

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

DAIMLER AG,
Petitioner,

v.

BLITZSAFE TEXAS, LLC,
Patent Owner.

Case IPR2018-01214
Patent 7,489,786 B2

Before JAMESON LEE, THOMAS L. GIANNETTI,
and MIRIAM L. QUINN, *Administrative Patent Judges*.

LEE, *Administrative Patent Judge*.

DECISION
Denying Institution of *Inter Partes* Review
37 U.S.C. § 314(a)

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Background

On June 6, 2018, Petitioner filed a Petition to institute *inter partes* review of claims 1, 2, 4–8, 10, 13, 14, 23, 24, 44, 47, 57, 58, 60–65, 86, 88–92, 94, 97, and 98 of U.S. Patent No. 7,489,786 B2 (Ex. 1001, “the ’786 patent”). On August 22, 2018, Petitioner filed a Corrected Petition, authorized by the Board and not opposed by Patent Owner. Paper 7. The Corrected Petition challenges the same claims on the same grounds as articulated in the original Petition. Hereinafter, we refer to the Corrected Petition as the Petition (“Pet.”). On November 9, 2018, Patent Owner filed a Preliminary Response (Paper 10, “Prelim. Resp.”).

To institute an *inter partes* review, we must determine that the information presented in the Petition shows “that there is a reasonable likelihood that the petitioner would prevail with respect to at least 1 of the claims challenged in the petition.” 35 U.S.C. § 314(a). Having considered both the Petition and the Preliminary Response, we determine that Petitioner has *not* demonstrated a reasonable likelihood that it would prevail in establishing the unpatentability of any of the challenged claims.

Accordingly, we do not institute review and the Petition is *denied*.

B. Related Matters

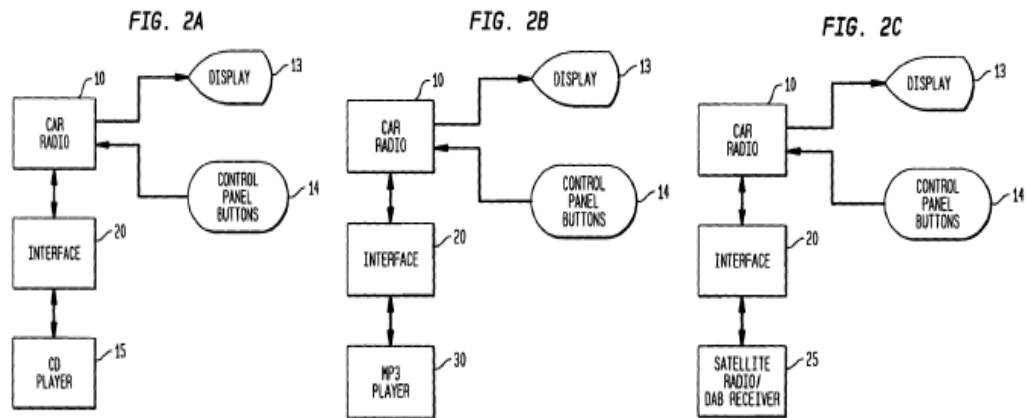
The parties identify eight civil actions involving the ’786 patent. Pet. 83; Paper 4, 1–2. The ’786 patent also is the subject of these *inter partes* review proceedings: IPR2016-00421, IPR2016-00422, IPR2016-01448, IPR2016-01472, IPR2016-01477, IPR2018-01142, IPR2018-01203, IPR2018-01204, and IPR2018-01211. Paper 4, 2. We instituted review

only in IPR2016-00421, which has terminated by settlement. We have denied institution of review in all other proceedings.

C. The '786 Patent

The '786 patent is entitled “Audio Device Integration System.” Ex. 1001, [54]. According to the '786 patent, a “particular problem with integrating after-market audio systems with existing car stereos is that signals generated by the car stereo is in a proprietary format, and is not capable of being processed by the after-market system.” *Id.* at 1:36–39. “Thus, in order to integrate after-market systems with car stereos, it is necessary to convert signals between such systems.” *Id.* at 1:42–44.

The '786 patent is directed to an audio device integration system that allows after-market audio devices to be integrated for use with an existing car stereo system, such that control commands can be issued at the car stereo for execution by the audio device and data from the audio device can be displayed on the car stereo. *Id.* at Abstr., 2:12–42. More specifically, control commands generated at the car stereo are received, converted into a format recognizable by the after-market audio device, and dispatched to the device for execution. *Id.* at Abstr., 2:35–40. In addition, information from the audio device, such as track, channel, song, and artist information, is received, processed, converted into a format recognizable by the car stereo, and dispatched to the stereo for display. *Id.* at Abstr., 2:40–47. The audio device could, for example, comprise a “CD player, CD changer, MP3 player, satellite receiver, [or] digital audio broadcast (DAB) receiver.” *Id.* at 4:28–30; *see id.* at [57], 2:23–26. Figures 2A–2C are reproduced below:



Figures 2A–C illustrate embodiments in which a car stereo is integrated with a CD player (Figure 2A), an MP3 player (Figure 2B), and a satellite radio or DAB receiver (Figure 2C). *Id.* at 3:14–23.

With regard to Figure 2B, the '786 patent describes:

The interface **20** allows data and audio signals to be exchanged between the MP3 player **30** and the car radio **10**, and processes and formats signals accordingly so that instructions and data from the radio **10** are processable by the MP3 player **30**, and vice versa. Operational commands, such as track selection, pause, play, stop, fast forward, rewind, and other commands, are entered via the control panel buttons **14** of car radio **10**, processed by the interface **20**, and formatted for execution by the MP3 player **30**. Data from the MP3 player, such as track, time, and song information, is received by the interface **20**, processed thereby, and sent to the radio **10** for display on display **13**. Audio from MP3 player **30** is selectively forwarded by the interface **20** to the radio **10** for playing.

Id. at 6:11–24. Similar description is provided with respect to Figures 2A and 2C. *Id.* at 5:49–55, 6:35–43.

In addition, an external audio device as well as auxiliary input sources may be integrated with a car stereo. *Id.* at Abstr., 2:53–56. A user then “can select between the external audio device and the auxiliary input using the controls of the car stereo.” *Id.* at 2:56–57. Figure 1 is reproduced below:

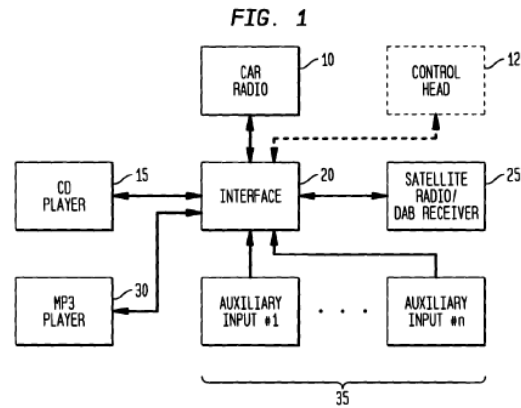


Figure 1 illustrates an embodiment integrating a car stereo with a CD player, a MP3 player, and a satellite radio or DAB receiver, as well as a number of auxiliary input sources. *Id.* at 3:12–13, 5:14–27.

As shown in the above figures, central to the '786 patent is an “interface” positioned between the car stereo and the audio device(s) and auxiliary input(s). *See, e.g., id.* at Fig. 1, 2A–C, 5:33–36. The interface allows for the integration of the audio devices and auxiliary inputs with the original or after-market car radio or stereo. *Id.* at 5:33–36. A docking station also is provided for docking a portable audio or video device for integration with the car stereo. *Id.* at Abstr.

Claims 1, 44, 57, 86, and 92 are independent. Claim 1 is directed to a system that connects an after-market audio device as well as one or more auxiliary input sources to a car stereo. In particular, claim 1 recites a first connector electrically connectable to a car stereo, a second connector electrically connectable to an after-market device, and a third connector electrically connectable to one or more auxiliary input sources. *Id.* at 21:33–38. Claim 1 also recites an interface connected between the first and second electrical connectors, and that the interface includes a microcontroller pre-programmed to execute:

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