

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

TCL ELECTRONICS HOLDINGS LTD. (f/k/a TCL MULTIMEDIA
TECHNOLOGY HOLDINGS, LTD.),
TCL INDUSTRIES HOLDINGS CO., LTD.,
TCL INDUSTRIES HOLDINGS (H.K.) LIMITED,
TTE TECHNOLOGY, INC. (d/b/a TCL NORTH AMERICA),
TTE CORPORATION, TCL MOKA INTERNATIONAL LIMITED,
TCL MOKA MANUFACTURING S.A. DE C.V.,
TCL KING ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES (HUIZHOU) CO. LTD.,
MANUFACTURAS AVANZADAS S.A. DE C.V.,
TCL SMART DEVICE (VIETNAM) CO., LTD,
SHENZHEN TCL NEW TECHNOLOGY CO., LTD.,
TCL OPTOELECTRONICS TECHNOLOGY (HUIZHOU) CO., LTD.,
TCL OVERSEAS MARKETING LTD., and
TCL TECHNOLOGY GROUP CORPORATION (f/k/a TCL CORP.),
Petitioner,

v.

LG ELECTRONICS INC.,
Patent Owner.

IPR2023-00240
Patent 7,982,803 B2

IPR2023-00240
Patent 7,982,803 B2

Before ROBERT J. WEINSCHENK, JOHN A. HUDALLA, and
GARTH D. BAER, *Administrative Patent Judges*.

HUDALLA, *Administrative Patent Judge*.

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

TCL Electronics Holdings Ltd. (f/k/a TCL Multimedia Technology Holdings, Ltd.), TCL Industries Holdings Co., Ltd., TCL Industries Holdings (H.K.) Limited, TTE Technology, Inc. (d/b/a TCL North America), TTE Corporation, TCL Moka International Limited, TCL Moka Manufacturing S.A. de C.V., TCL King Electrical Appliances (Huizhou) Co. Ltd., Manufacturas Avanzadas S.A. de C.V., TCL Smart Device (Vietnam) Co., Ltd., Shenzhen TCL New Technology Co., Ltd., TCL Optoelectronics Technology (Huizhou) Co., Ltd., TCL Overseas Marketing Ltd., and TCL Technology Group Corporation (f/k/a TCL Corp.) (collectively, “Petitioner”) filed a Petition (Paper 1, “Pet.”) requesting an *inter partes* review of claims 1–18 (“the challenged claims”) of U.S. Patent No. 7,982,803 B2 (Ex. 1001, “the ’803 patent”). Petitioner filed a Declaration of David B. Lett (Ex. 1005) with its Petition. LG Electronics Inc. (“Patent Owner”) filed a Preliminary Response (Paper 8, “Prelim. Resp.”).

We have authority to determine whether to institute an *inter partes* review. *See* 35 U.S.C. § 314 (2018); 37 C.F.R. § 42.4(a) (2022). Under 35 U.S.C. § 314(a), we may not authorize an *inter partes* review unless the information in the petition and the preliminary 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.” For the reasons that follow, we do not institute an *inter partes* review.

I. BACKGROUND

A. *Real Parties-in-Interest*

Petitioner identifies TCL Electronics Holdings Ltd. (f/k/a TCL Multimedia Technology Holdings, Ltd.), TCL Industries Holdings Co., Ltd., TCL Industries Holdings (H.K.) Limited, TTE Technology, Inc. (d/b/a TCL North America), TTE Corporation, TCL Moka International Limited, TCL Moka Manufacturing S.A. de C.V., TCL King Electrical Appliances (Huizhou) Co. Ltd., Manufacturas Avanzadas S.A. de C.V., TCL Smart Device (Vietnam) Co., Ltd., Shenzhen TCL New Technology Co., Ltd., TCL Optoelectronics Technology (Huizhou) Co., Ltd., TCL Overseas Marketing Ltd., and TCL Technology Group Corporation (f/k/a TCL Corp.) as the real parties-in-interest. Pet. 1–2. Patent Owner identifies LG Electronics Inc. as the real party-in-interest. Paper 6, 2.

B. *Related Matter*

As required by 37 C.F.R. § 42.8(b)(2), the parties identify the following related matter (Pet. 2; Paper 6, 2):

LG Elecs. Inc. v. TCL Elecs. Holdings Ltd., No. 2:22-cv-00122-JRG (E.D. Tex. filed Apr. 21, 2022).

C. *The '803 patent*

The '803 patent is directed to “synchronizing an audio signal outputted from a digital video signal processing apparatus to an external device with a video signal outputted to a display device of the apparatus.”

Ex. 1001, 1:6–7. The '803 patent seeks to address the problem of synchronizing outputted audio and video signals in light of the relatively long time it takes to process video signals compared to audio signals. *See id.* at 2:4–34. Figure 3 of the '803 patent is reproduced below.

FIG. 3

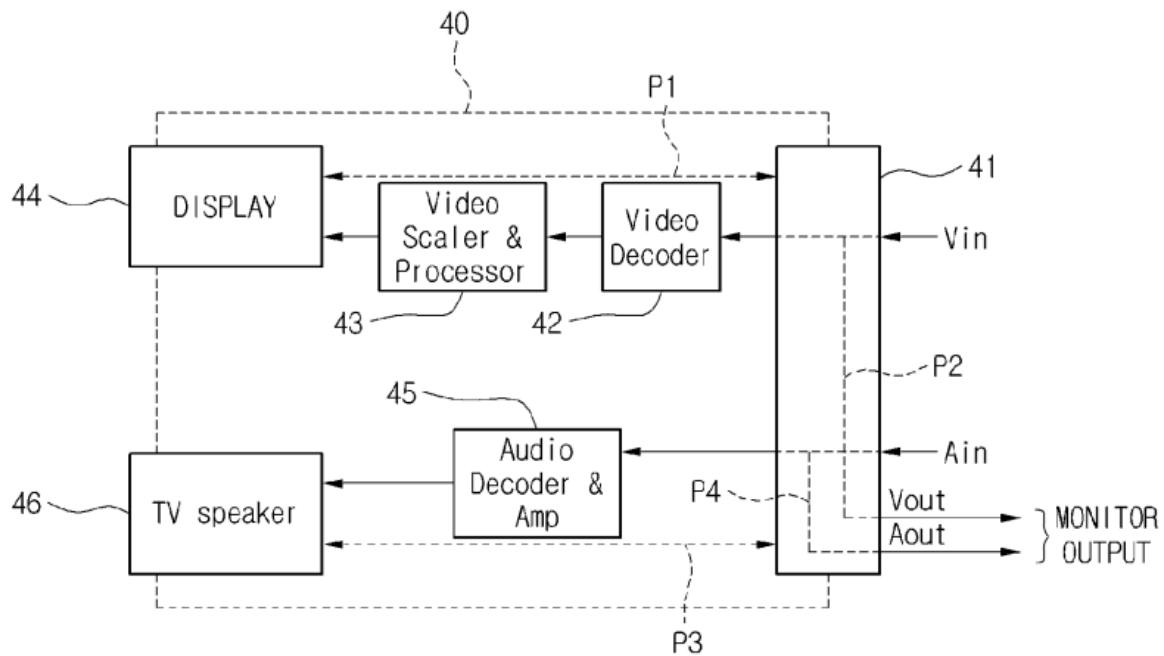


Figure 3 illustrates audio and video signal processing unit 40 of a digital TV. *Id.* at 4:3–5. Processing unit 40 includes AV switch 41 for controlling the processing paths of inputted video signal Vin and audio signal Ain. *Id.* at 4:5–7, 4:16–17. In first video path P1, video signal Vin is decoded by decoder 42 and then scaled and converted by video scaler/processor 43 for output on display 44. *Id.* at 4:5–12, 4:23–31, 4:63–65. In second video path P2, video signal Vin is outputted at monitor output port Vout. *Id.* at 4:38–43, 4:65–66. In first audio path P3, audio signal Ain is decoded and amplified by audio decoder/amplifier 45 for output to TV speaker 46. *Id.* at 4:12–15, 4:32–36, 4:66–5:1. In second audio path P4, audio signal Ain is

outputted at monitor output port Aout. *Id.* at 4:38–43, 5:1–3. Based on processing time differences, first video path P1 may not be synchronized with second audio path P4, and first audio path P3 may not be synchronized with second audio path P4. *Id.* at 5:45–55.

Figure 4 of the '803 patent is reproduced below.

FIG. 4

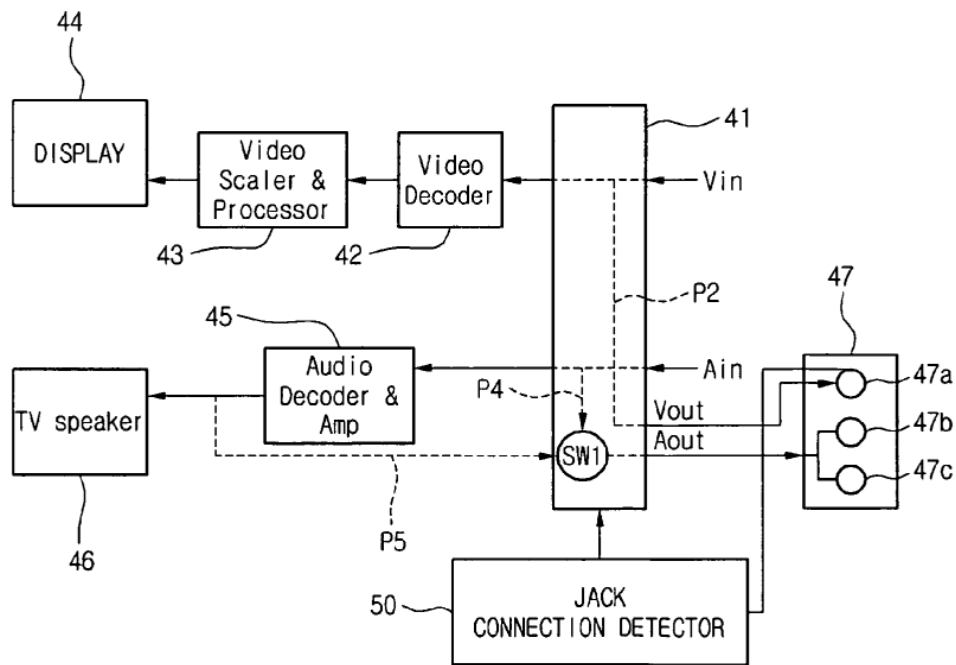


Figure 4 illustrates an audio and video processing circuit of a digital TV that additionally includes jack connection detector 50. Ex. 1001, 6:36–38. Jack connection detector 50 detects whether an external device is connected to monitor output port 47, which comprises video port 47a and audio ports 47b and 47c. *Id.* at 6:23–26, 6:50–53. Based on the detection result, jack connection detector 50 (or a controller in the digital TV) controls selection switch SW1. *Id.* at 6:32–43. If the detection result shows that the external device is connected to all audio and video ports 47a, 47b, and 47c, then the external device is deemed to be an audio/video device. *Id.* at 7:3–6. In this case, selection switch SW1 is controlled to select second audio path P4 such

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