

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

SAMSUNG DISPLAY CO., LTD.,
SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS CO., LTD., AND
SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS AMERICA, INC.,
Petitioner,

v.

SOLAS OLED LTD.,
Patent Owner.

IPR2021-00591
Patent 7,868,880 B2

Before SALLY C. MEDLEY, JO-ANNE M. KOKOSKI, and
JULIA HEANEY, *Administrative Patent Judges*.

HEANEY, *Administrative Patent Judge*.

DECISION
Granting Institution of *Inter Partes* Review
35 U.S.C. § 314

I. INTRODUCTION

Samsung Display Co., Ltd., Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd., and Samsung Electronics America, Inc. (collectively, “Petitioner”) filed a Petition to institute an *inter partes* review of claims 1–40 of U.S. Patent No. 7,868,880 B2 (Ex. 1001, “the ’880 patent”). Paper 4 (“Petition” or “Pet.”). Solas OLED Ltd. (“Patent Owner”) did not file a Preliminary Response.

Institution of an *inter partes* review is authorized by statute when “the information presented in the petition . . . 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) (2018). Upon consideration of the Petition and the evidence of record, we determine that Petitioner has established a reasonable likelihood that it would prevail in showing the unpatentability of at least one claim challenged in the Petition. Accordingly, we institute an *inter partes* review of all claims and all grounds asserted in the Petition.¹

A. *Related Proceedings*

Petitioner identifies the following litigation involving the ’880 patent: *Solas OLED Ltd. v. Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. et al.*, Case No. 2:20-cv-00307 (E.D. Tex.) (the “Texas Action”); and *In the matter of Certain Active Matrix OLED Display Devices And Components Thereof*, Complaint

¹ *Guidance on the Impact of SAS on AIA Trial Proceedings* (Apr. 26, 2018), <https://www.uspto.gov/patents-application-process/patent-trial-and-appeal-board/trials/guidance-impact-sas-aia-trial>; see also *SAS Inst., Inc. v. Iancu*, 138 S. Ct. 1348, 1359–60 (2018) (“*SAS* Guidance”).

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No. 337-TA-1243² (U.S. International Trade Commission) (the “ITC Action”). Pet. 1–2.

B. The '880 Patent

The '880 patent, titled “Display Apparatus and Drive Control Method Thereof,” describes a display apparatus having an active matrix type display panel that includes a plurality of current control type optical elements, the apparatus being “capable of displaying moving images with a favorable display quality while being capable of displaying image information at an appropriate gradation corresponding to the display data.” Ex. 1001, at [54], 1:18–21, 3:32–38. The '880 patent describes four embodiments of a display apparatus having different display panels and peripheral circuits for the display panels. *Id.* at 4:14–5:35. Figures 9–11 of the '880 patent illustrate a second embodiment of the display apparatus. *Id.* at 4:40–49. Figure 9 is reproduced below.

² Petitioner refers to the “Complaint No.” (Pet. 2), but the ITC website indicates that 337-TA-1243 is the Investigation Number (Inv. No.). *See* https://usitc.gov/secretary/fed_reg_notices/337/337_1243_notice_01272021s-gl.pdf.

FIG.9

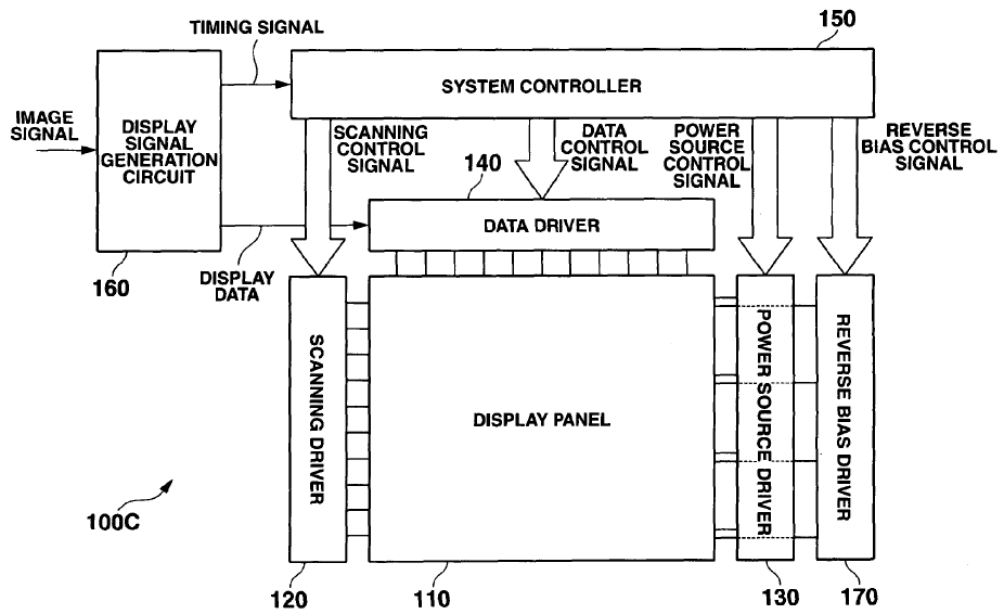


Figure 9 depicts display apparatus 100C, including display panel 110, scanning driver/scanning drive unit 120, power source driver/power source drive unit 130, data driver/data drive unit 140, system controller/drive control unit 150, display signal generation circuit 160, and reverse bias driver/state setting unit 170. *Id.* at 4:40–42, 18:11–18, 18:35–37.

Figure 10, reproduced below, depicts a display panel for the display apparatus of Figure 9. *Id.* at 17:33–35.

FIG.10

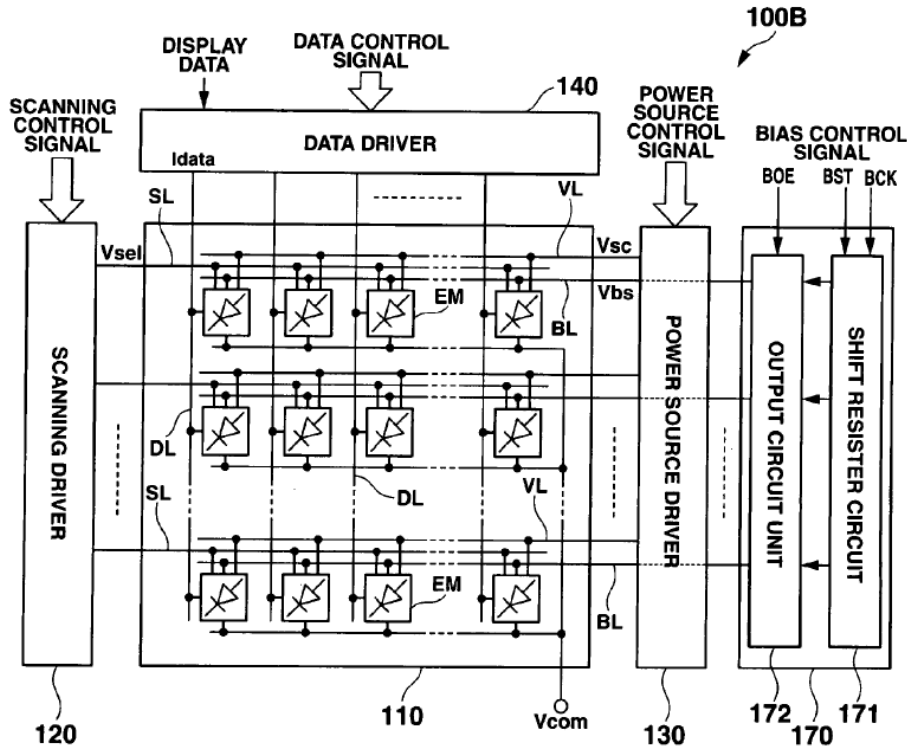


Figure 10 depicts display panel 110 having a plurality of display pixels EM arranged in two dimensions in row and column directions. *Id.* at 18:17–20. Scanning driver 120 sequentially applies selection level scanning signal V_{sel} to scanning lines SL of display panel 110 to set display pixels EM for each row to a selection state. *Id.* at 18:20–45. Power source driver 130 sequentially applies drive voltage V_{sc} to power source lines VL arranged in parallel to scanning lines SL in each row. *Id.* Data driver 140 supplies a gradation signal (gradation current I_{data}) corresponding to display data, to display pixels EM via data lines DL. *Id.* System controller 150 generates and outputs a scanning control signal, a power source control signal, a reverse bias control signal and a data control signal for performing a predetermined image display operation in display panel 110. *Id.* Display signal generation circuit 160 generates display data (luminance gradation

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