

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

YMAX CORPORATION,
Petitioner,

v.

FOCAL IP, LLC,
Patent Owner.

Case IPR2016-01260
Patent 8,457,113 B2

Before SALLY C. MEDLEY, JONI Y. CHANG, and
BARBARA A. PARVIS, *Administrative Patent Judges*.

PARVIS, *Administrative Patent Judge*.

DECISION
Denying Patent Owner's Request for Rehearing
37 C.F.R. § 42.71

I. INTRODUCTION

Focal IP, LLC (“Patent Owner”) filed a Request for Rehearing of the Decision to Institute (Paper 12, “Dec.”) an *inter partes* review as to claims 1, 2, 8, 11, 15, and 17–19 of U.S. Patent 8,457,113 B2 (Ex. 1001, “the ’113 patent”). Paper 14, “Req. Reh’g.” For the reasons that follow, the Request for Rehearing is *denied*.

II. STANDARD OF REVIEW

A party requesting rehearing bears the burden of showing that the decision should be modified. 37 C.F.R. § 42.71(d). The party must identify specifically all matters we misapprehended or overlooked, and the place where each matter was previously addressed in a motion, an opposition, or a reply. *Id.* When reconsidering a decision on institution, we review the decision for an abuse of discretion. 37 C.F.R. § 42.71(c). An abuse of discretion may be determined if a decision is based on an erroneous interpretation of law, if a factual finding is not supported by substantial evidence, or if the decision represents an unreasonable judgment in weighing relevant factors. *Star Fruits S.N.C. v. U.S.*, 393 F.3d 1277, 1281 (Fed. Cir. 2005); *Arnold P’ship v. Dudas*, 362 F.3d 1338, 1340 (Fed. Cir. 2004); *In re Gartside*, 203 F.3d 1305, 1315-16 (Fed. Cir. 2000).

III. ANALYSIS

Patent Owner contends that we misapprehended or overlooked Patent Owner’s arguments in connection with the claim language regarding the term “switching facility” recited in claim 1. Req. Reh’g at 1–4. Patent

Owner also contends that we misapprehended or overlooked Patent Owner’s arguments regarding the teachings of the invention and disclaimers disclosed in the Specification as to the claim construction of the terms “switching facility,” “coupled to,” and “tandem access controller.” *Id.* at 5–13. Patent Owner further contends that we overlooked the failure of Petitioner to address the factors for obviousness of claims 2, 8, 11, and 15–19. *Id.* at 13–15.

We are not persuaded by Patent Owner’s contentions that we misapprehended or overlooked its arguments in connection with the claim language regarding “switching facility.” *Id.* at 1–4. In its Preliminary Response (Paper 7, “Prelim. Resp.”), apart from the reproduction of a portion of claim 1, Patent Owner merely provides a single conclusory statement without any explanation—“[t]he independent Challenged Claims explicitly recite the functionality the ‘switching facility’ and ‘edge switch’ must have, and expressly distinguish that a ‘switching facility’ is not an ‘edge switch.’” *Id.* at 36. Patent Owner for the first time in its Request for Rehearing presents additional arguments regarding the claim language. Req. Reh’g 3–4. A request for rehearing is not an opportunity to submit new arguments. *See* 37 C.F.R. § 42.71(d). We could not have misapprehended or overlooked arguments that were not made previously in Patent Owner’s Preliminary Response.

Furthermore, the portion of the claim language reproduced by Patent Owner in the Preliminary Response misleadingly emphasizes a subset of the recitation—“[t]he preamble states that ‘edge switches’ are ‘for *routing calls*

from and to subscribers within a local geographic area,’ and ‘switching facilities’ are ‘for routing calls to other *edge switches or other switching facilities* local or in other geographic areas.’” Prelim. Resp. 36 (citing Ex. 1001, 15:35–38) (emphasis added by Patent Owner). The claim language, in contrast, recites that “switching facilities” are for routing calls “to *other* edge switches” or “other switching facilities *local* or in other geographic areas.” Ex. 1001, 15:37–39 (emphases added). In its Preliminary Response, Patent Owner proffers no explanation as to the recitation in its entirety, and Patent Owner’s argument ignores certain words in the claim language to support its allegation that the term “switching facilities” excludes “edge switches” and “edge devices.” Prelim. Resp. 36.

Moreover, Patent Owner admits that Applicants introduced “switching facility”—a term that was not used in the original Specification—into the claims by Amendment to indicate that “switching facility” has *broader* scope than “tandem switch.” *Id.* at 38; Ex. 2005, 62, 82. Patent Owner, however, attempts to import from the prosecution history a negative limitation into the claims, i.e., that “switching facility” “is not itself an edge switch or edge device” (Prelim. Resp. 39–40) without taking into account “access tandem” and “hybrid switch” specifically identified in that prosecution history as being examples of the narrower term “tandem switch” (Ex. 2005, 82). As we indicated in our Decision on Institution, we have considered all of Patent Owner’s arguments presented in the Preliminary Response regarding the claim term “switching facility,” and determine that the broadest reasonable interpretation of the term is “any switch in the

communication network,” consistent with Applicants’ remarks filed with that Amendment. Dec. 14–16; Ex. 2005, 82.

We also are not persuaded that we misapprehended or overlooked Patent Owner’s arguments regarding the teachings of the invention and disclaimers disclosed in the Specification. Req. Reh’g 5–13. In its Request for Rehearing, with respect to the terms “switching facility” and “coupled to,” Patent Owner repeats the same arguments as those in the Preliminary Response (*compare* Req. Reh’g 5–11 *with* Prelim. Resp. 12–41), as well as presents new arguments, for example, regarding the description in the ’113 patent of making calls using Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) technology (*see, e.g.*, Reh’g Req. 9–10).

With respect to arguments in the Request for Rehearing relating to the term “tandem access controller,” although Patent Owner acknowledges that we considered a portion of the Specification in construing this term, Patent Owner asserts we analyzed this portion “in a vacuum” again pointing to its same arguments regarding the teachings of the invention and disclaimers disclosed in the Specification. *Id.* at 12. But Patent Owner’s contentions are new because in the Preliminary Response, the contentions pertaining to the teachings of the invention and disclaimers disclosed in the Specification were raised with respect to only the terms “switching facility” and “coupled to.” Prelim. Resp. 35–43. Additionally, Patent Owner mischaracterizes the Decision stating that we gave “‘tandem access controller’ the same unreasonably broad construction as the term ‘call processing system.’” *Id.* at 12. However, in our Decision, we determined no express construction of the

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