UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

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META PLATFORMS, INC.,
Petitioner,

v.

THALES VISIONIX, INC.,
Patent Owner.

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IPR2022-01308
Patent 7,725,253 B2

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Before WILLIAM V. SAINDON, HYUN J. JUNG, and
JASON W. MELVIN, *Administrative Patent Judges*.

MELVIN, *Administrative Patent Judge*.

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

I.   INTRODUCTION

Meta Platforms, Inc., ("Petitioner") filed a Petition (Paper 1, "Pet.") requesting institution of *inter partes* review of all claims (1–9) of U.S. Patent No. 7,725,253 B2 (Ex. 1003, "the '253 patent"). Thales Visionix, Inc., ("Patent Owner") filed a Preliminary Response. Paper 7 ("Prelim. Resp."). As authorized, Petitioner filed a Preliminary Reply (Paper 8) and Patent Owner filed a Preliminary Sur-Reply (Paper 9). Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 314 and 37 C.F.R. § 42.4(a), we have authority to determine whether to institute review.

An *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." 35 U.S.C. § 314(a). For the reasons set forth below, we conclude that Petitioner has shown a reasonable likelihood it will prevail in establishing the unpatentability of at least one challenged claim, and we institute *inter partes* review.

A.   REAL PARTIES IN INTEREST

Petitioner identifies itself and Meta Platforms Technologies, LLC, as the real parties in interest. Pet. 1. Patent Owner identifies itself and licensee Gentex Corporation as the real parties in interest. Paper 3, 1 (Patent Owner's Mandatory Notices).

B.   RELATED MATTERS

The parties identify the following related litigation: *Gentex Corp. et al. v. Facebook, Inc., Meta Platforms, Inc. et al.*, No. 5:22-cv-03892 (N.D. Cal.). Pet. 2; Paper 3, 1.

Patent Owner also identifies Office proceedings IPR2022-01304 and IPR2022-01305 as involving a patent related to the '253 patent. Paper 3, 1.

C. THE '253 PATENT

The '253 patent is titled "Tracking, Auto-Calibration, and Map-Building System." Ex. 1003, Code (54). It issued from an application filed June 8, 2005, as a continuation of an application filed August 11, 2003 (now Pat. No. 6,922,632), which claims the benefit of a provisional application filed August 9, 2002. *Id.*, codes (63), (60), 1:7–10. The '253 patent relates to a navigation or motion-tracking system. *Id.*, code (57).

The '253 patent describes that "Navigation system 90 . . . includes sensors 103 that provide measurement data and a data processing unit 190 that processes data provided by the sensors." *Id.* at 11:49–52. It states that "navigation system 90 tracks the position and the orientation (together referred to as the 6-dimensional 'pose') of vehicle 100 based on both inertial measurements as well as sensor measurements between sensing devices or targets in the vehicle 100 and sensing devices or targets that are fixed in the environment 106." *Id.* at 11:55–60. The '253 patent refers to "sensors and targets fixed to the vehicle or fixed in the environment," collectively, as "pose sensing elements" (PSE). *Id.* at 12:50–52. Figure 2 is reproduced below:
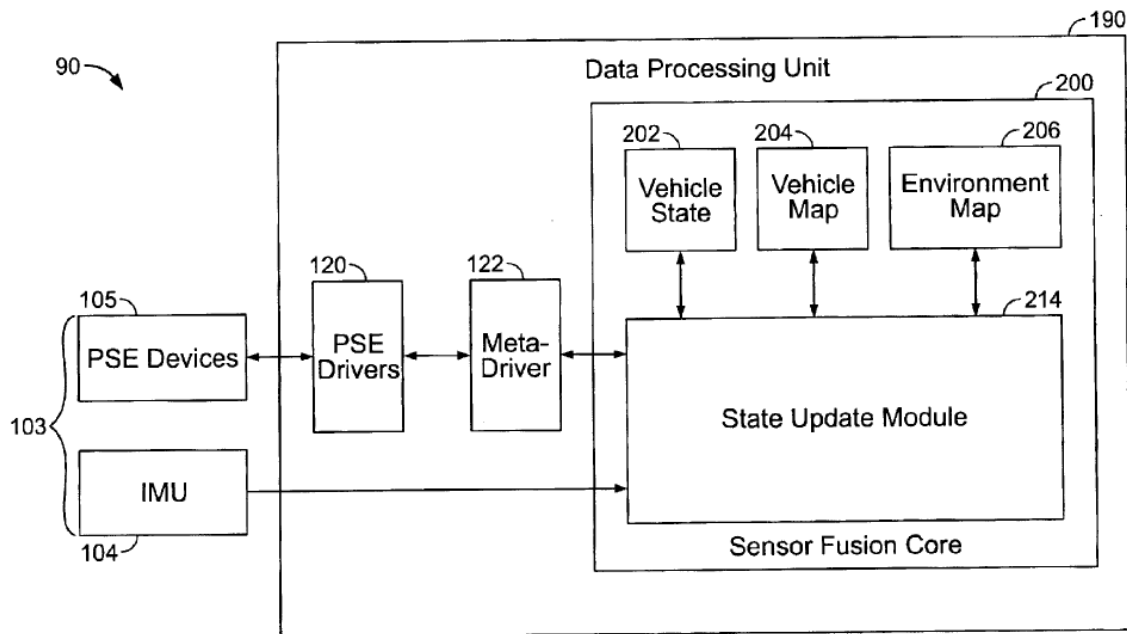
FIG. 2

Figure 2 is a block diagram of a navigation system. *Id.* at 11:26. It depicts sensors 103 including PSE devices 105 and inertial measurement unit (IMU)[1] 104 providing data to data processing unit 190, which includes PSE drivers 120 and meta-driver 122, which provide an interface to sensor fusion core 200. *Id.* at 15:51–16:22.

The specification explains that "PSE drivers 120 are software modules, which may be written by manufacturers of PSE devices 105 independently of the specific implementation of the sensor fusion core" and "include information and interfaces that are specific to the PSE devices 105, and data and code needed for computation of the linearized observation matrices, observation noise covariance matrices, and expected sensor measurements." *Id.* at 16:22–31. It also explains that, when navigation

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[1] Ex. 1003, 12:22–23.

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system 90 is powered up, measurement management unit (MMU) 304 "calls the meta-driver 122 and requests that the meta-driver enumerate the sensing hardware," and then "[m]eta-driver 122 loads available PSE drivers, such as 308 and 309, from a driver database 310." *Id.* at 18:13–17. The '253 patent states that, "[b]y using meta-driver 122 to enumerate the PSEs available upon power-up of navigation system 90, the navigation system is able to automatically reconfigure itself." *Id.* at 18:42–44.

D.   CHALLENGED CLAIMS

Challenged claim 1 is independent and is reproduced below:

1. A tracking system comprising:

   an estimation subsystem; and

   a sensor subsystem coupled to the estimation subsystem
      and configured to provide configuration data to the
      estimation subsystem and to provide measurement
      information to the estimation subsystem for localizing
      an object;

   wherein the estimation subsystem is configured to update a
      location estimate for the object based on configuration
      data and measurement information accepted from the
      sensor subsystem.

Id. at 46:4–13. Claims 2–5 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1. *Id.* at 46:14–26. Claim 6 is independent and is reproduced below:

6. A method comprising:

   enumerating sensing elements available to a tracking
      system that includes an estimation subsystem that
      estimates a position or orientation of an object; and

   providing parameters specific to the enumerated sensing
      elements to the tracking system to enable the estimation
      subsystem to be configured based on the parameters
      specific to the enumerated sensing elements to enable

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