

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

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

v.

CYPRESS SEMICONDUCTOR CORP.,
Patent Owner.

Case IPR2014-01396
Patent 6,249,825 B1

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 1–3, 5, 7, 10–13, and 15–20 of U.S. Patent No. 6,249,825 B1 (“the ’825 patent”) pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §§ 311–319. A Preliminary Response (Paper 6, “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 1–3, 5, 7, 10–13, 15–17, and 19 of the ’825 patent under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and claims 18–20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Pet. 3–4. We institute an *inter partes* review as to claims 1–3, 5, 7, 10–13, and 15–20 as discussed below.

A. *Related Proceedings*

The ’825 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 6,012,103 and 6,493,770, which are related to the ’825 patent through continuation applications, are also asserted in the litigation and are the subject of concurrently-filed *inter partes* review proceedings IPR2014-

01386 and IPR2014-01405, respectively. *Id.*

B. The '825 Patent (Ex. 1001)

The '825 patent, titled “Universal Serial Bus Interface System and Method,” is directed to a system and method for reconfiguring a peripheral device having a first configuration connected by a computer bus and port to a host computer. Ex. 1001, Abstr. A first circuit can be configured to download information for a second configuration from the host computer and a second circuit can be configured to electronically simulate a physical disconnection and reconnection of the peripheral device. *Id.* Reconfiguring the peripheral device without physically disconnecting it is solved by a switch connected to a data line in the peripheral device. *Id.* at 6:51–55, 6:66–7:15. 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 6:18–21, 6:66–7:12.

C. Illustrative Claims

Independent claims 1, 11, and 18 are illustrative of the claims at issue:

1. A system for reconfiguring a peripheral device having a first configuration connected by a computer bus and a port to a host computer, the system comprising:

a first circuit configured to download information for a second configuration from the host computer into the peripheral device over the computer bus; and

a second circuit configured to electronically simulate a physical disconnection and reconnection of the peripheral device over said computer bus to reconfigure the peripheral device to said second configuration.

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

(A) downloading information for a second configuration from the host computer into the peripheral device over the computer bus; and

(B) electronically simulating a physical disconnection and reconnection of the peripheral device over said computer bus to reconfigure the peripheral device to said second configuration.

18. A system for simulating a disconnection and reconnection of a peripheral device connected by a computer bus and a port to a host computer, the system comprising:

a first circuit configured to detect the peripheral device connected to the port; and

a second circuit configured to electronically simulate a physical disconnection and reconnection of the peripheral device over said computer bus.

D. The Prior Art

Petitioner relies on the following prior art in addition to asserted admitted prior art in the '825 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).

E. The Asserted Grounds

Petitioner challenges claims 1–3, 5, 7, 10–13, and 15–20 of the '825 patent on the following grounds:

Claims Challenged	Basis	Reference(s)
1, 5, 7, 10, 11, 15–17	§ 103(a)	APA and Yap
2, 3, 12, 13	§ 103(a)	APA, Yap, Michelson
1–3, 10–13, 17	§ 103(a)	Michelson, PCCextend, Davis
5, 7, 15, 16	§ 103(a)	Michelson, PCCextend, Davis, APA
18–20	§ 102(e)	Yap
18, 20	§ 102(e)	Davis
19	§ 103(a)	Davis and APA

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 a construction for the claim term “electronically [simulate/simulating] a physical disconnection and reconnection of the peripheral device” (claims 1 and 11) that is broad enough not to exclude the reset circuit of dependent claims 10 and 17. Pet. 7–8. Patent Owner does not address the proposed claim construction in the Preliminary Response.

Regarding the claim term “electronically [simulate/simulating] a physical disconnection and reconnection of the peripheral device,” we determine at this preliminary stage that the broadest reasonable interpretation includes the reset circuit operation of the dependent claims. Accordingly, based on the current record, we construe this term to mean

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