

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY,
Petitioner,

v.

UNITED TECHNOLOGIES CORPORATION,
Patent Owner.

Case IPR2017-01097
Patent 8,572,943 B1

Before HYUN J. JUNG, SCOTT A. DANIELS, and
GEORGE R. HOSKINS, *Administrative Patent Judges*.

DANIELS, *Administrative Patent Judge*.

SCHEDULING ORDER
37 C.F.R. § 42.5

A. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. *Requests for an Initial Conference Call*

Unless at least one of the parties requests otherwise, we will not conduct an initial conference call as described in the Office Patent Trial Practice Guide, 77 Fed. Reg. 48,756, 48,765–66 (Aug. 14, 2012). A request for an initial conference call should occur no later than 25 days after the institution of trial and include, (a) a list of proposed motions, if any, to be discussed during the call, and (b) a list of dates and times when the parties are available for the call. The parties shall be prepared also to discuss any concerns relating to the schedule in this proceeding as set forth below.

2. *Protective Order*

A protective order does not exist in this proceeding unless the parties file one and the Board approves it. If either party files a motion to seal before entry of a protective order, a jointly proposed protective order should be presented as an exhibit to the motion. We encourage the parties to adopt the Board's default protective order if they conclude that a protective order is necessary. *See* Default Protective Order, Office Patent Trial Practice Guide, 77 Fed. Reg. 48,756, App. B (Aug. 14, 2012). If the parties choose to propose a protective order deviating from the default protective order, they must submit the proposed protective order jointly along with a marked-up comparison of the proposed and default protective orders showing the differences.

The Board has a strong interest in the public availability of the proceedings. We advise the parties that redactions to documents filed in this proceeding should be limited strictly to isolated passages consisting entirely of confidential information, and that the thrust of the underlying argument or

evidence must be clearly discernible from the redacted versions. We also advise the parties that information subject to a protective order will become public if identified in a final written decision in this proceeding, and that a motion to expunge the information will not necessarily prevail over the public interest in maintaining a complete and understandable file history. *See* Office Patent Trial Practice Guide, 77 Fed. Reg. at 48,761.

3. Compliance with Word Count/Page Limit and Type Face

The parties shall comply with 37 C.F.R. § 42.24 and be familiar with Board interpretations of the requirements of that regulation. For example, “[e]xcessive wording in figures, drawings or images, deleting spacing between words, or using excessive acronyms or abbreviations for word phrases, in order to bypass the rules on word count, are not reasonable.” IPR2016-01535, Paper 8, 7 (Dec. 1, 2016). The excessive deletion of spaces in citations may be deemed inappropriate – the parties are to make reasonable efforts to comply with accepted citation formats. *See, e.g.*, IPR2017–00433, Paper 15 (June 22, 2017), *see also* The Blue Book, Twentieth Ed., Rules 3.3, 5.1; *Pi-Net Int’l, Inc. v. JPMorgan Chase & Co.*, 600 F. App’x 774, 775 (Fed. Cir. 2015) (determining deletion of required spacing circumvents rule on word count).

4. Motions to Amend

Patent Owner may file a motion to amend without prior authorization from the Board. Nevertheless, Patent Owner must confer with the Board before filing such a motion. *See* 37 C.F.R. § 42.121(a). Patent Owner should arrange for a conference call with the panel and opposing counsel at least one week before DUE DATE 1 in order to satisfy the conferral requirement. We direct the parties to the Board’s website for representative decisions relating to

Motions to Amend among other topics. The parties may access these representative decisions at:

http://www.uspto.gov/ip/boards/bpai/representative_orders_and_opinions.jsp.

5. Discovery Disputes

The panel encourages parties to resolve disputes relating to discovery on their own and in accordance with the precepts set forth in 37 C.F.R.

§ 42.1(b). To the extent that a dispute arises between the parties relating to discovery, the parties shall meet and confer to resolve such a dispute before contacting the Board. If attempts to resolve the dispute fail, a party may request a conference call with the Board and the other party in order to seek authorization to move for relief.

In any request for a conference call with the Board to resolve a discovery dispute, the requesting party shall: (a) certify that it has conferred with the other party in an effort to resolve the dispute; (b) identify with specificity the issues for which agreement has not been reached; (c) identify the precise relief to be sought; and (d) propose specific dates and times at which both parties are available for the conference call.

6. Depositions

The parties are advised that the Testimony Guidelines appended to the Office Patent Trial Practice Guide, 77 Fed. Reg. 48,756, 48,772 (Aug. 14, 2012) (Appendix D), apply to this proceeding. The Board may impose an appropriate sanction for failure to adhere to the Testimony Guidelines.

37 C.F.R. § 42.12. For example, reasonable expenses and attorneys' fees incurred by any party may be levied on a person who impedes, delays, or frustrates the fair examination of a witness.

Whenever a party submits a deposition transcript as an exhibit in this proceeding, the submitting party shall file the full transcript of the deposition rather than excerpts of only those portions being cited. After a deposition transcript has been submitted as an exhibit, all parties who subsequently cite to portions of the transcript shall cite to the first-filed exhibit rather than submitting another copy of the same transcript.

7. Cross-Examination

Except as the parties might otherwise agree, for each due date—

1. Cross-examination begins after any supplemental evidence is due. 37 C.F.R. § 42.53(d)(2).
2. Cross-examination ends no later than a week before the filing date for any paper in which the cross-examination testimony is expected to be used. *Id.*

8. Motion for Observation on Cross-Examination

A motion for observation on cross-examination provides the parties with a mechanism to draw the Board's attention to relevant cross-examination testimony of a reply witness because no further substantive paper is permitted after the reply. *See* Office Patent Trial Practice Guide, 77 Fed. Reg. 48,756, 48,768 (Aug. 14, 2012). The observation must be a concise statement of the relevance of precisely identified testimony to a precisely identified argument or portion of an exhibit. Each observation should not exceed a single, short paragraph. The opposing party may respond to the observation. Any response must be equally concise and specific.

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