IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS MARSHALL DIVISION

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ADVANCED MICRO DEVICES, INC. ET AL.,

v.

CASE NO. 2:22-cv-00134-JRG-RSP

TCL INDUSTRIES HOLDINGS CO., LTD., ET AL.

DEFENDANT REALTEK SEMICONDUCTOR CORP.'S MOTION FOR RELIEF FROM THE STAY

Defendant Realtek Semiconductor Corp. ("Realtek") respectfully moves for relief from the stay. Realtek seeks the Court's permission to file a motion seeking an order striking Plaintiffs' Second Amended Complaint for Patent Infringement; Declaratory Judgement of No Breach of Contract; and Declaratory Judgment of No License ("Second Amended Complaint"), and seeking an order to show cause.

1. Plaintiffs Advanced Micro Devices, Inc. and ATI Technologies ULC (collectively, "AMD") filed the Second Amended Complaint on March 9, 2023, six months after this Court's September 12, 2022 Order staying this case "in its entirety." Dkt. 65 at 3. AMD cannot claim ignorance of the Court's order because the Court entered it at AMD's insistence, over Realtek's objection. AMD has flouted the Court's order by filing an amended complaint without first seeking an order lifting the stay. Indeed, AMD's Second Amended Complaint contradicts the Court's specific instructions within the order staying this case—which permit only one subsequent submission. AMD's actions are doubly concerning because the license at issue in AMD's new claims expressly requires parties to bring all claims arising out of the license in either Santa Clara Superior Court or the Northern District of California. Realtek has met and conferred with AMD, in hopes of convincing it to withdraw the unauthorized and unjustified Second Amended Complaint, but AMD refuses to do so. Realtek therefore respectfully seeks relief from the stay to allow it to file a motion asking the Court to strike Defendant's Second Amended Complaint and to enter an order to show cause as to why AMD should not be held in contempt.

2. AMD filed this action against Realtek on May 5, 2022 alleging infringement of five U.S. patents. Dkt. 1. AMD filed a Motion for a Discretionary Stay, Dkt. 37, which Realtek opposed. Dkt. 43. The Court granted AMD's motion to stay, and ordered that this case "be stayed *in its entirety* until final resolution" of the parallel ITC proceeding on September 12, 2022. Dkt. 65 at 3 (emphasis added). The Court's stay order allows only a single subsequent filing: "a *joint* notice within 30 days from the resolution of the ITC Proceeding" that "inform[s] the Court of the outcome of the ITC Proceeding and whether the stay should be lifted in this case." *Id.* (emphasis added).

3. Realtek sent a letter to AMD on March 7, 2023, notifying AMD of its intention to bring an action in the Northern District of California against AMD for breaching a license that protects Realtek against AMD's claims.¹ Dkt. 69 Ex. C.

4. In the letter, Realtek explained that the License Agreement provides a license to companies, such as Realtek, in "the normal tiers of distribution" for Arm, including "resellers, distributors, dealers, and authorized manufacturers and others in the distribution channel." *Id.* at

¹ Realtek provided advance notice to AMD of its intention to bring claims pursuant to the notice provisions in the License Agreement and pursuant to the strong preference in the N.D. California for pre-suit letters. *See <u>https://www.khronos.org/files/member_agreement.pdf</u> (cited in Dkt. 69 Ex. C, at 1 n.1); <i>see also* Dkt. 69 Ex. C at 2 n.2. As Judge Alsup has explained, "[c]ease-and-desist letters can efficiently lead to a resolution and save vast resources." *Sonos v. Google LLC*, No. C 21-07559 WHA, at 5 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 16, 2022).

2. The letter identified that AMD's infringement contentions target the Arm GPU that Realtek sells within its accused systems-on-a-chip ("SoCs"), and Realtek therefore has the benefit of Arm's license from AMD. *Id*.

5. Realtek's letter further informed AMD that it would bring claims against AMD in the Northern District of California, which has exclusive jurisdiction over such claims. In particular, the license agreement AMD has breached provides:

The parties hereby agree that *any dispute* regarding the interpretation or validity of, or otherwise arising out of, this Agreement shall be subject to the *exclusive jurisdiction* of the California state courts of Santa Clara, County (or if there is federal jurisdiction, the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, San Jose), and the parties agree to submit to the personal and *exclusive* jurisdiction and venue of these courts.

See <u>https://www.khronos.org/files/member_agreement.pdf</u> (cited in Dkt. 68 Ex. C, at 1 n.1) (emphasis added).

6. Two days after Realtek sent its letter, on March 9, 2023, AMD filed a Second Amended Complaint, in direct violation of the Court's Order staying this case "in its entirety." Dkt. 65 at 3. The filing also violated Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 15(a)(2).

7. The March 9, 2023 Second Amended Complaint adds facts, and two causes of action, all of which arise directly from the license Realtek identified in its March 7, 2023 letter.

8. Accordingly, the Second Amended Complaint not only violates the Court's stay order and Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 15(a)(2), but also contravenes the terms of the license agreement on which AMD bases its new claims.

9. Because AMD failed to seek relief from the stay before filing an unauthorized pleading, Realtek is left in the untenable position of not knowing when, if ever, it must respond. The Court's stay order prevents Realtek from filing any response, and even if a response were permitted without violating the Court's order, Realtek cannot determine when such response would

be due. The stay order supersedes the 14-day deadline ordinarily required by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 15 as well as the April 11, 2023 deadline under the pre-stay DCO. Thus, AMD's unauthorized pleading puts Realtek in the impossible position of either violating the Court's order or risking default. Striking AMD's unauthorized Second Amended Complaint is the best way to resolve the dilemma that AMD created.

10. Accordingly, Realtek seeks limited relief from the stay in the form of an order allowing it to file a motion to strike and a reply in support of the motion.

Dated: March 21, 2023

DOCKET

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ G. Blake Thompson

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