

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS AMERICA, INC. and
SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS CO., LTD.,
Petitioner,

v.

COBBLESTONE WIRELESS LLC,
Patent Owner.

IPR2024-00315
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
Granting Motion for Joinder
35 U.S.C. § 315(c); 37 C.F.R. § 42.122(b)

I. INTRODUCTION

Samsung Electronics America, Inc. and Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. (“Petitioner”) filed a Petition (Paper 3 (“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”). On March 28, 2024, Cobblestone Wireless LLC (“Patent Owner”) filed a Preliminary Response. Paper 7 (“Prelim. Resp.”). On May 7, 2024, Petitioner filed a Motion for Joinder (Paper 11, “Joinder Mot.” or “Motion for Joinder”) seeking to be joined as a party to *T-Mobile USA, Inc. et al. v. Cobblestone Wireless, LLC*, IPR2024-00137 (the “*T-Mobile* IPR”).¹ Petitioner also filed a Motion to Withdraw *Sotera*² Stipulation. Paper 10 (“Mot. Withdraw” or “Motion to Withdraw”). Patent Owner did not file an Opposition to the Motion for Joinder, but Patent Owner filed an Opposition to Petitioner’s Motion to Withdraw. Paper 12 (“Oppn.”). Petitioner filed a Reply to Patent Owner’s Opposition. Paper 13 (“Reply”). We have authority and jurisdiction under 35 U.S.C. §§ 6, 314 and 37 C.F.R. § 42.4.

For the reasons discussed below, we determine institution of *inter partes* review is warranted on the same grounds instituted in the *T-Mobile* IPR, and grant Petitioner’s Motion for Joinder.

¹ Petitioner refers to “IPR2024-00135” in its Petition (Pet. 1), but that *inter partes* review involves a challenge to a different patent. *See T-Mobile USA, Inc. et al. v. Cobblestone Wireless, LLC*, IPR2024-00135, Paper 1, 1. We understand Petitioner to be referring to Case No. “IPR2024-00137.” We deem Petitioner’s reference to the other proceeding a harmless typographical error.

² *Sotera Wireless, Inc. v. Masimo Corp.*, IPR2020-01019, Paper 12 (PTAB Dec. 1, 2020) (precedential as to § II.A).

II. BACKGROUND

A. *Real Parties in Interest*

Petitioner identifies Samsung Electronics America, Inc. and Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. as real parties in interest. Pet. 58. Petitioner also states “[o]ut of an abundance of caution and to avoid additional issues associated with real parties-in-interest, Petitioner likewise identifies T-Mobile USA, Inc., AT&T Services Inc., AT&T Corp., AT&T Mobility LLC, and Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless [(‘Carriers’)] because Petitioner’s products are accused of infringement in their respective patent infringement actions.” *Id.* Patent Owner names itself as the real party in interest. Paper 5, 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.) (“the Carriers’ 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.) (“Petitioner’s parallel district court case”). Pet. 58; Paper 5, 2. As indicated above, the *T-Mobile* IPR is related because it involves challenges to the same claims of the same patent.

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.

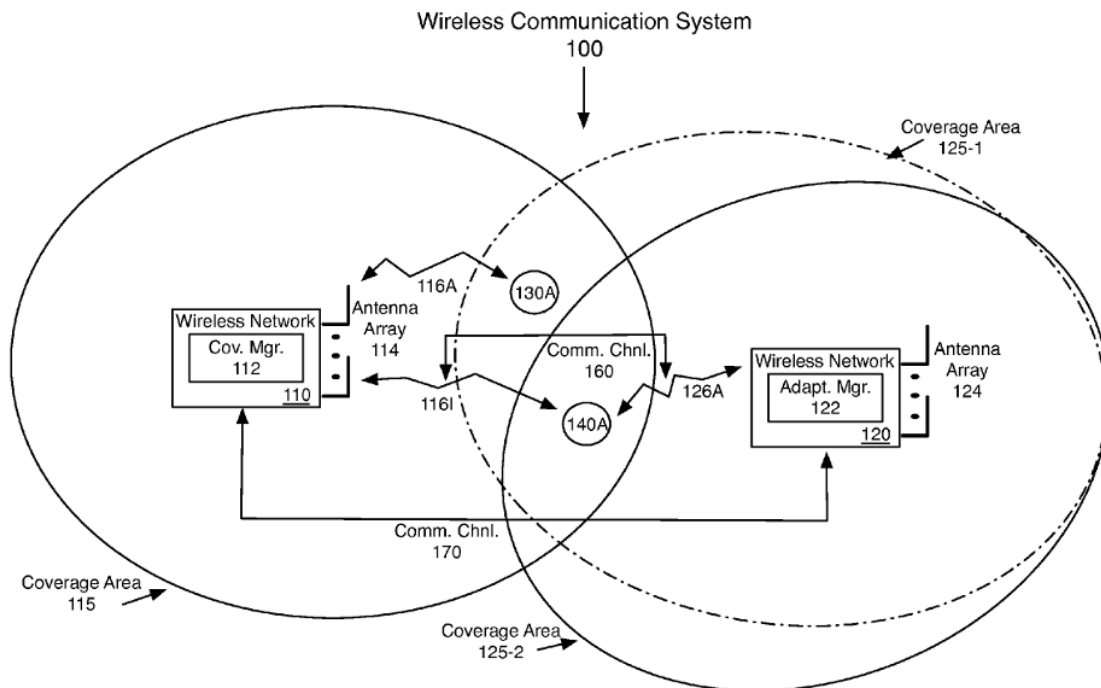


FIG. 1A

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 adaption 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 beam forming 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. 1. 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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