

EXHIBIT D4

**THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
MARSHALL DIVISION**

AGIS SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT, §
LLC §
v. § CASE NO. 2:17-CV-513-JRG
HUAWEI DEVICE USA INC., et al. §
§
§

CLAIM CONSTRUCTION
MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

Before the Court is the Opening Claim Construction Brief (Dkt. No. 165) filed by Plaintiff AGIS Software Development, LLC (“Plaintiff” or “AGIS”). Also before the Court are Defendants Huawei Device USA Inc., Huawei Device Co., Ltd., Huawei Device (Dongguan) Co., Ltd. (“Huawei”), HTC Corporation (“HTC”), LG Electronics Inc. (“LG”), Apple Inc. (“Apple”), and ZTE (USA) Inc., and ZTE (TX), Inc.’s (“ZTE’s”) (collectively, “Defendants”) Responsive Claim Construction Brief (Dkt. No. 175) and Plaintiff’s reply (Dkt. No. 186).^{1,2}

¹ On August 22, 2018, the Court consolidated the following cases, *Agis Software Development LLC v. LG Electronics, Inc.*, 2:17-cv-515 (the “LG case”) and *Agis Software Development LLC v. ZTE Corporation et al.*, 2:17-cv-517 (the “ZTE case”), under a new lead case, *Agis Software Development LLC v. HTC Corporation*, 2:17-cv-514 (the “HTC case”). (2:17-cv-514, Dkt. No. 57.) The Court set a Markman Hearing for the HTC case on December 17, 2018. (*Id.*) In addition, on September 28, 2018, the Court unconsolidated and transferred the ZTE case to the Northern District of California. (2:17-cv-514, Dkt. No. 78); (2:17-cv-513, Dkt. No. 203); (2:17-cv-517, Dkt. No. 85.)

² All citations to docket entries refer to entries in Case No. 2:17-cv-513.

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B. “means for attaching a forced message alert software packet to a voice or text message creating a forced message alert that is transmitted by said sender PDA/cell phone to the recipient PDA/cell phone, . . .” 11

C. “[means for . . .] requiring the forced message alert software on said recipient PDA/cell phone to transmit an automatic acknowledgment to the sender PDA/cell phone as soon as said forced message alert is received by the recipient PDA/cell phone” 18

D. “means for requiring a required manual response from the response list by the recipient in order to clear recipient’s response list from recipient’s cell phone display” 20

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F. “means for periodically resending said forced message alert to said recipient PDA/cell phones that have not automatically acknowledged the forced message alert” 25

G. “means for receiving and displaying a listing of which recipient PDA/cell phones have transmitted a manual response to said forced message alert and details the response from each recipient PDA/cell phone that responded” 28

H. Claim 54 of the ’838 Patent, Claims 24, 29, and 31 of the ’251 Patent, Claims 28, 32, 33, 34, and 36 of the ’055 Patent, and Claim 68 of the ’829 Patent 30

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I. BACKGROUND

Plaintiff brings suit alleging infringement of United States Patents Nos. 8,213,970 (“the ’970 Patent”), 9,408,055 (“the ’055 Patent”), 9,445,251 (“the ’251 Patent”), 9,467,838 (“the ’838 Patent”), and 9,749,829 (“the ’829 Patent”) (collectively, “the patents-in-suit”). (See Dkt. No. 165, Exs. A–E.)

The ’970 Patent, titled “Method of Utilizing Forced Alerts for Interactive Remote Communications,” issued on July 3, 2012, and bears an earliest priority date of September 21, 2004. The Abstract of the ’970 Patent states:

The system and method having a specialized software application on a personal computer or a PDA/cell phone that that [sic] enables a participant to force an automatic acknowledgement and a manual response to a text or voice message from other participants within the same network. Each participant’s PDA/cell phone includes a force message alert software application program for both creating and processing these forced message alerts. The system and method enabled by the force message alert software application program provides the ability to (a) allow an operator to create and transmit a forced message alert from a sender PDA/cell phone to one or more recipient PCs and PDA/cell phones within the communication network; (b) automatically transmit an acknowledgement of receipt to the sender PDA cell phone upon the receipt of the forced message alert; (c) periodically resend the message to the recipient PCs and PDA/cell phones that have not sent an acknowledgement; (d) provide an indication of which recipient PCs and PDA/cell phones have acknowledged the forced message alert; (e) provide a manual response list on the display of the recipient PC and PDA/cell phone’s display that can only be cleared by manually transmitting a response; and (f) provide an indication on the sender PDA/cell phone of the status and content the [sic] manual responses.

The ’838 Patent, titled “Method to Provide Ad Hoc and Password Protected Digital and Voice Networks,” issued on October 11, 2016, and bears an earliest priority date of September 21, 2004. The Abstract of the ’838 Patent states:

A method and system includes the ability for individuals to set up an ad hoc digital and voice network easily and rapidly to allow users to coordinate their activities by eliminating the need for pre-entry of data into a web or identifying others by name, phone numbers or email. This method is especially useful for police, fire fighters, military, first responders or other emergency situations for coordinating different organizations at the scene of a disaster to elevate conventional communication

problems either up and down the chain of command or cross communication between different emergency units. The method and system provides that the users are only required to enter a specific Server IP address and an ad hoc event name, a password and perhaps the name of the particular unit.

The '055 Patent, the '251 Patent, and the '829 Patent resulted from continuations of the '838 Patent. Plaintiff asserts the '829 Patent only against Apple. (*See* Dkt. No. 162, at 2 n.1.)

Plaintiff has noted that the priority date for the patents-in-suit may be in dispute. (*See* Dkt. No. 165, at 3 n.2.) The parties have not shown that any such dispute would have an impact on how a person of ordinary skill in the art would understand the patents-in-suit.

II. LEGAL PRINCIPLES

Claim construction is an issue of law for the court to decide. *Markman v. Westview Instruments, Inc.*, 52 F.3d 967, 970–71 (Fed. Cir. 1995) (en banc), *aff'd*, 517 U.S. 370 (1996). It is understood that “[a] claim in a patent provides the metes and bounds of the right which the patent confers on the patentee to exclude others from making, using or selling the protected invention.” *Burke, Inc. v. Bruno Indep. Living Aids, Inc.*, 183 F.3d 1334, 1340 (Fed. Cir. 1999).

“In some cases, however, the district court will need to look beyond the patent’s intrinsic evidence and to consult extrinsic evidence in order to understand, for example, the background science or the meaning of a term in the relevant art during the relevant time period.” *Teva Pharms. USA, Inc. v. Sandoz, Inc.*, 135 S. Ct. 831, 841 (2015) (citation omitted). “In cases where those subsidiary facts are in dispute, courts will need to make subsidiary factual findings about that extrinsic evidence. These are the ‘evidentiary underpinnings’ of claim construction that we discussed in *Markman*, and this subsidiary factfinding must be reviewed for clear error on appeal.” *Id.* (citing 517 U.S. 370).

To ascertain the meaning of claims, courts look to three primary sources: the claims, the specification, and the prosecution history. *Markman*, 52 F.3d at 979. The specification must

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