a computer system through the computer peripheral bus, wherein the peripheral device has a first configuration;

means for receiving a second set of configuration information from a computer system over the computer peripheral bus and port; and

means for electronically simulating a physical disconnection and reconnection of the peripheral device to reconfigure the peripheral device to a second configuration based on the second set of configuration information.

#### *D. The Prior Art*

Petitioner relies on the following prior art in addition to asserted admitted prior art in the '103 patent ("APA"):

Reference	Publication	Date	Exhibit
Michelson	US 5,628,028	May 6, 1997	1003
Davis	US 5,862,393	Jan. 19, 1999	1005
Yap	US 6,073,193	June 6, 2000	1002
PCCextend	PCCextend 100 User's Manual	Apr. 3, 1995	1004

Petitioner also relies on the Declaration of Geert Knapen dated August 26, 2014 ("Knapen Declaration" Ex. 1012).<sup>1</sup>

#### *E. The Asserted Grounds*

Petitioner challenges claims 14–16, 18–20, and 23–27 of the '103 patent on the following grounds:

Claims Challenged	Basis	Reference(s)
14, 18–20, 23–27	§ 103(a)	APA and Yap
15, 16	§ 103(a)	APA, Yap, and Michelson
14–16, 18, 23–26	§ 103(a)	Michelson, PCCextend, and Davis
19, 20, 27	§ 103(a)	Michelson, PCCextend, Davis, and APA

<sup>1</sup> Citations herein to the Knapen Declaration are to the Corrected Knapen Declaration.

*F. Claim Interpretation*

As a first step in our analysis, we determine the meaning of the claims, for purposes of this decision, using the “broadest reasonable construction in light of the specification of the patent in which [they] appear[.]” 37 C.F.R. § 42.100(b). Under that standard, claim terms are given their ordinary and customary meaning, as would be understood by one of ordinary skill in the art in the context of the entire disclosure. *In re Translogic Tech., Inc.*, 504 F.3d 1249, 1257 (Fed. Cir. 2007).

Petitioner proposes constructions for the claim terms “electronically simulating a physical disconnection and reconnection of the peripheral device” (claim 14), “means for physically connecting a peripheral device to a computer system through the computer peripheral bus” (claim 24), “means for receiving a second set of configuration information from a computer system over the computer peripheral bus and port” (claim 24), and “means for electronically simulating a physical disconnection and reconnection of the peripheral device to reconfigure the peripheral device to a second configuration based on the second set of configuration information” (claim 24). Pet. 7–9. Patent Owner does not address these proposed claim constructions in the Preliminary Response.

Regarding the claim term “electronically simulating a physical disconnection and reconnection of the peripheral device,” we determine at this preliminary stage that the broadest reasonable interpretation includes the reset operation of dependent claim 23. Accordingly, based on the current record, we construe this term to mean “using an electronic circuit to perform an action, such as an electronic reset, associated with physical disconnection and reconnection of a peripheral device” as proposed by Petitioner.

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