

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

T-MOBILE USA, INC., AT&T SERVICES INC.,
AT&T MOBILITY LLC, AT&T CORPORATION,
CELLCO PARTNERSHIP D/B/A VERIZON WIRELESS,
NOKIA OF AMERICA CORPORATION, AND ERICSSON INC.,
Petitioner,

v.

COBBLESTONE WIRELESS LLC,
Patent Owner.

IPR2024-00137
Patent 9,094,888 B2

Before BARBARA A. PARVIS, NATHAN A. ENGELS, and
RUSSELL E. CASS, *Administrative Patent Judges*.

PARVIS, *Administrative Patent Judge*.

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

I. INTRODUCTION

T-Mobile USA, Inc., AT&T Services, Inc., AT&T Mobility LLC, AT&T Corporation, Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless, Nokia of America Corporation, and Ericsson Inc. (collectively, “Petitioner”) filed a Petition (Paper 1 (“Pet.”)) requesting *inter partes* review of claims 9, 10, 12, 20, 21, and 23 (“challenged claims”) of U.S. Patent No. 9,094,888 B2 (Ex. 1001, “the ’888 patent”). Cobblestone Wireless LLC (“Patent Owner”) filed a Preliminary Response. Paper 11 (“Prelim. Resp.”). With authorization, Petitioner filed a Preliminary Reply (Paper 13 (“Prelim. Reply”)), and Patent Owner filed a Preliminary Sur-reply (Paper 14 (“Prelim. Sur-reply”)).

We have authority to determine whether to institute review under 35 U.S.C. § 314 and 37 C.F.R. § 42.4. We may institute an *inter partes* review if “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).

Upon consideration of the contentions and the evidence of record at this preliminary stage, we determine that Petitioner has demonstrated a reasonable likelihood of prevailing on at least one of the challenged claims of the ’888 patent. Accordingly, we grant Petitioner’s request and institute an *inter partes* review of all challenged claims of the ’888 patent and with respect to all grounds set forth in the Petition.

II. BACKGROUND

A. *Real Parties in Interest*

Petitioner identifies T-Mobile USA, Inc., AT&T Services, Inc., AT&T Mobility LLC, AT&T Corporation, Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless, Nokia of America Corporation, and Ericsson Inc. Pet. 2–3.

Petitioner also identifies Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd., because it is named as a defendant and its products are accused of infringement in a related district court litigation. *Id.* at 3. Patent Owner names itself as the real party in interest. Paper 9, 2.

B. *Related Matters*

Both parties identify, as matters involving or related to the '888 patent, the following district court proceedings: *Cobblestone Wireless, LLC v. T-Mobile USA, Inc.*, No. 2:22-cv-00477 (E.D. Tex.) (identified as the “LEAD CASE” (Ex. 1012) and referred to herein as the “parallel district court case”); *Cobblestone Wireless, LLC v. Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless*, No. 2:22-cv-00478 (E.D. Tex.); *Cobblestone Wireless, LLC v. AT&T Inc.*, No. 2:22-cv-00474 (E.D. Tex.); and *Cobblestone Wireless, LLC v. Samsung Electronics Co.*, No. 2:23-cv-00285 (E.D. Tex.). Pet. 3–4; Paper 9, 2. Also, Samsung Electronics America, Inc. filed a petition on December 18, 2023, challenging the '888 patent in IPR2024-00315.

C. *The '888 Patent*

The '888 patent is titled “Wireless Device Handoff Between Wireless Networks.” Ex. 1001, code (54). The '888 patent describes “example methods to be implemented at a first wireless network to handoff a wireless device to a second wireless network.” *Id.* at 1:38–40. One embodiment of a

wireless communication system including two wireless networks is illustrated in Figure 1A. *Id.* at 2:59–60.

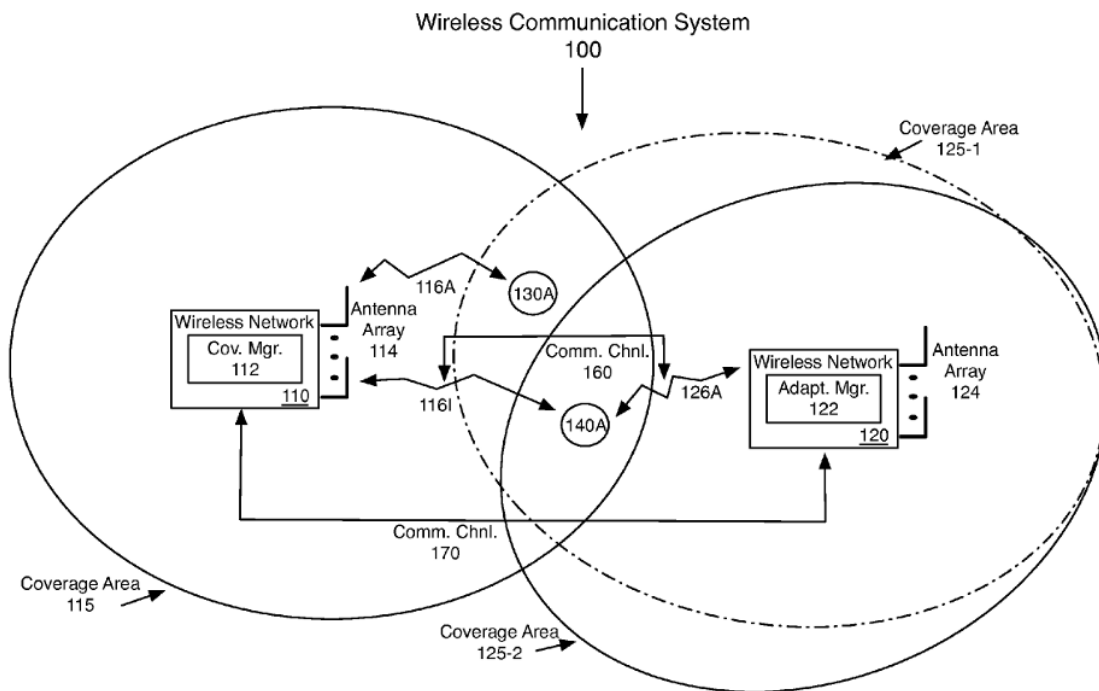


FIG. 1A

Figure 1A, above, illustrates wireless communication system 100 that includes wireless networks 110 and 120. *Id.* at 4:1–2. As shown in Figure 1A, wireless network 110 includes coverage manager 112 and antenna array 114. *Id.* at 4:2–4. Wireless network 120 includes adaptation manager 122 and antenna array 124. *Id.* at 4:4–6.

Wireless network 110 has a coverage area indicated in Figure 1A as coverage area 115. *Id.* at 4:6–8. Antenna array 124 of wireless network 120 is adaptable via beamforming to enable wireless network 120 to have variable coverage areas shown in Figure 1A as coverage area 125-1 and coverage area 125-2. *Id.* at 4:8–12. As a result of the variable coverage areas, wireless device 130A is within past coverage area 125-1, but outside of current coverage area 125-2. *Id.* at 5:35–38. Thus, although wireless

device 130A is not currently covered by wireless network 120, past coverage area 125-1 indicates that network 120 may be capable of providing coverage. *Id.* at 5:38–41.

Coverage manager 112 is configured to determine whether wireless device 130A is capable of being covered by wireless network 120. *Id.* at 6:1–4. It may be determined that wireless device 130A and/or wireless network 110 would benefit from the handoff of wireless device 130A to wireless network 120. *Id.* at 6:6–9. For example, wireless device 130A may obtain a stronger signal from wireless network 120, or wireless device 130A may be moving towards wireless network 120 and away from wireless network 110. *Id.* at 6:9–16. Coverage manager 112 transmits a handoff request to wireless network 120. *Id.* at 6:21–24. Adaption manager 122 of wireless network 120 receives the handoff request and determines whether to adapt antenna array 124 to facilitate coverage of wireless device 130A. *Id.* at 6:26–30. If a determination is made to adapt antenna array 124, adaption manager 122 transmits a confirmation to indicate acceptance of the handoff request. *Id.* at 6:30–33. The coverage area for wireless network 120 is now similar to coverage area 125-1 and wireless device 130A is then handed off from wireless network 110 to wireless network 120. *Id.* at 6:33–37.

D. Illustrative Claim

Petitioner challenges claims 9, 10, 12, 20, 21, and 23 of the '888 patent. Pet. 6. Claims 9 and 20 are the only independent challenged claims. Claims 10 and 12 depend directly from claim 9 and claims 21 and 23 depend directly from claim 20. Independent claims 9 and 20, reproduced below, are illustrative of the claimed subject matter.

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