

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

SUBARU OF AMERICA, INC., MAZDA MOTOR OF AMERICA, INC.,
VOLVO CARS OF NORTH AMERICA, LLC, MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC
CORPORATION, MITSUBISHI MOTORS CORPORATION, DAIMLER
AG, and BMW OF NORTH AMERICA, LLC,
Petitioner,

v.

BLITZSAFE TEXAS, LLC,
Patent Owner.

Case IPR2018-00090
Patent 8,155,342 B2

Before JAMESON LEE, THOMAS L. GIANNETTI, and
MIRIAM L. QUINN, *Administrative Patent Judges*.

QUINN, *Administrative Patent Judge*.

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

I. INTRODUCTION

Petitioner, as captioned above, filed a Petition requesting an *inter partes* review of claims 49–57, 62–64, 66, 68, 70, 71, 73–80, 94, 95, 97, 99–103, 106, 109–111, 113, 115, and 120 (“the challenged claims”) of U.S. Patent No. 8,155,342 B2 (Ex. 1001, “the ’342 patent”). Paper 1 (“Pet.”). Patent Owner filed a Preliminary Response. Paper 14 (“Prelim. Resp.”).

Under 35 U.S.C. § 314, *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, and for the reasons stated below, we do not institute *inter partes* review of any challenged claims of the ’342 patent.

A. Related Matters

Petitioner asserts that the ’342 patent is the subject matter of district court litigation pending in the Eastern District of Texas: *Blitzsafe Texas, LLC v. Bayerische Motoren Werke AG et al.*, 2:17-cv-00418, E.D. Tex., May 11, 2017; *Blitzsafe Texas, LLC v. Tata Motors Ltd. et al.*, 2:17-cv-00424, E.D. Tex., May 12, 2017; *Blitzsafe Texas LLC v. Mitsubishi Electric Corporation et al.*, 2:17-cv- 00430, E.D. Tex., May 15, 2017; *Blitzsafe Texas, LLC v. Mazda Motor Corporation et al.*, 2:17-cv-00423, E.D. Tex., May 12, 2017; *Blitzsafe Texas, LLC v. Daimler AG et al.*, 2:17-cv-00422, E.D. Tex., May 12, 2017; *Blitzsafe Texas, LLC v. Subaru Corporation et al.*,

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2:17-cv-00421, E.D. Tex., May 12, 2017; *Blitzsafe Texas, LLC v. Zhejiang Geely Holding Group Co., Ltd. et al.*, 2:17-cv-00420, E.D. Tex., May 12, 2017; *Blitzsafe Texas, LLC v. Robert Bosch LLC et al.*, 2:17-cv-00105, E.D. Tex., February 3, 2017. Pet. 2–3.

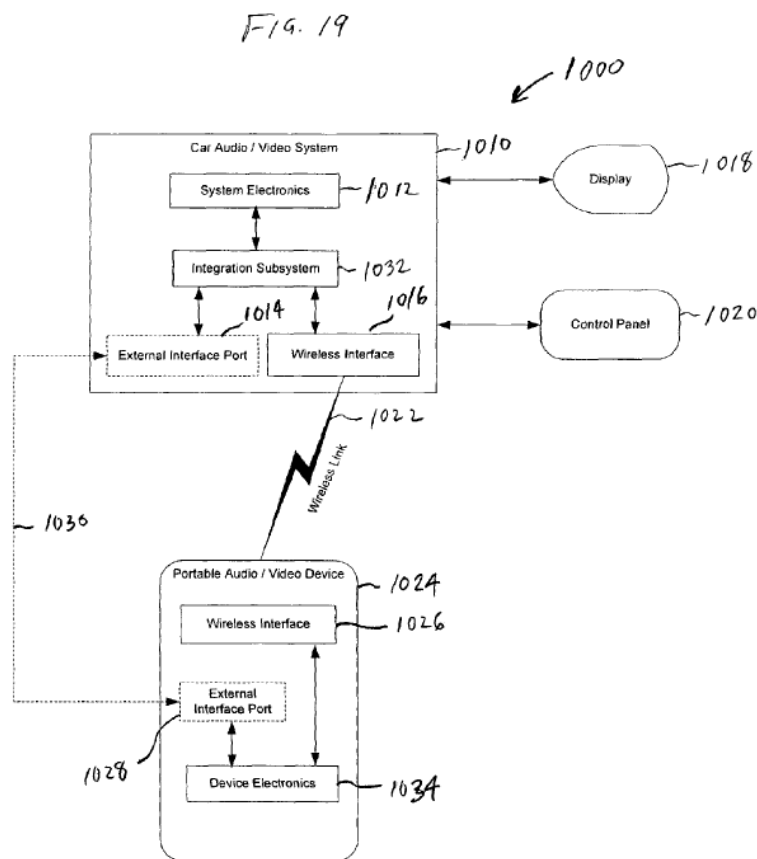
According to Petitioner, the '342 patent has been involved in multiple AIA proceedings: IPR2016-00118 (not instituted); IPR2016-00418 joined with IPR2016-01533, IPR2016-01557, IPR2016-01560 (settled and terminated after oral hearing and before final written decision). IPR2016-00419 (not instituted), IPR2016-01445 (settled and terminated prior to institution decision), IPR2016-01449 (settled and terminated prior to institution decision), IPR2016-01473 (not instituted), IPR2016-01476 (not instituted). Pet. 4.

B. The '342 Patent (Ex. 1001)

The '342 patent is entitled “Multimedia Device Integration System.” Ex. 1001, [54]. The '342 patent describes that a “particular problem with integrating after-market audio and video systems with existing car stereo and video systems is that signals generated by both systems are in proprietary formats, and are not capable of being processed by the after-market system.” *Id.* at 1:54–58. “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.

Certain embodiments of the '342 patent provide a multimedia device integration system that allows “for the wireless integration of a portable audio and/or video device with a car audio and/or video system.” *Id.* at

5:7–10. “The portable device could comprise a CD changer, CD player, satellite receiver (e.g., XM or Sirius), digital media device (e.g., MP3, MP4, WMV, or Apple iPod device), video device (e.g., DVD player), or a cellular telephone.” *Id.* at 5:9–13. In particular, an integration module, which could be positioned within the car system, receives data from the portable device (including track information, song information, artist information, time information, and other related information) and processes the data into a format compatible with the car system. *Id.* at 5:23–30. One embodiment illustrated in Figure 19, reproduced below, for example, shows an integration subsystem. *Id.* at 8:3–8.



As shown in Figure 19, integration subsystem 1032 positioned within car audio/video system 1010 allows information (data and control signals) to be exchanged between portable device 1024 and car audio/video system 1010, and processes and formats data accordingly so that instructions and data from car audio/video system 1010 are processed by portable device 1024, and vice versa. *See id.* at 33:43–35:62, Fig. 19. 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.

C. *Illustrative Claim*

Of the challenged claims, claims 49, 73, 97, and 120 are independent. Claim 49, reproduced below, is illustrative, where italicized text denotes limitations discussed further below.

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*

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