

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

APPLE INC.,
Petitioner,

v.

VIRNETX INC.,
Patent Owner.

Case IPR2015-00812
Patent 8,850,009 B2

Before KARL D. EASTHOM, JENNIFER S. BISK, and GREGG I. ANDERSON,
Administrative Patent Judges.

BISK, *Administrative Patent Judge.*

DECISION
Request for Rehearing
37 C.F.R. § 42.71(d)

SUMMARY

Patent Owner, VirnetX, Inc., requests rehearing of the Board’s decision (Paper 8) (“Decision to Institute or Dec.”), entered September 11, 2015, instituting *inter partes* review of claims 1–8, 10–20, and 22–25 of U.S. Patent 8,850,009 (Ex. 1001, “the ’009 patent”) based on obviousness over Beser¹ combined with RFC 2401.² Paper 12 (“Req. Reh’g”). For the reasons that follow, Patent Owner’s request for rehearing is *denied*.

DISCUSSION

The applicable standard for granting a request for rehearing of a petition decision is abuse of discretion. 37 C.F.R. § 42.71(c). The requirements for a rehearing are set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 42.71(d), which provides in relevant part:

A party dissatisfied with a decision may file a request for rehearing, without prior authorization from the Board. The burden of showing a decision should be modified lies with the party challenging the decision. The request must specifically identify all matters the party believes the Board misapprehended or overlooked, and the place where each matter was previously addressed in a motion, an opposition, or a reply.

Patent Owner argues that the Board erred by (1) overlooking the absence of evidence in Apple’s Petition tending to show that RFC 2401 is a printed publication, and (2) finding that RFC 2401 included indicia sufficient to Establish a reasonable likelihood that RFC 2401 is a printed publication. Req. Reh’g. Patent Owner bases its argument on its assertion that “[t]he Board’s own case law . . . contradicts the Board’s conclusion that [the indicia on the face of RFC 2401] were sufficient to meet Apple’s burden of establishing that RFC 2401 constitutes a

¹ U.S. Patent No. 6,496,867 B1 (Ex. 1007) (“Beser”).

² S. Kent and R. Atkinson, *Security Architecture for the Internet Protocol*, Request for Comments: 2401, BBN Corp., November 1998 (Ex. 1008) (“RFC 2401”).

printed publication.” Req. Reh’g 2; *see also id.* 3–10 (discussing several non-precedential Board cases with different facts in which institution was denied on the reference at issue).

We are not persuaded that Patent Owner has identified any matters that we misapprehended or overlooked.³ Instead, Patent Owner’s request reiterates arguments contained in its Preliminary Response that we have already considered. *See* Dec. 6–7 (acknowledging Patent Owner’s arguments related to RFC 2401’s status as a printed publication). A request for rehearing is not an opportunity to express disagreement with a decision.

Nonetheless, as noted in our Decision to Institute, we are persuaded that the record contains enough evidence on this issue to proceed to a trial. *Id.* at 7–8. The reasonable likelihood standard for instituting *inter partes* review asks whether the same preponderance standard is reasonably likely to be met at a later time. Thus, for institution purposes, we assess the persuasiveness of the petitioner’s evidence while “recognizing that [we are] doing so without all evidence that may come out at trial.” *New England Braiding Co. v. A.W. Chesterton Co.*, 970 F.2d 878, 883 (Fed. Cir. 1992) (reviewing a decision on a preliminary injunction where patentee has the burden of demonstrating “that it will likely succeed on all disputed liability issues at trial”). Here, we have not decided that Petitioner has shown, for purposes of a final decision, that RFC 2401 was publicly available as of the critical date, but instead, that there is a reasonable likelihood that Petitioner may yet, during the course of an *inter partes* review trial, adduce evidence sufficient to prove that fact.

³ Patent Owner questions our citation to the Tamassia Declaration when it was not cited in the Petition. Req. Reh’g. 6 n.1. However, Patent Owner raised the issue when it cited to paragraph 152 of the Tamassia Declaration (Ex. 1005) in its Preliminary Response. Paper 6, 4.

IPR2015-00812
Patent 78,850,009 B2

Indeed, we specifically noted that Patent Owner will have further opportunities to contest these issues during the trial, if desired. Dec. 7 n.6. We are not persuaded of error in that decision.

Patent Owner's request for rehearing is *denied*.

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