UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

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HYUNDAI MOTOR COMPANY, HYUNDAI MOTOR AMERICA,
HYUNDAI MOTOR MANUFACTURING ALABAMA, LLC,
KIA MOTORS CORPORATION, KIA MOTORS AMERICA, INC., and
KIA MOTORS MANUFACTURING GEORGIA, INC.,
Petitioner,

v.

BLITZSAFE TEXAS, LLC,
Patent Owner.

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Case IPR2016-01476
Patent 8,155,342 B2

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Before JAMESON LEE, MIRIAM L. QUINN, and
KERRY BEGLEY, *Administrative Patent Judges*.

BEGLEY, *Administrative Patent Judge*.

DECISION
Denying Institution of *Inter Partes* Review
35 U.S.C. § 314(a), 37 C.F.R. § 42.108

Hyundai Motor Company, Hyundai Motor America, Hyundai Motor

Manufacturing Alabama, LLC, Kia Motors Corporation, Kia Motors

America, Inc., and Kia Motors Manufacturing Georgia, Inc. (collectively,

"Petitioner") filed a Petition requesting *inter partes* review of claims 49–57, 62–64, 71, 73, 77–80, 95, 97, 99–103, 106, 109–111, and 120 ("challenged claims") of U.S. Patent No. 8,155,342 B2 (Ex. 1001, "the '342 patent"). Paper 1 ("Pet."). Blitzsafe Texas, LLC ("Patent Owner") filed a Preliminary Response to the Petition. Paper 11 ("Prelim. Resp.").

Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 314(a), an *inter partes* review may not be instituted unless "the information presented in the petition . . . and any 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." Having considered the Petition and the Preliminary Response, we determine that the information presented does not show that there is a reasonable likelihood that Petitioner would prevail in establishing the unpatentability of any of the challenged claims of the '342 patent. Accordingly, we deny institution of an *inter partes* review.

I. BACKGROUND

A. RELATED MATTERS

The parties represent that the '342 patent is the subject of five ongoing infringement actions before the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas and was previously the subject of two infringement actions before the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey. Pet. 2; Paper 8, 1–2. In addition, the '342 patent is or was previously the subject of several *inter partes* review proceedings before the Office, namely IPR2016-00118, IPR2016-00418, IPR2016-00419, IPR2016-01445, IPR2016-01449, IPR2016-01473, IPR2016-01533, IPR2016-01557, and IPR2016-01560. Paper 8, 2; *see* Pet. 2. Related U.S. Patent No. 7,489,786 B2 is or was previously involved in IPR2016-00421, IPR2016-00422, IPR2016-01448, IPR2016-01472, and IPR2016-01477. Paper 8, 2; *see* Pet. 2.

B. THE '342 PATENT

The '342 patent explains that integrating an after-market audio/video system with an existing car audio/video system, such as a stereo system provided by an original equipment manufacturer ("OEM"), presents a problem because "signals generated by both systems are in proprietary formats" and "are not capable of being processed by" or recognized by the other system. Ex. 1001, 1:54–60; *see id.* at 2:58–67. Thus, "in order to integrate after-market systems with existing car stereo and video systems, it is necessary to convert signals between such systems." *Id.* at 1:60–63.

The '342 patent is directed to a multimedia device integration system that allows after-market portable devices to be integrated into an existing car audio/video system, such that data from the portable device can be displayed on the car system and control commands can be issued at the car system for execution by the portable device. *Id.* at [57], 2:44–54, 3:7–14. The portable device could, for example, comprise "a CD player, CD changer, digital media device (e.g., MP3 player, MP4 player, WMV player, Apple iPod, portable media center, or other device)," or "cellular telephone." *Id.* at [57]; *see id.* at 2:59–64, 5:9–13, 33:48–56.

Certain embodiments of the '342 patent provide for the "wireless integration" of a portable device with a car audio/video system, including "the wireless exchange" of commands, data, and signals between the portable device and the car system. *Id.* at 5:7–18; *see id.* at 33:43–35:37. These embodiments include an integration subsystem or module that can be positioned within either the portable device or the car audio/video system. *Id.* at 5:13–15, 5:29–31, 34:12–14, 35:23–25, Figs. 18–19. The integration subsystem or module receives control commands, such as a play command,

issued at the car audio/video system; processes the commands into a format compatible with the portable device; and transmits them to the portable device for execution. *Id.* at 5:19–23, 34:19–32; *see id.* at [57]. The integration subsystem or module also receives data from the portable device, such as track, song, artist, and time information; processes the data into a format compatible with the car system; and transmits the data to the car system for display. *Id.* at 5:23–29, 34:32–42; *see id.* at [57].

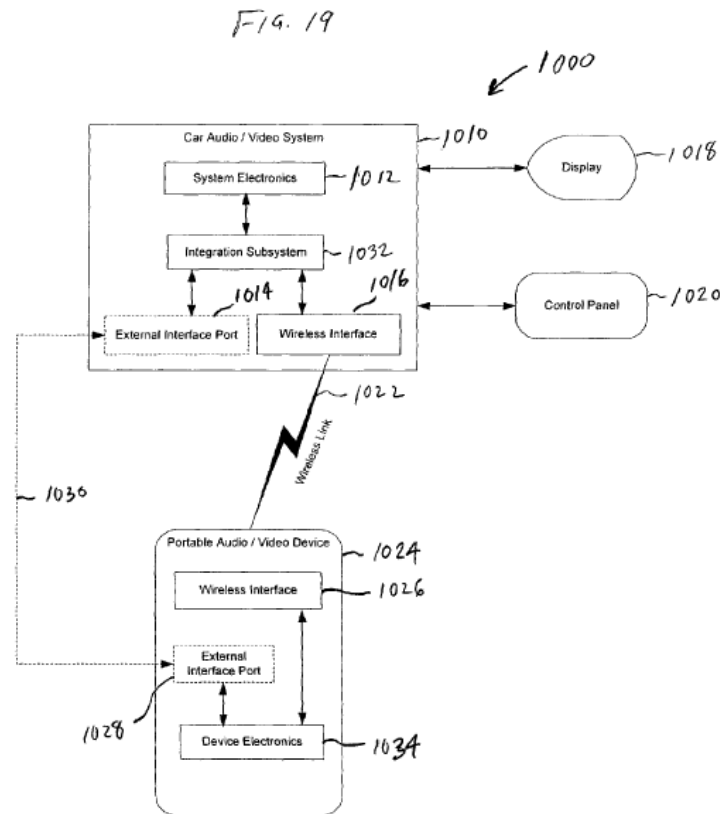Figure 19 of the '342 patent is reproduced below.

FIG. 19

Figure 19 illustrates an embodiment of the disclosed system that provides wireless integration between car audio/video system 1010 and portable device 1024 in which integration subsystem 1032 is positioned within the car system. *Id.* at 8:3–8, 35:17–32. Wireless interface 1016 in the car system and wireless interface 1026 in the portable device form wireless link 1022. *Id.* at 34:15–18; *see id.* at 35:21–23.

4

C. ILLUSTRATIVE CLAIM

Of the challenged claims, claims 49, 73, 97, and 120 of the

'342 patent are independent. Claim 49, reproduced below, is illustrative:

> 49. A multimedia device integration system, comprising:
> an integration subsystem in communication with a car audio/video system; and
> a first wireless interface in communication with said integration subsystem, said first wireless interface establishing a wireless communication link with a second wireless interface in communication with a portable device external to the car audio/video system,
> wherein said integration subsystem
>> obtains, using said wireless communication link, information about an audio file stored on the portable device,
>> transmits the information to the car audio/video system for subsequent display of the information on a display of the car audio/video system,
>> instructs the portable device to play the audio file in response to a user selecting the audio file using controls of the car audio/video system, and
>> receives audio generated by the portable device over said wireless communication link for playing on the car audio/video system.

Ex. 1001, 42:29–47 (line breaks added).

D. ASSERTED PRIOR ART

The Petition relies upon the following asserted prior art references:

U.S. Patent No. 7,110,755 B2 (filed July 22, 2002) (issued Sept. 19, 2006) (Ex. 1006, "Shibasaki");

Advanced Audio Distribution Profile Specification (Version 1.0 2003) (Ex. 1009, "A2DP");

Audio/Video Remote Control Profile (Version 1.0 2003) (Ex. 1008, "AVRCP"); and

Larry Tong & Jimmy Lai, *Optimize Bluetooth Car Kit Design, Implementation* (Nov. 17, 2003) (Ex. 1007, "Tong").

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