IPR2021-00663

Patent No. 6,411,941

Petitioners' Reply In Support Of Motion For Joinder

Attorney Docket: SONYNJ 7.1R-015

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

SONY MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS AB, SONY MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS, INC., SONY ELECTRONICS INC., and SONY CORPORATION,

Petitioners,

V.

ANCORA TECHNOLOGIES, INC.,

Patent Owner.

IPR2021-00663 Patent No. 6,411,941

PETITIONERS' REPLY IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR JOINDER UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 315(c), 37 C.F.R. § 42.22 AND § 42.122(b)



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I. INTRODUCTION

The discretionary factors and equities favor granting Petitioners' ("Sony") joinder motion. Ancora is a nonpracticing entity, asserting a patent that expired on October 1, 2018, against Sony and other consumer electronics companies. The long history of lawsuits by Ancora as well as recent settlement with TCT, shortly after the PTAB instituted an IPR proceeding in an effort to quell a strong challenge to the '941 Patent's validity, justify granting Sony's joinder motion. Sony has not previously filed a petition against the '941 Patent. The underlying litigation is in early stages of discovery and would not go to trial until at least October 2022. While two parties have opted to settle, Sony, LGE, HTC, and Lenovo continue to litigate, in three different courts, and most notably the Board has already determined in IPR2020-01609 that the prior art is likely to invalidate all challenged claims. Here, the public policies of promoting patent quality and fostering settlement can both be achieved by granting Sony's joinder petition and then dismissing TCT from the IPR proceedings. Weighing all relevant factors, the Board should allow joinder by Sony.

II. JOINDER SHOULD BE GRANTED PRIOR TO TERMINATION

The Board decides joinder motions "on a case-by-case basis upon consideration of the totality of the circumstances." *ZTE (USA) LLC v. Seven Networks, LLC*, IPR2019-00460, Paper 18, at 6 (June 6, 2019).

The decisions Ancora cites for the proposition that Sony's joinder petition should be denied as moot are factually distinct. In *ZTE*, joinder was denied where



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