

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
WACO DIVISION

XR COMMUNICATIONS, LLC, dba
VIVATO TECHNOLOGIES,

Plaintiff,

v.

APPLE, INC.

Defendant.

Case No. 6:21-cv-620

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

**COMPLAINT FOR PATENT INFRINGEMENT AGAINST
APPLE, INC.**

This is an action for patent infringement arising under the Patent Laws of the United States of America, 35 U.S.C. § 1 *et seq.*, in which Plaintiff XR Communications LLC d/b/a Vivato Technologies (“Plaintiff” or “Vivato”) makes the following allegations against Defendant Apple, Inc. (“Defendant”):

INTRODUCTION

1. This complaint arises from Defendant’s unlawful infringement of the following United States patent owned by Vivato, which generally relates to wireless communications technology: United States Patent No. 10,715,235 (the “’235 Patent”) (collectively, the “Asserted Patent”).

2. Countless electronic devices today connect to the Internet wirelessly. Beyond just connecting our devices together, wireless networks have become an inseparable part of our lives in our homes, our offices, and our neighborhood coffee shops. In even our most crowded spaces, today’s wireless technology allows all of us to communicate with each other, on our own devices,

at virtually the same time. Our connected world would be unrecognizable without the ubiquity of sophisticated wireless networking technology.

3. Just a few decades ago, wireless technology of this kind could only be found in science fiction. The underlying science behind wireless communications can be traced back to the development of “wireless telegraphy” in the nineteenth century. Guglielmo Marconi is credited with developing the first practical radio, and in 1896, Guglielmo Marconi was awarded British patent 12039, *Improvements in transmitting electrical impulses and signals and in apparatus there-for*, the first patent to issue for a Herzian wave-based wireless telegraphic system. Marconi would go on to win the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1909 for his contributions to the field.

4. One of Marconi’s preeminent contemporaries was Dr. Karl Ferdinand Braun, who shared the 1909 Nobel Prize in Physics with Marconi. In his Nobel lecture dated December 11, 1909, Braun explained that he was inspired to work on wireless technology by Marconi’s own experiments. Braun had observed that the signal strength in Marconi’s radio was limited beyond a certain distance, and wondered why increasing the voltage on Marconi’s radio did not result in a stronger transmission at greater distances. Braun thus dedicated himself to developing wireless devices with a stronger, more effective transmission capability.

5. In 1905, Braun invented the first phased array antenna. This phased array antenna featured three antennas carefully positioned relative to one another with a specific phase relationship so that the radio waves output from each antenna could add together to increase radiation in a desired direction. This design allowed Braun’s phased array antenna to transmit a directed signal.

6. Building on the fundamental breakthrough that radio transmissions can be *directed* according to a specific radiation pattern through the use of a phased array antenna, directed

wireless communication technology has developed many applications over the years. Braun's invention of the phased array antenna led to the development of radar, smart antennas, and, eventually, to a technology known as "MIMO," or "multiple-input, multiple-output," which would ultimately allow a single radio channel to receive and transmit multiple data signals simultaneously. Along the way, engineers have worked tirelessly to overcome limitations and roadblocks directed wireless communication technology.

7. At the beginning of the twenty-first century, the vast majority of wireless networks still did not yet take advantage of directed wireless communications. Instead, "omnidirectional" access points were ubiquitous. Omnidirectional access points transmit radio waves uniformly around the access point in every direction and do not steer the signal in particular directions. Omnidirectional antennas access points do typically achieve 360 degrees of coverage around the access point, but with a reduced coverage distance. Omnidirectional access points also lack sophisticated approaches to overcome certain types of interference in the environment. As only one example, the presence of solid obstructions, such as a concrete wall, ceiling, or pillar, can limit signal penetration. As another example, interference arises when radio waves are reflected, refracted, or diffracted based on obstacles present between the transmitter and receiver. The multiple paths that radio waves can travel between the transmitter and receiver often result in signal interference that decreases performance, and omnidirectional access points lack advanced solutions to overcome these "multipath" effects.

8. Moving from omnidirectional networks to modern networks has required an additional series of advancements that harness the capabilities of directed wireless technology. These advancements range from conceiving various ways to steer and modify radiation patterns, to enhancing the transmission signal power in a desired direction, to suppressing radiation in

undesired directions, to minimizing signal “noise,” and then applying these new approaches into communications networks with multiple, heterogenous transmitters and receivers.

9. Harnessing the capabilities of directed wireless technology resulted in a significant leap forward in the signal strength, reliability, concurrent users, and/or data transmission capability of a wireless network. One of the fundamental building blocks of this latest transition was the development of improvements to MIMO and “beamforming,” which are the subject matter of patents in this infringement action. The patents in this action resulted from the investment of tens of millions of dollars and years of tireless effort by a group of engineers who built a technology company slightly ahead of its time. Their patented innovations laid the groundwork for today’s networks, and are infringed by Defendant’s accused products.

PARTIES

10. Plaintiff XR Communications, LLC, d/b/a Vivato Technologies (“Vivato” or “Plaintiff”) is a limited liability company organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware with its principal place of business at 2809 Ocean Front Walk, Venice, California 90291. Vivato is the sole owner by assignment of all right, title, and interest in each Asserted Patent.

11. Vivato was founded in 2000 as a \$80+ million venture-backed company with several key innovators in the wireless communication field including Siavash Alamouti, Ken Biba, William Crilly, James Brennan, Edward Casas, and Vahid Tarokh, among many others. At that time, and as remains the case today, “Wi-Fi” or “802.11” had become the ubiquitous means of wireless connection to the Internet, integrated into hundreds of millions of mobile devices globally. Vivato was founded to leverage its talent to generate intellectual property and deliver Wi-Fi/802.11 wireless connectivity solutions to service the growing demand for bandwidth.

12. Vivato has accomplished significant innovations in the field of wireless communications technology. One area of focus at Vivato was the development of advanced wireless systems with sophisticated antenna designs to improve wireless speed, coverage, and reliability. Vivato also focused on designing wireless systems that maximize the efficient use of spectrum and wireless resources for large numbers of connected mobile devices.

13. Among many fundamental breakthroughs achieved by Vivato are inventions that allow for intelligent and adaptive beamforming based on up-to-date information about the wireless medium. Through these and many other inventions, Vivato’s engineers pioneered a wireless technology that provides for simultaneous transmission and reception, a significant leap forward over conventional wireless technology.

14. Over the years, Vivato has developed proven technology, with over 400

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