

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

DIGITAL CHECK CORP. d/b/a ST IMAGING,
Petitioner,

v.

E-IMAGEDATA CORP.,
Patent Owner.

Case IPR2017-00178
Patent 9,179,019 B2

Before KEN B. BARRETT, JENNIFER MEYER CHAGNON, and
MELISSA A. HAAPALA, *Administrative Patent Judges*.

HAAPALA, *Administrative Patent Judge*.

DECISION
Institution of *Inter Partes* Review
37 C.F.R. § 42.108

Digital Check Corp. d/b/a ST Imaging (“Petitioner”) filed a Petition pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §§ 311–319 to institute an *inter partes* review of claims 1–3, 5–9, 20–35, 37, 39–41, 43, 44, 47, 53–57, 63–68, 74, 79, 81, 84–87, 91–96, and 101 of U.S. Patent No. 9,179,019 B2 (“the ’019 patent”). Paper 2 (“Pet.”). e-ImageData Corp. (“Patent Owner”) filed a Preliminary Response. Paper 5 (“Prelim. Resp.”). Applying the standard set forth in 35 U.S.C. § 314(a), which requires demonstration of a reasonable likelihood that Petitioner would prevail with respect to at least one challenged claim, we grant Petitioner’s request to institute an *inter partes* review of claims 1–3, 5–7, 20–28, 31, 41, 43, 44, 53, and 63. We decline to institute a review as to the other claims challenged.

I. BACKGROUND

A. *The ’019 Patent (Ex. 1001)*

The ’019 patent describes a digital microform imaging apparatus (DMIA) that may be used to view/scan a broad range of microfilm media types (e.g., microfilm, microfiche, 16 mm or 36 mm film roll). *See* Ex. 1001, 1:19–20, 3:26–28. The DMIA can accommodate a broad range of image reduction ratios without the need to change zoom lenses. *See id.* at 3:28–30, 7:56–59. Figure 4 of the ’019 patent is reproduced below:

Id. at 5:52–54. First motor 100 is rotationally coupled to first lead screw 86 by timing pulley 102, belt 104 with teeth, and timing pulley 106; and second motor 108 is rotationally coupled to second lead screw 88 by timing pulley 110, belt 112 with teeth, and timing pulley 114. *Id.* at 6:7–9.

A controller (not shown) is electrically connected to first motor 100, second motor 108, and area sensor 97. *Id.* at 6:11–13. The controller receives commands and inputs, controls first and second motors 100, 108 and other components of the DMIA, and outputs an image data of area sensor 97. *Id.* at 6:13–17. The layout of the DMIA, including separately adjustable area sensor 97 and lens 90, and algorithms for moving the lens and sensor to appropriate respective locations to achieve proper magnification and focus of the image, allow the DMIA to autofocus to accommodate different reduction ratios of different film media without the need for iterative measurements and refocusing of lens 90. *Id.* at 5:61–7:3. The DMIA depicted in Figure 4 includes additional components not described.

B. Illustrative Claim

Claims 1, 41, 63, 64, and 91 are independent claims. Claim 1 is illustrative of the subject matter at issue.

1. A digital microform imaging apparatus, comprising:
 - a chassis;
 - a fold mirror supported by the chassis and including a reflecting surface for directing light from a first optical axis to a second optical axis;
 - a first elongated and substantially strait lead member supported by the chassis and aligned along a substantially horizontal axis, the first lead member including an elongated shaft;

a first drive mechanism supported by the chassis and extending alongside and spaced apart from the first lead member;

a first motor including a first motor shaft that engages the first drive mechanism;

a first carriage coupled to the first lead member for movement there along and coupled to the chassis via the first drive mechanism and the first motor such that rotation of the first motor shaft causes the first carriage to move along the first lead member along a trajectory that is substantially parallel to the second optical axis;

an area sensor supported by the first carriage and aligned with the second optical axis for movement along the second optical axis within a first range to adjust a distance between the area sensor and the fold mirror; and

a lens supported by the chassis along the second optical axis and positioned between the area sensor and the fold mirror;

wherein the lens and the area sensor are located on a first lateral side of the first lead member and located on a first lateral side of the first drive mechanism.

C. References

Petitioner relies on the following references:

1. U.S. Patent Application No. 2004/0012827 A1, published Jan. 22, 2004 (“Fujinawa”) (Ex. 1004).
2. U.S. Patent No. 5,585,937, issued Dec. 17, 1996 (“Kokubo”) (Ex. 1005).
3. Image Capture Tech., *Parts Manual for UC-6E, EC, ECM, Motorized Combo Squared Carrier Part Numbers 210000-01, 02, 03* (2002) (“Minolta”) (Ex. 1009).¹

¹ We note that “Minolta” is not an author or the title of this reference, but as both Petitioner and Patent Owner refer to this reference as Minolta (*see e.g.*, Pet. 5, Prelim. Resp. 5), we use the same shortened form for consistency and to avoid confusion.

Explore Litigation Insights

Docket Alarm provides insights to develop a more informed litigation strategy and the peace of mind of knowing you're on top of things.

Real-Time Litigation Alerts



Keep your litigation team up-to-date with **real-time alerts** and advanced team management tools built for the enterprise, all while greatly reducing PACER spend.

Our comprehensive service means we can handle Federal, State, and Administrative courts across the country.

Advanced Docket Research



With over 230 million records, Docket Alarm's cloud-native docket research platform finds what other services can't. Coverage includes Federal, State, plus PTAB, TTAB, ITC and NLRB decisions, all in one place.

Identify arguments that have been successful in the past with full text, pinpoint searching. Link to case law cited within any court document via Fastcase.

Analytics At Your Fingertips



Learn what happened the last time a particular judge, opposing counsel or company faced cases similar to yours.

Advanced out-of-the-box PTAB and TTAB analytics are always at your fingertips.

API

Docket Alarm offers a powerful API (application programming interface) to developers that want to integrate case filings into their apps.

LAW FIRMS

Build custom dashboards for your attorneys and clients with live data direct from the court.

Automate many repetitive legal tasks like conflict checks, document management, and marketing.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Litigation and bankruptcy checks for companies and debtors.

E-DISCOVERY AND LEGAL VENDORS

Sync your system to PACER to automate legal marketing.