

Upon consideration of Defendant's filings, the Court makes the following findings.

First, Defendant has provided public notice of its request to seal the requested portions and interested parties have been given a reasonable opportunity to object. Defendant filed its motion to seal and public notice on March 11, 2021. (*See* Dkts. 478, 484.) Because over seven days have elapsed since Defendant filed the motion and no interested party has objected, the Court may treat this motion as uncontested under Local Civil Rule 5(C). *See* L. Civ. R. 5(C). Accordingly, Defendant has satisfied this requirement under *Ashcraft* and the Local Civil Rules.

Second, this Court has considered less drastic alternatives. Defendant submitted a redacted version of its motion, which omits only confidential information. (Dkt. 477.) This selective protection of information constitutes the least drastic measure of sealing confidential material. *See Adams v. Object Innovation, Inc.*, No. 3:11cv272-REP-DWD, 2011 WL 7042224, at *4 (E.D. Va. Dec. 5, 2011) “[The] proposal to redact only the proprietary and confidential information, rather than seal the entirety of [the document], constitutes the least drastic method of shielding the information at issue.”), *report and recommendation adopted*, 2012 WL 135428 (E.D. Va. Jan. 17, 2012).

Finally, the Court finds reason to redact the requested portions. The redacted portions of Defendant's Motion contains the parties' confidential, proprietary, and competitively sensitive business information, which is also protected under the parties' stipulated protective order. Additionally, the exhibits consist of Plaintiffs' interrogatory responses, expert reports, and confidential correspondence between the parties in this action. As a result, public disclosure of the information could bring competitive harm to the parties in this lawsuit and to third parties.

Accordingly, it is hereby

ORDERED that Defendant's motion (Dkt. 478) is **GRANTED**; and it is further

ORDERED that docket number 480 shall remain permanently under seal.

ENTERED this 19th day of March, 2021.



/s/

THERESA CARROLL BUCHANAN
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

Alexandria, Virginia