

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
MARSHALL DIVISION**

UNILOC USA, INC. ET AL.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS AMERICA,
INC. ET AL.,

Defendants.

Case No. 2:18-cv-00040-JRG-RSP

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UNILOC USA, INC. ET AL.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

HUAWEI DEVICE USA INC. ET AL.,

Defendants.

Case No. 2:18-cv-00074-JRG-RSP

CLAIM CONSTRUCTION MEMORANDUM OPINION AND ORDER

Case No. 2:18-cv-00040 (the “’040 Case”) and Case No. 2:18-cv-00074 (the “’074 Case”) have been consolidated for Claim Construction Proceedings. ’040 Case, Dkt. No. 56; ’074 Case, Dkt. No. 41. Before the Court are the briefs of Uniloc USA, Inc., Uniloc Luxembourg, S.A., and Uniloc 2017 LLC (collectively “Plaintiffs”) (’040 Case, Dkt Nos. 64 and 69; ’074 Case, Dkt Nos. 42 and 45)¹ and the briefs of Samsung Electronics America, Inc., Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd, Huawei Device USA, Inc., and Huawei Device Co. Ltd., (collectively “Defendants”) (’040 Case, Dkt No. 68; ’074 Case, Dkt No. 44). The Court held a hearing on the issues of claim construction and claim definiteness on March 19, 2019. Having considered the arguments and evidence presented by the parties at the hearing and in their briefing, the Court issues this Order.

¹ Citations to the parties’ filings are to the filing’s number in the docket (Dkt. No.) and pin cites are to the page numbers assigned through ECF.

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I. BACKGROUND

Plaintiffs allege infringement of U.S. Patent No. 6,993,049 (the “’049 Patent”). The ’049 Patent is entitled “Communication System.” The application leading to the ’049 Patent was filed on June 7, 2001, and the patent issued on January 31, 2006. The ’049 Patent includes a foreign priority claim to an application filed June 26, 2000.

In general, the ’049 Patent is directed to improving the responsiveness of a communication system by polling devices using a broadcast channel as part of the system’s inquiry procedure.

The abstract of the ’049 Patent provides:

A communications system comprises a primary station (100) and at least one secondary station (101). The primary station (100) is arranged to broadcast a series of inquiry messages, each in the form of a plurality of predetermined data fields arranged according to a first communications protocol such as Bluetooth. In addition the primary station (100) adds to some or all of the inquiry messages an additional data field for polling one or more secondary stations, which can respond to the poll if they have data for transmission. This system provides secondary stations (101) with a rapid response time without the need for a permanently active communication link.

Claims 1 and 11 of the ’049 Patent, exemplary system and method claims respectively, recite as follows:

1. A communications system comprising a primary station and at least one secondary station, wherein the primary station has means for broadcasting a series of inquiry messages, each in the form of a plurality of predetermined data fields arranged according to a first communications protocol, and means for adding to an inquiry message prior to transmission an additional data field for polling at least one secondary station, and wherein the at least one polled secondary station has means for determining when an additional data field has been added to the plurality of data fields, for determining whether it has been polled from the additional data field and for responding to a poll when it has data for transmission to the primary station.

11. A method of operating a communication system comprising a primary station and at least one secondary station, the method comprising the primary station broadcasting a series of inquiry messages, each in the form of a plurality of predetermined data fields arranged according to a first communications protocol, and adding to an inquiry message prior to transmission an additional data field for polling at least one secondary station, and further comprising the

at least one polled secondary station determining when an additional data field has been added to the plurality of data fields, determining whether it has been polled from the additional data field and responding to a poll when it has data for transmission to the primary station.

II. LEGAL PRINCIPLES

A. Claim Construction

“It is a ‘bedrock principle’ of patent law that ‘the claims of a patent define the invention to which the patentee is entitled the right to exclude.’” *Phillips v. AWH Corp.*, 415 F.3d 1303, 1312 (Fed. Cir. 2005) (en banc) (quoting *Innova/Pure Water Inc. v. Safari Water Filtration Sys., Inc.*, 381 F.3d 1111, 1115 (Fed. Cir. 2004)). To determine the meaning of the claims, courts start by considering the intrinsic evidence. *Id.* at 1313; *C.R. Bard, Inc. v. U.S. Surgical Corp.*, 388 F.3d 858, 861 (Fed. Cir. 2004); *Bell Atl. Network Servs., Inc. v. Covad Commc’ns Group, Inc.*, 262 F.3d 1258, 1267 (Fed. Cir. 2001). The intrinsic evidence includes the claims themselves, the specification, and the prosecution history. *Phillips*, 415 F.3d at 1314; *C.R. Bard, Inc.*, 388 F.3d at 861. The general rule—subject to certain specific exceptions discussed *infra*—is that each claim term is construed according to its ordinary and accustomed meaning as understood by one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention in the context of the patent. *Phillips*, 415 F.3d at 1312–13; *Alloc, Inc. v. Int’l Trade Comm’n*, 342 F.3d 1361, 1368 (Fed. Cir. 2003); *Azure Networks, LLC v. CSR PLC*, 771 F.3d 1336, 1347 (Fed. Cir. 2014) (“There is a heavy presumption that claim terms carry their accustomed meaning in the relevant community at the relevant time.”) (vacated on other grounds).

“The claim construction inquiry . . . begins and ends in all cases with the actual words of the claim.” *Renishaw PLC v. Marposs Societa’ per Azioni*, 158 F.3d 1243, 1248 (Fed. Cir. 1998). “[I]n all aspects of claim construction, ‘the name of the game is the claim.’” *Apple Inc. v. Motorola, Inc.*, 757 F.3d 1286, 1298 (Fed. Cir. 2014) (quoting *In re Hiniker Co.*, 150 F.3d 1362, 1369 (Fed.

Cir. 1998)). First, a term’s context in the asserted claim can be instructive. *Phillips*, 415 F.3d at 1314. Other asserted or unasserted claims can also aid in determining the claim’s meaning because claim terms are typically used consistently throughout the patent. *Id.* Differences among the claim terms can also assist in understanding a term’s meaning. *Id.* For example, when a dependent claim adds a limitation to an independent claim, it is presumed that the independent claim does not include the limitation. *Id.* at 1314–15.

“[C]laims ‘must be read in view of the specification, of which they are a part.’” *Id.* (quoting *Markman v. Westview Instruments, Inc.*, 52 F.3d 967, 979 (Fed. Cir. 1995) (en banc)). “[T]he specification ‘is always highly relevant to the claim construction analysis. Usually, it is dispositive; it is the single best guide to the meaning of a disputed term.’” *Id.* (quoting *Vitronics Corp. v. Conceptronic, Inc.*, 90 F.3d 1576, 1582 (Fed. Cir. 1996)); *Teleflex, Inc. v. Ficosa N. Am. Corp.*, 299 F.3d 1313, 1325 (Fed. Cir. 2002). But, “[a]lthough the specification may aid the court in interpreting the meaning of disputed claim language, particular embodiments and examples appearing in the specification will not generally be read into the claims.” *Comark Commc’ns, Inc. v. Harris Corp.*, 156 F.3d 1182, 1187 (Fed. Cir. 1998) (quoting *Constant v. Advanced Micro-Devices, Inc.*, 848 F.2d 1560, 1571 (Fed. Cir. 1988)); *see also Phillips*, 415 F.3d at 1323. “[I]t is improper to read limitations from a preferred embodiment described in the specification—even if it is the only embodiment—into the claims absent a clear indication in the intrinsic record that the patentee intended the claims to be so limited.” *Liebel-Flarsheim Co. v. Medrad, Inc.*, 358 F.3d 898, 913 (Fed. Cir. 2004).

The prosecution history is another tool to supply the proper context for claim construction because, like the specification, the prosecution history provides evidence of how the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (“PTO”) and the inventor understood the patent. *Phillips*, 415 F.3d at 1317.

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