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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

JENS ERIK SORENSEN, as Trustee of SORENSEN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TRUST

Plaintiff,

v.

Rally Manufacturing, Inc., a Florida corporation

Defendant.

CASE NO. 08-CV-00305 BTM CAB

Judge Barry Ted Moskowitz
Magistrate Judge Cathy Ann Bencivengo
Courtroom: 15

Date: April 25, 2008
Time: 11:00 am

Declaration of Matthew Stavish in Support of Motion to Stay Litigation Pending Outcome of the U.S.Patent and Trademark Office Reexamination of the Patent-In-Suit

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Defendant respectfully submits attached hereto, the Declaration of Matthew Stavish in Support of Defendant's Motion to Stay this litigation pending the outcome of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office reexamination of the patent-in-suit.

Respectfully submitted,

FULWIDER PATTON, LLP

Dated: March 17, 2008

By: s/ Gary M. Anderson
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Jessica Brookhart-Knost
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RALLY MANUFACTURING, INC.

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

JENS ERIK SORENSEN, as Trustee of SORENSEN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TRUST Plaintiff, v. RALLY MANUFACTURING INC., a Florida Corporation, Defendant	CASE NO.:08-cv-00305 BTM CAB

DECLARATION OF MATTHEW STAVISH IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO STAY LITIGATION PENDING OUTCOME OF THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE REEXAMINATION OF THE PATENT-IN-SUIT

I, Matthew Stavish, do hereby declare and state as follows:

1. I am an attorney in the law firm of Berenato, White & Stavish, counsel to Defendant Rally Manufacturing Inc. in the above-captioned matter. I have personal knowledge of the matter set forth herein and, if called upon to do so, could and would competently testify thereto.

2. Attached hereto as "Exhibit A" is a true and correct copy of this Court's September 10, 2007 Order in *Sorensen v. The Black & Decker Corp., et al.*, case no. 06-cv-1572 BTM (S.D. Cal. Sept. 10, 2007)(Dkt. No. 243).

3. Attached hereto as "Exhibit B" is a true and correct copy of the United States Patent and Trademark Office's October 11, 2007 Order Granting/Denying Request for Reexamination of U.S. Patent No. 4,935,194.

4. Attached hereto as "Exhibit C" is a true and correct copy of *Photoflex Prods. V. Circa 3 LLC*, No. C 04-03715 JSW, 2006 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 37743 (N.D. Cal.

May 24, 2006).

5. Attached hereto as "Exhibit D" is a true and correct copy of the United States Patent and Trademark Office's "*Ex Parte* Reexamination Filing Data – June 30, 2006."

6. Attached hereto as "Exhibit E" is a true and correct copy of the notice letter mailed November 1, 2005 from Sorensen to Rally making the first accusation of infringement.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California and the United States of America, that I read this declaration and that it is true and correct.

Executed this 11th day of March, 2008.

Matthew Stavish
Attorney for Defendant,
Rally Manufacturing, Inc.

EXHIBIT

A

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

JENS ERIK SORENSEN, as Trustee of SORENSEN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TRUST,

Plaintiff,

vs.

THE BLACK AND DECKER CORPORATION, et al.

Defendants.

CASE NO. 06cv1572 BTM (CAB)

ORDER:

(1) DENYING PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION OF DENIAL OF OBJECTIONS TO MAGISTRATE JUDGE'S ORDER OF APRIL 9, 2007 AS MOOT [Doc. #163];

(2) GRANTING DEFENDANTS' MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE COURT'S JUNE 20, 2007 ORDER RE BIFURCATION [Doc. #171];

(3) GRANTING IN PART AND DENYING IN PART DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO STAY [Doc. #178];

and

(4) DENYING PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR PARTIAL SUMMARY JUDGMENT AS PREMATURE [Doc. #204]

I. Motion for Reconsideration of Denial of Objections to Magistrate Judge's Order

On April 9, 2007, Magistrate Judge Bencivengo issued an order in which she granted in part and denied in part Plaintiff's motion to compel further responses to discovery. In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(A) and Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(a), Plaintiff filed an

objection to that ruling, arguing that it was both clearly erroneous and contrary to law. In an order entered June 14, 2007, the Court overruled Plaintiff's objection without prejudice. The Court found that the Magistrate Judge's determinations regarding the Black & Decker Defendants' waiver of the attorney-client privilege, and the applicability of Patent Local Rule 2.5(d), were neither clearly erroneous nor contrary to law, on the record before the Court. However, the Court was unable to determine at that time whether, and to what extent, the Black & Decker Defendants ("B&D") intended to rely upon the death of Dennis Dearing to provide the requisite showing of prejudice in support of any laches and/or equitable estoppel defenses. Therefore, Plaintiff was granted leave to serve an interrogatory upon B&D, which stated: "Set forth, in detail, all prejudice to Defendants that resulted from the death of Dennis Dearing in regard to this case." To the extent Plaintiff believed that B&D's response to the interrogatory indicated that this Court's determination regarding waiver of the attorney-client privilege was in error, it was invited to move for reconsideration of the decision at that time.

On July 11, 2007, B&D responded to Plaintiff's interrogatory setting forth the prejudice that resulted from the death of its former in-house counsel Dennis Dearing. The prejudice identified included the inability to have Mr. Dearing testify regarding his communications in the mid-1990s pertaining to Mr. Jens Ole Sorensen's claims of infringement of the '184 Patent. These communications included discussions directly with Mr. Sorensen and his representatives, as well as with John Schiech, Black & Decker's business manager responsible for making all decisions concerning the matter. B&D also indicated that it was prejudiced because it could not present Mr. Dearing as a witness to defend against Plaintiff's charge of willful infringement.

On July 12, 2007, Plaintiff filed the present motion to reconsider this Court's previous ruling on the basis of the new evidence presented in B&D's interrogatory response. The motion was calendared for hearing, without oral argument, on August 10, 2007. However, while the motion was pending, Magistrate Judge Bencivengo reconsidered her earlier ruling in light of B&D's interrogatory response. On August 3, 2007, Judge Bencivengo issued her "Order Following Discovery Conference on July 26, 2007" in which she ruled:

> Since the defendant is affirmatively relying upon the death of Mr. Dearing to support its defense of laches, the plaintiff is entitled to review Mr. Dearing's files that still exist and reflect his personal thoughts and impressions, so plaintiff may respond to defendant's claim of lost evidence. Defendant was therefore ordered to produce any withheld documents reflecting Mr. Dearing's work product on this matter.

[Doc. #177 at ¶ 8.] Judge Bencivengo stayed production of Mr. Dearing's work product for 30 days in order to give B&D an opportunity to appeal the order. B&D has just taken that opportunity and filed a motion for reconsideration on September 4, 2007 [Doc. #240]. B&D's motion is calendared for hearing by this Court on November 2, 2007.

In light of Judge Bencivengo's more recent order requiring production of Mr. Dearing's privileged documents, and the now-pending motion for reconsideration of that order, the Court finds moot Plaintiff's motion for reconsideration of its previous order overruling Plaintiff's objection to Judge Bencivengo's April 9, 2007 order. The Court finds that this entire issue will be addressed, upon a complete and updated record that includes Judge Bencivengo's August 3, 2007 order, in the Court's forthcoming decision on B&D's pending motion for reconsideration. Accordingly, Plaintiff's motion is **DENIED** without prejudice as moot.

II. Motion for Reconsideration of Bifurcation

On June 13, 2007, the Court held a hearing on B&D's motion for summary judgment of laches. The Court denied B&D's motion at that hearing and discussion then ensued over the possibility of setting an expedited bench trial on B&D's equitable defenses of laches and estoppel. At B&D's urging, the Court and the parties agreed to schedule this bench trial beginning on December 17, 2007. In a June 20, 2007 written order confirming the Court's decision from the June 13 hearing, the Court explained that the trial of equitable defenses could be bifurcated from the rest of the trial proceedings relating to infringement. [Doc. #147 at 2-3.] Citing the Ninth Circuit case of Danjaq LLC v. Sony Corp., 263 F.3d 942 (9th Cir. 2001), the Court explained that, in deciding these equitable defenses, it would need to determine whether there has been any showing of willful infringement on the part of

Defendants that would act as a "counterdefense" to laches. The Court invited any party to make a motion for reconsideration of the decision to bifurcate the equitable portion of the trial if they felt that the Court's determination of the willfulness issue presented a problem for any subsequent jury trial proceedings.

On July 20, 2007, B&D accepted the Court's invitation and filed a motion for reconsideration of bifurcation. [Doc. #171.] B&D explained that it had not appreciated that the Court itself would need to make a finding on willfulness, without the aid of a jury, in any bifurcated trial on equitable defenses. In light of this realization, and its desire to retain its full rights to a jury determination on willfulness, B&D withdrew its request for an expedited bench trial on its equitable defenses.

Plaintiff has opposed B&D's motion for reconsideration arguing that there is no authority establishing any right to a jury trial on willfulness and, to the extent such a right exists, B&D has waived its rights by continually requesting that the Court schedule a short bench trial on laches before proceeding with the rest of the action.

The Court finds that the right to a jury trial on willfulness exists in a patent action that will be tried to a jury. See, e.g., Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co., 886 F.2d 1226, 1250 (Fed. Cir. 1989). Having considered the submissions of the parties and the record of these proceedings, the Court does not find that B&D has knowingly waived its right to a jury trial on willfulness. Moreover, the early bifurcated trial on equitable defenses was scheduled by this Court in an effort to accommodate B&D's request for an early determination of laches, which it argued, if found, would greatly expedite the conclusion of this matter. Having recognized that a laches determination requires that this Court determine, before any jury has considered the question, whether Defendants willfully infringed Plaintiff's patent, B&D has withdrawn its request. The Court sees no reason to push ahead with a bifurcated trial despite B&D's express wishes.

The Court's recognition of the practical ramifications of the intertwinement of willfulness in any laches determination was the impetus for the Court's invitation to reconsider in its June 20, 2007 order. Having considered B&D's submission, which was

based upon the exact issues identified in this Court's own order, the Court hereby **GRANTS** B&D's motion. The bifurcated bench trial on equitable defenses previously scheduled for December 17, 2007 is hereby **VACATED**, along with all pretrial proceedings associated with it, including the November 26, 2007 pretrial conference.

III. Motion to Stay Litigation Pending Reexamination

On August 3, 2007, all Defendants jointly filed a motion for a stay of these proceedings. Defendants' motion is based on B&D's pending request for reexamination of Plaintiff's '184 Patent, which was filed with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office ("PTO") on July 30, 2007. The request for reexamination challenges, *inter alia*, all 5 claims of the '184 Patent that are asserted in the present litigation. The challenge is based on a number of prior art references, almost all of which were apparently not considered by the PTO in the prosecution of the '184 Patent.

Courts have inherent power to stay an action pending conclusion of PTO reexamination proceedings. Ethicon, Inc. v. Quigg, 849 F.2d 1422,1426-27 (Fed. Cir. 1988). The decision whether to grant or deny a motion to stay proceedings pending PTO reexamination rests within the sound discretion of the court. See, e.g., Photoflex Products, Inc. v. Circa 3 LLC, No. C 04-03715 JSW, 2006 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 37743, at *2-3 (N.D. Cal. May 24, 2006). There is a "liberal policy" in favor of granting motions to stay pending the outcome of PTO reexamination proceedings. ASCII Corp. v. STD Entertainment USA, Inc., 844 F. Supp. 1378, 1381 (N.D. Cal. 1994).

In determining whether to stay litigation pending reexamination by the PTO, courts generally consider the following factors: (1) the stage of litigation, i.e., whether discovery is almost complete and whether a trial date has been set; (2) whether a stay would cause undue prejudice or present a clear disadvantage to the non-moving party; and (3) whether a stay will simplify the issues in question and trial of the case. See, e.g., Xerox Corp. v. 3Com Corp., 69 F. Supp. 2d 404, 406 (W.D.N.Y. 1999).

The Court finds that this litigation has not proceeded so far that it would be unjust to

stay the action. Although this action was originally filed about a year ago, and the Court recognizes that substantial amounts of discovery have already occurred, the more relevant inquiry is whether discovery is nearing completion – it is not.[1] For instance, Magistrate Judge Bencivengo recently granted the parties permission to take an additional 10 depositions per side. [See Doc. #159 at 2.] No deadline for the completion of fact discovery has even been set. Moreover, the parties are just beginning to brief the preliminary issue of claim construction and, in accordance with the decision above to vacate the bifurcated bench trial on equitable defenses, no trial date is currently set for any aspect of this case. In addition, while the Court has already considered two motions for summary judgment, it previously put off consideration of two others until after claim construction, and Plaintiff has just filed a substantial summary judgment motion aimed at piercing Black & Decker's corporate veil. The Court anticipates that further summary judgment motions regarding infringement and patent validity will be filed once claim construction is complete. Thus, a substantial amount of resources will be employed by all parties and the Court even in advance of any eventual trial. See, e.g., Broadcast Innovation, L.L.C. v. Charter Communications, Inc., No. 03-cv-2223-ABJ-BNB, 2006 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 46623, at *26-31 (D. Colo. July 11, 2006) (granting stay, in part, because of significant work remaining on motions for summary judgement, even though trial date was less than three months away).

Plaintiff claims Defendants delayed filing their request for reexamination to gain a tactical advantage over it. He claims that Defendants were aware of the prior art that they reference in their reexamination request over seven months ago, but purposely delayed so that the '184 Patent would expire during the reexamination process, thereby precluding Plaintiff from offering any amendments to the claims. Defendants respond that there was no intentional delay and that their decision to request reexamination was based, in part, on the Supreme Court decision in KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc., 127 S. Ct. 1727 (2007), which was only issued at the end of April. The Court is not convinced that Defendants

[1] In reaching this determination, the Court has considered the surreply submitted by Plaintiff and, therefore, the pending ex parte request to file a surreply [Doc. #201] is **GRANTED**.

employed any improper tactics in filing their request for reexamination. While Plaintiff is rightfully concerned that a reexamination in the twilight of his patent puts him at a distinct disadvantage, he could have prevented this situation by filing suit many years ago, thereby allowing sufficient time for any reexamination to occur before the patent expired.

Therefore, Plaintiff's cognizable claims of prejudice if a stay should be entered basically boil down to his inconvenience in delaying final collection of any monetary award of royalties, assuming he ultimately wins. However, as the court recognized in Broadcast, the prejudice factor "is best summarized by one question: *do the Plaintiffs have an adequate remedy at law?*" 2006 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 46623, at *32. Just as in Broadcast, the answer here is that clearly Plaintiff does have an adequate remedy. Defendants point out, and Plaintiff has not disputed, that the '184 Patent will expire in February 2008 independent of reexamination. Given that a trial on the merits could not occur prior to that date, Plaintiff would not have been granted any injunctive relief by this Court. Therefore, his claim would be restricted to past monetary damages, which, with the addition of prejudgment interest, are fully capable of compensating Plaintiff. Unfortunately, reexamination can be a drawn out process, resulting in a significant delay in court proceedings. Protracted delay is always a risk inherent in granting a stay, yet courts continue to stay actions pending reexamination. The general prejudice of having to wait for resolution is not a persuasive reason to deny the motion for stay. An average delay for reexamination of approximately 18-23 months is especially inconsequential where Plaintiff himself waited as many as twelve years before bringing the present litigation. (See PTO Reexamination Statistics at Ex. B to Niro Decl.; Doc. #180-3.)

In addition, the Federal Circuit has recently confirmed that the PTO would not be bound in its reexamination by the determinations of this Court. In re Trans Texas Holdings Corp., 2006-1599 and 2006-1600, 2007 U.S. App. LEXIS 19909, at *14-19 (Fed. Cir. Aug. 22, 2007). Because of this, the Court finds that not only is Plaintiff unlikely to be prejudiced in these proceedings by a stay pending the PTO reexamination, but Defendants would potentially be prejudiced by *failing* to enter a stay. One court has explained this possibility

accordingly:

> Not only could the Court and the PTO reach conflicting determinations, but one possible scenario could result in irreparable harm to [Defendant]: if this Court finds that the [patent] is not invalid and that [Defendant] has infringed it, and orders [Defendant] to pay damages to [Plaintiff] for such infringement, then [Defendant] would have no ability to recover those damages if at a later date the PTO determined that the [] patent is invalid.

Bausch & Lomb, Inc. v. Alcon Lab., Inc., 914 F. Supp. 951, 952 (W.D.N.Y. 1996). The Court finds such a possibility to be, at a minimum, a highly undesirable outcome.

Finally, the Court finds that the stay will result in the simplification of issues in this case. As explained by the Federal Circuit, "[o]ne purpose of the reexamination procedure is to eliminate trial of [the issue of patent claim validity] (when the claim is canceled) or to facilitate trial of that issue by providing the district court with the expert view of the PTO (when a claim survives the reexamination proceeding)." Gould v. Control Laser Corp., 705 F.2d 1340, 1342 (Fed. Cir. 1983), cert. denied, 464 U.S. 935 (1983). The Broadcast court, elaborating on this point, explained:

> Shifting the patent validity issue to the PTO has many advantages, including:
>
> 1. All prior art presented to the Court will have been first considered by the PTO, with its particular expertise.
>
> 2. Many discovery problems relating to prior art can be alleviated by the PTO examination.
>
> 3. In those cases resulting in effective invalidity of the patent, the suit will likely be dismissed.
>
> 4. The outcome of the reexamination may encourage a settlement without the further use of the Court.
>
> 5. The record of reexamination would likely be entered at trial, thereby reducing the complexity and length of the litigation.
>
> 6. Issues, defenses, and evidence will be more easily limited in final pretrial conferences after a reexamination.
>
> 7. The cost will likely be reduced both for the parties and the Court.

2006 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 46623, at *9-10 (quoting Emhart Indus., Inc. v. Sankyo Seiki Mfg. Co., 3 U.S.P.Q.2d 1889, 1890 (N.D. Ill. 1987)).

The Court believes that it will benefit from the PTO's evaluation of how the previously

unconsidered prior art references impact the claims of the patent-in-suit. The PTO's expert evaluation is likely to be of assistance not only as to the issues of validity, but its understanding of the claims is also likely to aid this Court in the preliminary process of claim construction.

The Court finds that, especially in this case, the reexamination process has the potential to significantly narrow the issues for trial because of the impending expiration of the '184 Patent. While the parties have argued at length about exactly how this additional variable affects the calculation of the likely outcome of reexamination, the Court need not resolve this dispute to reach the proper conclusion. It is enough to note that when reexamination is requested by a third party, as in this case, all claims are confirmed only 29% of the time. (See PTO Reexamination Statistics at Ex. B to Niro Decl.; Doc. #180-3.) Since no amendments can be offered to an expired patent, there is obviously a significant likelihood that the validity of the claims at issue in this action will be affected by the reexamination process.[2]

In addition, the Court expects that the reexamination process will not only aid the Court in these proceedings, but should also redound to the benefit of the parties, both Defendants and Plaintiff. As the Broadcast court explained in its discussion of the possibility of prejudice from entering a stay:

> If the PTO does not invalidate or otherwise alter the claims of the [] patent, the Plaintiffs' legal remedy remains unaffected . . . . Moreover, if the claims are narrowed, both sets of parties will have benefitted by avoiding the needless waste of resources before this Court, and again, the Plaintiffs will be able to pursue their claim for money damages at trial. Finally, if the claims are strengthened, the Plaintiffs' position will be as well, and their likelihood of monetary damages will increase. *See, e.g., Motson*, 2005 U.S. Dist. LEXIS, 2005 WL 3465664 at *1 ("[I]f the PTO upholds the validity of plaintiff's patent, 'the plaintiff's rights will only be strengthened, as the challenger's burden of proof becomes more difficult to sustain.'") (quoting *Pegasus Dev. Corp.*, 2003 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 8052, 2003 WL 21105073 at *2).

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[2] Plaintiff has argued that the PTO is unlikely to grant reexamination precisely because the '184 Patent will expire soon. However, Plaintiff failed to produce any evidence to support this contention. Moreover, even if Plaintiff is correct, and the PTO fails to grant reexamination (a decision which should issue no later than October 30, 2007), this Court would immediately lift the stay and these proceedings would continue – a relatively insignificant 2-month delay being all that would result.

2006 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 46623, at *32-33. Accordingly, the Court finds that a stay is appropriate to avoid the risk of unnecessary litigation and to permit the clarification of issues before this Court.

Therefore, Defendants' motion to stay this litigation is **GRANTED IN PART** and **DENIED IN PART**. With the exception of two pending motions, all proceedings are hereby stayed pending the PTO's reexamination of the '184 Patent. The Court will continue to hear Plaintiff's pending motion for entry of default against Defendant Porter-Cable Corporation [Doc. #182], which is calendared for hearing on October 12, 2007. As was discussed above in Section I, the Court will also continue to hear B&D's pending motion for reconsideration of Magistrate Judge Bencivengo's August 3, 2007 order regarding production of Dennis Dearing's attorney work product [Doc. #240], which is calendared for hearing on November 2, 2007. The Clerk is directed to **VACATE** all scheduled discovery hearings, as well as the claim construction hearing previously set for November 19, 2007. All hearing dates will be reset, to the extent appropriate, once the stay of these proceedings has been lifted.

Defendants are ordered to file a notice informing the Court of the PTO's decision on the pending application for reexamination within 10 days of receipt of such decision. If the PTO declines B&D's request to reexamine the '184 Patent, the Court will immediately lift the stay and recalendar all vacated hearing dates. If, however, the PTO approves reexamination, this stay will remain in place pending some resolution of those proceedings. During the pendency of the reexamination, Defendants will be required to file a notice every 6 months apprising the Court of any change in the status of those proceedings.

IV. Motion for Partial Summary Judgment

On August 30, 2007, Plaintiff filed a motion for partial summary judgment piercing the corporate veils of the Black & Decker Defendants, or in the alternative, holding them to be a single enterprise for purposes of patent infringement liability. [Doc. #204.] The motion is presently calendared for hearing on October 26, 2007. In light of the Court's entry of a stay of these proceedings pending the PTO patent reexamination, the Court finds Plaintiff's

motion to be premature. Accordingly, the Court hereby **DENIES** Plaintiff's motion without prejudice.[3] As the Court is aware of the substantial volume of Plaintiff's motion, he is invited to refile this motion once the stay has been lifted by simply filing a short notice of motion which incorporates by reference his earlier filing.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: September 10, 2007

Honorable Barry Ted Moskowitz
United States District Judge

[3] Plaintiff's pending motion to file confidential documents under seal in support of the motion for partial summary judgment [Doc. #204-5] is also **DENIED** as moot.

EXHIBIT

B

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
90/008,775	07/30/2007	4935184	X32441	9943

22653 7590 10/11/2007

EDWARD W CALLAN
NO. 705 PMB 452
3830 VALLEY CENTRE DRIVE
SAN DIEGO, CA 92130

EXAMINER	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 10/11/2007

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

10/11/07

THIRD PARTY REQUESTER'S CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

Arnold Turk, Esq.
Greenblum & Bernstein P. L. C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston VA 20191

EX PARTE **REEXAMINATION COMMUNICATION TRANSMITTAL FORM**

REEXAMINATION CONTROL NO 90/008775
PATENT NO. 4,935,184
ART UNIT 3992

Enclosed is a copy of the latest communication from the United States Patent and Trademark Office in the above identified ex parte reexamination proceeding (37 CFR 1.550(f)).

Where this copy is supplied after the reply by requester, 37 CFR 1.535, or the time for filing a reply has passed, no submission on behalf of the ex parte reexamination requester will be acknowledged or considered (37 CFR 1.550(g)).

Order Granting / Denying Request For Ex Parte Reexamination	Control No. 90/008,775	Patent Under Reexamination 4935184	
	Examiner Alan Diamond	Art Unit 3991	

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

The request for *ex parte* reexamination filed *30 July 2007* has been considered and a determination has been made. An identification of the claims, the references relied upon, and the rationale supporting the determination are attached.

Attachments: a)☐ PTO-892, b)☒ PTO/SB/08, c)☐ Other: _____

1. ☒ The request for *ex parte* reexamination is GRANTED.

RESPONSE TIMES ARE SET AS FOLLOWS:

For Patent Owner's Statement (Optional): TWO MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication (37 CFR 1.530 (b)). **EXTENSIONS OF TIME ARE GOVERNED BY 37 CFR 1.550(c).**

For Requester's Reply (optional): TWO MONTHS from the **date of service** of any timely filed Patent Owner's Statement (37 CFR 1.535). **NO EXTENSION OF THIS TIME PERIOD IS PERMITTED.** If Patent Owner does not file a timely statement under 37 CFR 1.530(b), then no reply by requester is permitted.

2. ☐ The request for *ex parte* reexamination is DENIED.

This decision is not appealable (35 U.S.C. 303(c)). Requester may seek review by petition to the Commissioner under 37 CFR 1.181 within ONE MONTH from the mailing date of this communication (37 CFR 1.515(c)). **EXTENSION OF TIME TO FILE SUCH A PETITION UNDER 37 CFR 1.181 ARE AVAILABLE ONLY BY PETITION TO SUSPEND OR WAIVE THE REGULATIONS UNDER 37 CFR 1.183.**

In due course, a refund under 37 CFR 1.26 (c) will be made to requester:

a) ☐ by Treasury check or,

b) ☐ by credit to Deposit Account No. _____, or

c) ☐ by credit to a credit card account, unless otherwise notified (35 U.S.C. 303(c)).

Alan Diamond
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 3991

cc:Requester (if third party requester)

Decision on Reexamination Request

1. A substantial new question of patentability affecting claims 1, 2, 4, and 6-10 of United States Patent Number 4,935,184 to Sorensen, is raised by the request for *ex parte* reexamination. The request for reexamination is Third Party requested.

2. Since requestor did not request reexamination of claims 3 and 5 and did not assert the existence of a substantial new question of patentability (SNQ) for such claims (see 35 U.S.C. § 302); see also 37 CFR 1.510b and 1.515), such claims will not be reexamined. This matter was squarely addressed in *Sony Computer Entertainment America Inc., et al v. Jon W. Dudas*, Civil Action No. 1:05CV1447 (E.D.Va. May 22, 2006), Slip Copy, 2006 WL 1472462. The District Court upheld the Office's discretion to not reexamine claims in a reexamination proceeding other than those claims for which reexamination had specifically been requested. The Court stated:

> "To be sure, a party may seek, and the PTO may grant, ...review of each and every claim of a patent. Moreover, while the PTO in its discretion may review claims for which ... review was not requested, nothing in the statute compels it to do so. To ensure that the PTO considers a claim for ... review, ...requires that the party seeking reexamination demonstrate why the PTO should reexamine each and every claim for which it seeks review. Here, it is undisputed that **Sony** did not seek review of every claim under the '213 and '333 patents. Accordingly, **Sony** cannot now claim that the PTO wrongly failed to reexamine claims for which **Sony** never requested review, and its argument that AIPA compels a contrary result is unpersuasive."

Extension of Time

3. Extensions of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) will not be permitted in these proceedings because the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 apply only to "an applicant" and not to parties in a reexamination proceeding. Additionally, 35 U.S.C. 305 requires that

ex parte reexamination proceedings "will be conducted with special dispatch" (37 CFR 1.550(a)). Extensions of time in *ex parte* reexamination proceedings are provided for in 37 CFR 1.550(c).

Substantial New Question of Patentability (SNQ)

4. The presence or absence of a "substantial new question of patentability" determines whether or not reexamination is ordered.

For a "substantial new question of patentability" to be present, it is only necessary that :

A) the prior art patents and/or printed publications raise a substantial new question of patentability regarding at least one claim, i.e., the teaching of the (prior art) patents and printed publications is such that a reasonable examiner would consider the teaching to be important in deciding whether or not the claim is patentable; and

B) the same question of patentability as to the claim has not been decided by the Office in a previous examination of the patent or in a final holding of invalidity by the Federal Courts in a decision on the merits involving the claim.

A SNQ may be based solely on old art where the old art is being presented/viewed in a new light, or in a different way, as compared with its use in the earlier concluded examination(s), in view of a material new argument or interpretation in the request. (MPEP 2242).

Request

5. The request indicates the Requestor considers that Moscicki (U.S. Patent 3,178,497) raises a substantial new question of patentability with respect to claims 1, 4, 6-8 and 10 of Sorensen.

It is agreed that consideration of Moscicki raises a substantial new question of patentability as to claims 1, 4, 6-8 and 10 of Sorensen. Page 28, line 14 though page 32, seventh line from the bottom; page 56 at the start of section 8 through page 58, line 5; page 83, line 13 through page 86, line 9; page 86, line 22 through page 87, line 22; page 94, lines 1-19; page 98, line 6 through page 99, line 2; and page 107, line 18 through page 108, line 11, of the request for reexamination are hereby incorporated by reference for their explanation of the teaching provided in Moscicki that was not present in the prosecution of the application which became the Sorensen patent. There is a substantial likelihood that a reasonable examiner would consider this teaching important in deciding whether or not claims 1, 4, 6-8 and 10 of Sorensen were patentable. Accordingly, Moscicki raises a substantial new question of patentability as to claims 1, 4, 6-8 and 10, which question has not been decided in a previous examination of the Sorensen patent.

6. The request indicates the Requestor considers that Seima (GB 2004494 A) raises a substantial new question of patentability with respect to claims 1, 2 and 6-10 of Sorensen.

It is agreed that consideration of Seima raises a substantial new question of patentability as to claims 1, 2 and 6-10 of Sorensen. Page 32, sixth line from the bottom, through the end of page 36; page 60, fifth line from the bottom, through page 62, line 3; page 80, line 10 through page 83, line 12; page 88, line 13 through page 89, line 15; page 95, line 13 through page 96, line 9; page 99, line 15 through page 100, line 11; page 104, line 1 through page 107, line 4; and page 109, lines 1-20, of the request for reexamination are hereby incorporated by reference for their explanation of the teaching provided in Seima that was not present in the prosecution of the application which became the Sorensen patent. There is a substantial likelihood that a reasonable examiner would consider this teaching important in deciding whether or not claims 1, 2 and 6-10 of Sorensen were patentable. Accordingly, Seima raises a substantial new question of patentability as to claims 1, 2 and 6-10, which question has not been decided in a previous examination of the Sorensen patent.

7. The request indicates the Requestor considers that Gits (U.S. Patent 2,863,241) raises a substantial new question of patentability with respect to claim 1 of Sorensen.

It is agreed that consideration of Gits raises a substantial new question of patentability as to claim 1 of Sorensen. Page 37, line 1 through the end of section 3 on page 40, of the request for reexamination are hereby incorporated by reference for their explanation of the teaching provided in Gits that was not present in the prosecution of the application which became the Sorensen patent. There is a substantial likelihood

that a reasonable examiner would consider this teaching important in deciding whether or not claim 1 of Sorensen was patentable. Accordingly, Gits raises a substantial new question of patentability as to claim 1, which question has not been decided in a previous examination of the Sorensen patent.

8. The request indicates the Requestor considers that Shiho *et al* (U.S. Patent 4,440,820, hereinafter "Shiho") raises a substantial new question of patentability with respect to claims 1, 6-8 and 10 of Sorensen.

It is agreed that consideration of Shiho raises a substantial new question of patentability as to claims 1, 6-8 and 10 of Sorensen. The beginning of section 4 on page 40 through the end of section 4 on page 44; page 90, lines 4-20; page 96, line 23 through page 97, line 6; page 101, lines 1-11; and page 110, lines 14-23, of the request for reexamination are hereby incorporated by reference for their explanation of the teaching provided in Shiho that was not present in the prosecution of the application which became the Sorensen patent. There is a substantial likelihood that a reasonable examiner would consider this teaching important in deciding whether or not claims 1, 6-8 and 10 of Sorensen were patentable. Accordingly, Shiho raises a substantial new question of patentability as to claims 1, 6-8 and 10, which question has not been decided in a previous examination of the Sorensen patent.

9. The request indicates the Requestor considers that JP 60-119520 U to Toyota Motor (hereinafter "Toyota") raises a substantial new question of patentability with respect to claim 1 of Sorensen.

It is agreed that consideration of Toyota raises a substantial new question of patentability as to claim 1 of Sorensen. The beginning of section 5 on page 44 through the end of section 5 on page 48; and page 70, line 1 through page 71, line 8, of the request for reexamination are hereby incorporated by reference for their explanation of the teaching provided in Toyota that was not present in the prosecution of the application which became the Sorensen patent. There is a substantial likelihood that a reasonable examiner would consider this teaching important in deciding whether or not claim 1 of Sorensen was patentable. Accordingly, Toyota raises a substantial new question of patentability as to claim 1, which question has not been decided in a previous examination of the Sorensen patent.

10. The request indicates the Requestor considers that German Published Patent Application No. 1850999 to Echterholter raises a substantial new question of patentability with respect to claim 1 of Sorensen.

It is agreed that consideration of Echterholter raises a substantial new question of patentability as to claim 1 of Sorensen. The beginning of section 6 on page 48 through page 53, line 6; and page 73, line 10 through page 74, line 17, of the request for reexamination are hereby incorporated by reference for their explanation of the teaching provided in Echterholter that was not present in the prosecution of the

application which became the Sorensen patent. There is a substantial likelihood that a reasonable examiner would consider this teaching important in deciding whether or not claim 1 of Sorensen was patentable. Accordingly, Echterholter raises a substantial new question of patentability as to claim 1, which question has not been decided in a previous examination of the Sorensen patent.

11. The request indicates the Requestor considers that Wright, "New vigor for two-shot molding automation... versatility... ingenuity," Modern Plastics, May 1986, pp. 79-83, (hereinafter "Modern Plastics") raises a substantial new question of patentability with respect to claims 1, 6 and 8 of Sorensen.

It is agreed that consideration of Modern Plastics raises a substantial new question of patentability as to claims 1, 6 and 8 of Sorensen. Page 53, line 7 through the end of section 7 on page 56; page 77, line 1 through page 78, line 8; page 92, line 9 through page 93, line 12; and page 102, line 16 through page 103, line 11, of the request for reexamination are hereby incorporated by reference for their explanation of the teaching provided in Modern Plastics that was not present in the prosecution of the application which became the Sorensen patent. There is a substantial likelihood that a reasonable examiner would consider this teaching important in deciding whether or not claims 1, 6 and 8 of Sorensen were patentable. Accordingly, Modern Plastics raises a substantial new question of patentability as to claims 1, 6 and 8, which question has not been decided in a previous examination of the Sorensen patent.

12. The request indicates the Requestor considers that Moscicki in view of Echterholter and further in view of Modern Plastics raises a substantial new question of patentability with respect to claims 1, 4, 6-8 and 10 of Sorensen.

It is agreed that consideration of Moscicki in view of Echterholter and further in view of Modern Plastics raises a substantial new question of patentability as to claims 1, 4, 6-8 and 10 of Sorensen. Page 58, line 6 through the end of section 9 on page 60; page 86, lines 10-21; page 88, lines 1-12; page 95, lines 1-12; page 99, lines 3-14; and page 108, lines 12-23, of the request for reexamination are hereby incorporated by reference for their explanation of the teaching provided in Moscicki, Echterholter and Modern Plastics that was not present in the prosecution of the application which became the Sorensen patent. There is a substantial likelihood that a reasonable examiner would consider this teaching important in deciding whether or not claims 1, 4, 6-8 and 10 of Sorensen were patentable. Accordingly, Moscicki in view of Echterholter and further in view of Modern Plastics raises a substantial new question of patentability as to claims 1, 4, 6-8 and 10, which question has not been decided in a previous examination of the Sorensen patent.

13. The request indicates the Requestor considers that Seima in view of Echterholter and further in view of Modern Plastics raises a substantial new question of patentability with respect to claims 1 and 6-10 of Sorensen.

It is agreed that consideration of Seima in view of Echterholter and further in view of Modern Plastics raises a substantial new question of patentability as to claims 1 and

6-10 of Sorensen. Page 62, line 4 through page 64, line 3; page 89, line 16 through page 90, line 3; page 96, lines 10-22; page 100, lines 12-24; page 107, lines 5-17; and page 110, lines 1-13, of the request for reexamination are hereby incorporated by reference for their explanation of the teaching provided in Seima, Echterholter and Modern Plastics that was not present in the prosecution of the application which became the Sorensen patent. There is a substantial likelihood that a reasonable examiner would consider this teaching important in deciding whether or not claims 1 and 6-10 of Sorensen were patentable. Accordingly, Seima in view of Echterholter and further in view of Modern Plastics raises a substantial new question of patentability as to claims 1 and 6-10, which question has not been decided in a previous examination of the Sorensen patent.

14. At page 64, line 4 through page 67, line 18; page 90, line 21 through page 91, line 13; page 97, lines 7-16; and page 101, lines 12-22, the request indicates the Requestor considers that Schad (U.S. Patent 4,422,995) raises a substantial new question of patentability with respect to claims 1 and 6-8 of Sorensen.

Schad **does not** raise a substantial new question of patentability with respect to claims 1 and 6-8 of Sorensen. In the prosecution of application Serial No. 07/386,012, which matured into the Sorensen patent, Schad was used to reject all the claims (1-10) under 35 USC 103(a). The rejection over Schad was overcome and the Sorensen patent was allowed after applicant amended steps (h) and (i) of claim 1 so as to recite the injection of first/second plastic material until it reaches the portion of the first/second

mold cavity that defines the rim of the product. Third party requestor even admits at page 66, lines 16-18, of the request that "Schad does not specifically disclose a first injection material which 'reaches the portion of the mold cavity that defines the rim of the product.'" Third party requestor cites *KSR int'l Co. v. Teleflex Inc.* and design choice for the obviousness of modifying Schad so that a first injection material reaches the portion of the mold cavity that defines the rim of the product (Request, pages 66-67). Third party requestor notes that "design choice" with respect to product shape was considered by the Examiner in the rejection over Schad that was mailed 10/11/1988 during prosecution of the 07/386,012 application (see page 67 of the Request). Consideration of Shad in view of *KSR int'l Co. v. Teleflex Inc.* or "design choice" does not provide any new teaching with respect to Schad as compared with its use in the prosecution of the Sorensen patent. Accordingly, Schad is not being viewed in a new light compared with its use in the prosecution of the Sorensen patent, and thus, does not raise a substantial new question of patentability with respect to claims 1 and 6-8 of Sorensen.

15. The request indicates the Requestor considers that Schad in view of Moscicki and further in view of Seima and Shiho raises a substantial new question of patentability with respect to claims 1 and 6-8 of Sorensen.

It is agreed that consideration of Schad in view of Moscicki and further in view of Seima and Shiho raises a substantial new question of patentability as to claims 1 and 6-8 of Sorensen. Page 67, lines 19 through the last line on page 69; page 91, line 14

through page 92, line 8; page 97, line 17 through page 98, line 5; and page 102, lines 1-15, of the request for reexamination are hereby incorporated by reference for their explanation of the teaching provided in Schad, Moscicki, Seima and Shiho that was not present in the prosecution of the application which became the Sorensen patent. There is a substantial likelihood that a reasonable examiner would consider this teaching important in deciding whether or not claims 1 and 6-8 of Sorensen were patentable. Accordingly, Schad in view of Moscicki and further in view of Seima and Shiho raises a substantial new question of patentability as to claims 1 and 6-8, which question has not been decided in a previous examination of the Sorensen patent.

16. The request indicates the Requestor considers that Toyota in view of Moscicki and further in view of Seima and Shiho raises a substantial new question of patentability with respect to claim 1 of Sorensen.

It is agreed that consideration of Toyota in view of Moscicki and further in view of Seima and Shiho raises a substantial new question of patentability as to claim 1 of Sorensen. Page 71, line 9 through page 73, line 9, of the request for reexamination are hereby incorporated by reference for their explanation of the teaching provided in Toyota, Moscicki, Seima and Shiho that was not present in the prosecution of the application which became the Sorensen patent. There is a substantial likelihood that a reasonable examiner would consider this teaching important in deciding whether or not claim 1 Sorensen was patentable. Accordingly, Toyota in view of Moscicki and further in view of Seima and Shiho raises a substantial new question of patentability as to claim

1, which question has not been decided in a previous examination of the Sorensen patent.

17. The request indicates the Requestor considers that Echterholter in view of Moscicki and further in view of Seima and Shiho raises a substantial new question of patentability with respect to claim 1 of Sorensen.

It is agreed that consideration of Echterholter in view of Moscicki and further in view of Seima and Shiho raises a substantial new question of patentability as to claim 1 of Sorensen. Page 74, line 18 through the last line on page 76, of the request for reexamination are hereby incorporated by reference for their explanation of the teaching provided in Echterholter, Moscicki, Seima and Shiho that was not present in the prosecution of the application which became the Sorensen patent. There is a substantial likelihood that a reasonable examiner would consider this teaching important in deciding whether or not claim 1 Sorensen was patentable. Accordingly, Echterholter in view of Moscicki and further in view of Seima and Shiho raises a substantial new question of patentability as to claim 1, which question has not been decided in a previous examination of the Sorensen patent.

18. The request indicates the Requestor considers that Modern Plastics in view of Moscicki and further in view of Seima and Shiho raises a substantial new question of patentability with respect to claims 1, 6 and 8 of Sorensen.

It is agreed that consideration of Modern Plastics in view of Moscicki and further in view of Seima and Shiho raises a substantial new question of patentability as to claims 1, 6 and 8 of Sorensen. Page 78, line 9 through page 80, line 9; page 93, lines 13-25; and page 103, lines 12-24, of the request for reexamination are hereby incorporated by reference for their explanation of the teaching provided in Modern Plastics, Moscicki, Seima and Shiho that was not present in the prosecution of the application which became the Sorensen patent. There is a substantial likelihood that a reasonable examiner would consider this teaching important in deciding whether or not claims 1, 6 and 8 of Sorensen were patentable. Accordingly, Modern Plastics in view of Moscicki and further in view of Seima and Shiho raises a substantial new question of patentability as to claims 1, 6 and 8, which question has not been decided in a previous examination of the Sorensen patent.

Duty to Disclose

19. The patent owner is reminded of the continuing responsibility under 37 CFR 1.565(a) to apprise the Office of any litigation activity, or other prior or concurrent proceeding, involving Patent No. 4,935,184 throughout the course of this reexamination proceeding. The third party requestor is also reminded of the ability to similarly apprise the Office of any such activity or proceeding throughout the course of this reexamination proceeding. See MPEP §§ 2207, 2282 and 2286.

Correspondence

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alan Diamond whose telephone number is (571) 272-1338. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 5:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Deborah Jones can be reached on (571) 272-1535.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Notice Re Patent Owner's Correspondence Address

Effective May 16, 2007, 37 CFR 1.33(c) has been revised to provide that:

The patent owner's correspondence address for all communications in an *ex parte* reexamination or an *inter partes* reexamination is designated as the correspondence address of the patent.

> *Revisions and Technical Corrections Affecting Requirements for Ex Parte and Inter Partes Reexamination*, 72 FR 18892 (April 16, 2007)(Final Rule)

The correspondence address for any pending reexamination proceeding not having the same correspondence address as that of the patent is, by way of this

revision to 37 CFR 1.33(c), automatically changed to that of the patent file as of the effective date.

This change is effective for any reexamination proceeding which is pending before the Office as of May 16, 2007, including the present reexamination proceeding, and to any reexamination proceeding which is filed after that date.

Parties are to take this change into account when filing papers, and direct communications accordingly.

In the event the patent owner's correspondence address listed in the papers (record) for the present proceeding is different from the correspondence address of the patent, it is strongly encouraged that the patent owner affirmatively file a Notification of Change of Correspondence Address in the reexamination proceeding and/or the patent (depending on which address patent owner desires), to conform the address of the proceeding with that of the patent and to clarify the record as to which address should be used for correspondence.

Telephone Numbers for reexamination inquiries:

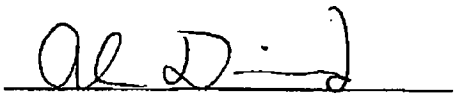
Reexamination and Amendment Practice	(571) 272-7703
Central Reexam Unit (CRU)	(571) 272-7705
Reexamination Facsimile Transmission No.	(571) 273-9900

Please mail any communications to:
Attn: Mail Stop "Ex Parte Reexam"
Central Reexamination Unit
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

Please FAX any communications to:
(571) 273-9900
Central Reexamination Unit

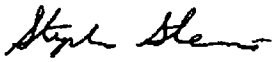
Please hand-deliver any communications to:
Customer Service Window
Attn: Central Reexamination Unit
Randolph Building, Lobby Level
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Signed:



Alan Diamond
Primary Examiner
Central Reexamination Unit
Art Unit 3991
(571) 272-1338

/Jerry D. Johnson/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3991



STEPHEN J. STEIN
CRU EXAMINER - AU 3991

EXHIBIT

C

LEXSEE 2006 U.S. DIST. LEXIS 37743

PHOTOFLEX PRODUCTS, INC., Plaintiff, v. CIRCA 3 LLC dba AMVONA.COM, Defendant.

No. C 04-03715 JSW

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

2006 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 37743

May 24, 2006, Decided
May 24, 2006, Filed

COUNSEL: [*1] Photoflex Products, Inc., Plaintiff: Alfredo A. Bismonte, Bobby T. Shih, Daniel S. Mount, Mount & Stoelker, San Jose, CA; Michael J. Hughes, Intellectual Property Law Offices, Campbell, Ca.

Circa 3 LLC, also known as, Amvona.com, Defendant: Warren J. Krauss, Detert Moran & Arnold, San Francisco, CA; James Yuanxin Li, Sedgwick Detert Moran & Arnold, San Francisco, CA.

JUDGES: JEFFREY S. WHITE, UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE.

OPINION BY: JEFFREY S. WHITE

OPINION

ORDER GRANTING IN PART AND DENYING IN PART AMENDED MOTION TO STAY LITIGATION

Now before the Court is Defendant Circa 3 LLC dba Amvona.com's ("Amvona") motion to stay litigation during the pendency of reexamination of United States Patent 6,076,935 (the "'935 Patent"). The Court finds that this matter is appropriate for disposition without oral argument. *See* N.D. Civ. L.R. 7-1(b). Accordingly, the hearing set for May 26, 2006 is HEREBY VACATED. Having considered the parties' pleadings and the relevant legal authority, the Court HEREBY GRANTS IN PART AND DENIES IN PART Defendant's motion to stay litigation. In this action, Plaintiff brings claims for copyright and patent infringement, as well we claims of unfair competition and [*2] false designation of origin, related to the manufacture and marketing of high quality photographic equipment. Count two of the second amended complaint for patent infringement is STAYED, but Counts one, three and four for copyright infringement, false designation of origin and unfair competition are NOT STAYED.

ANALYSIS

A. Legal Standards Applicable to a Motion to Stay Proceedings Pending Reexamination.

The patent reexamination statute provides in pertinent part that "[a]ny person at any time may file a request for reexamination by the [PTO] of any claim of a patent on the basis of any prior art cited under the provisions of *section 301*." *35 U.S.C. § 302*. The PTO must "determine whether a substantial new question of patentability affecting any claim of the patent concerned is raised by the request. . . ." *35 U.S.C. § 303(a)*. The reexamination statute further provides that "[a]ll reexamination proceedings . . . including any appeal to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, will be conducted with special dispatch." *35 U.S.C. § 305*.

The determination of whether to grant a stay pending the [*3] outcome of the PTO's reexamination is soundly within the Court's discretion. *See Tap Pharm. Prods. Inc. v. Atrix Labs. Inc., 70 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1319, 1320 (N.D. Ill. 2004)* (citing *Gould v. Control Laser Corp., 705 F.2d 1340, 1341 (Fed. Cir. 1983))*. When ruling on such a stay, courts consider several factors: (1) the stage of the

litigation, including whether discovery is or will be almost completed and whether the matter has been marked for trial; (2) whether a stay will unduly prejudice or tactically disadvantage the nonmoving party; and (3) whether a stay will simplify the issues in question and streamline the trial, thereby reducing the burden of litigation on the parties and on the court. *Id.; Methode Elecs., Inc. v. Infineon Techs. Corp., No. 99-21142, 2000 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 20689, at *5-6 (N.D. Cal. Aug. 7, 2000)*. There is a "liberal policy in favor of granting motions to stay proceedings pending the outcome of USPTO reexamination or reissuance proceedings." *ASCII Corp. v. STD Entertainment, 844 F. Supp. 1378, 1381 (N.D. Cal. 1994)*.

B. Early Stage of Litigation Favors a Stay of the Patent Claim.

Here, the early [*4] stage of this litigation weighs in favor of granting a stay of the patent infringement portion of the case. *See Target Therapeutics, Inc. v. SciMed Life Sys., Inc., 33 U.S.P.Q. 2d 2022, 2023 (N.D. Cal. 1995)* (holding that the absence of "significant discovery" or "substantial expense and time . . . invested" in the litigation weighed in favor of staying the litigation); *see also ASCII Corp., 844 F. Supp. at 1381* (granting stay where parties had undertaken little or no discovery and the case had not yet been set for trial). Here, discovery has just begun. Amvona has served 14 interrogatories and 29 requests for production of documents and Photoflex has served 16 interrogatories and 5 requests for production of documents. No depositions have been taken or scheduled. (*See* Declaration of James Yuanxin Li ("Li Decl."), P 2.) Therefore, the fact that this case is still in the early stages and the parties have not yet conducted "significant discovery" or invested "substantial expense" into the litigation weighs in favor of granting a stay. *See Target Therapeutics, 33 U.S.P.Q. 2d at 2023.*

C. A Stay Will Not Unduly Prejudice Plaintiff.

[*5] In determining whether to grant a stay, courts also consider any resulting undue prejudice on the nonmoving party. *See Methode Elecs., 2000 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 20689, at *7.* Granting a stay does not cause the nonmoving party undue prejudice when that party has not invested substantial expense and time in the litigation. *Id.* The delay inherent to the reexamination process does not constitute, by itself, undue prejudice. *Pegasus Dev. Corp. v. DirecTV, Inc., 2003 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 8052, 2003 WL 21105073, at *2 (D. Del. May 14, 2003).*

Courts also consider evidence of dilatory motives or tactics, such as when a party unduly delays in seeking reexamination of a patent. *Methode Elecs., 2000 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 20689, at *7.* This is not a case where reexamination is sought on the eve of trial or after protracted discovery. *Cf. Agar Corp., Inc. v. Multi-Fluid, Inc., 983 F. Supp. 1126, 1128 (S.D. Tex. 1997)* (finding that "courts are inclined to deny a stay when the case is set for trial and the discovery phase has almost been completed"). There has been no showing of dilatory motive or tactics.

Accordingly, te Court finds that a stay of the patent claim [*6] will not unduly prejudice Plaintiff, and thus this factor also weighs in favor of granting a stay.

D. A Stay Will Simplify the Issues, Streamline the Trial, and Reduce the Burden of Litigation on Both the Parties and the Court.

Because the patent-in-suit is currently being reexamined, the Court finds that the patent infringement case should be stayed during the pendency of the reexamination. The Court finds that such a stay will simplify the issues and streamline the trial, thereby reducing the burden on, and preserving the resources of both the parties and the Court.

However, in determining whether to grant a stay of an entire case, courts consider whether there would remain, after the PTO reexamination, issues "completely unrelated to patent infringement" for which a stay would not reduce the burden of litigation on both the parties and the court. *Imax Corp. v. In-Three, Inc., 385 F. Supp. 2d 1030, 1033 (C.D. Cal. 2005).* If such matters "would continue to be an issue . . . a stay would not preserve many resources." *Id.*

Here, in addition to the patent infringement claim, Plaintiff brings claims for copyright infringement, false designation of origin [*7] and unfair competition. Simply arguing these claims have no merit, Defendant has failed to address whether there are significant overlapping issues between the patent claim and these other claims whereby a stay of the other claims would reduce the burden of litigation on both the parties and the Court. Thus, the Court finds that Defendant has made no showing upon which the Court could find a stay of those separate causes of action would be justified.

Therefore, having considered the factors relevant in

determining whether to grant a stay pending reexamination, the Court hereby GRANTS Amvona's motion to stay the patent infringement portion of this case but DENIES the motion as to the remaining claims.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the Court GRANTS IN PART AND DENIES IN PART Amvona's motion to stay. Count two for patent infringement is stayed from the date of this Order until further notice with the exception of activities relating to or arising out of the judicial settlement conference currently schedule before Magistrate Judge Wayne D. Brazil on May 25, 2006. The Court HEREBY ORDERS the parties to submit a joint status report regarding the status of the reexamination [*8] proceedings every 120 days, or sooner if the PTO issues a final decision with respect to any of the '935 Patent, until the stay of the patent infringement claim is lifted.

The Court DENIES the request for a stay as to counts one, three and four.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: May 24, 2006

JEFFREY S. WHITE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

EXHIBIT D

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

Ex Parte Reexamination Filing Data - June 30, 2006

1. Total requests filed since start of ex parte reexam on 07/01/81 8084

a. By patent owner	3313	41%
b. By other member of public	4606	57%
c. By order of Commissioner	165	2%

2. Number of filings by discipline

a. Chemical Operation	2496	31%
b. Electrical Operation	2608	32%
c. Mechanical Operation	2980	37%

3. Annual Ex Parte Reexam Filings

Fiscal Yr.	No.	Fiscal Yr.	No.	Fiscal Yr.	No.	Fiscal Yr.	No.
1981	78 (3 mos.)	1989	243	1997	376	2005	524
1982	187	1990	297	1998	350	2006	340
1983	186	1991	307	1999	385		
1984	189	1992	392	2000	318		
1985	230	1993	359	2001	296		
1986	232	1994	379	2002	272		
1987	240	1995	392	2003	392		
1988	268	1996	418	2004	441		

4. Number known to be in litigation 1895 23%

5. Determinations on requests 7852

a. No. granted ..... 7160 ..... 91%

(1) By examiner	7054
(2) By Director (on petition)	106

b. No. denied ..... 692 ..... 9%

(1) By examiner	657
(2) Order vacated	35

EXHIBIT D

6. Total examiner denials (includes denials reversed by Director) 763

a. Patent owner requester	430	56%
b. Third party requester	333	44%

7. Overall reexamination pendency (Filing date to certificate issue date)

a. Average pendency	22.8 (mos.)
b. Median pendency	17.6 (mos.)

8. Reexam certificate claim analysis:

	Owner Requester	3rd Party Requester	Comm'r Initiated	Overall
a. All claims confirmed	23%	29%	13%	26%
b. All claims cancelled	7%	12%	19%	10%
c. Claims changes	70%	59%	68%	64%

9. Total ex parte reexamination certificates issued (1981 - present) 5433

a. Certificates with all claims confirmed	1410	26%
b. Certificates with all claims canceled	554	10%
c. Certificates with claims changes	3469	64%

10. Reexam claim analysis - requester is patent owner or 3rd party; or Comm'r initiated.

a. Certificates _ PATENT OWNER REQUESTER 2360

(1) All claims confirmed	543	23%
(2) All claims canceled	174	7%
(3) Claim changes	1643	70%

b. Certificates _ 3rd PARTY REQUESTER 2934

(1) All claims confirmed	849	29%
(2) All claims canceled	353	12%
(3) Claim changes	1732	59%

c. Certificates _ COMM'R INITIATED REEXAM 139

(1) All claims confirmed	18	13%
(2) All claims canceled	27	19%
(3) Claim changes	94	68%

EXHIBIT E

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J. Michael Kaler

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Intellectual Property

- Management
- Licensing
- Litigation

November 1, 2005

Via FEDEX

Mr. Marc Jacovelli
President
Rally Manufacturing, Inc.
5255 NW 159th Street
Hialeah, FL 33014
Phone: 305-628-2886

CONFIDENTIAL OFFER OF COMPROMISE SUBJECT TO FEDERAL RULES OF EVIDENCE § 408

RE: Rally Manufacturing, Inc.'s ("RALLY") unauthorized usage of the technology taught in United States Patent No. 4,935,184.

Dear Mr. Jacovelli:

We have examined several of RALLY's products that incorporate plastic housings manufactured with plastics with different characteristics. From our examination, we have determined that the plastic housings of some of these products are substantially likely to be fabricated utilizing a process that infringes United States Patent Number 4,935,184 ("the '184 patent"), and we are continuing our investigations into other RALLY products. Further, our records indicate that RALLY is not currently licensed to utilize the '184 patented method.

I represent the Sorensen Research & Development Trust ("Trust"), the owner of the '184 patent entitled "Stabilized Injection Molding When Using a Common Mold Part With Separate Complimentary Mold Parts," issued on June 19, 1990. In addition to the '184 patent, the Trust is the owner of a number of patents issued to Jens Ole Sorensen, an inventor whose forty years in plastic injection molding have resulted in more than 65 United States patents and dozens of international patents. Mr. Sorensen has developed products and processes, which have been widely used in producing cassette tapes, medical devices, automotive parts, food and beverage containers, and children's toys. Some of Mr. Sorensen's present endeavors include developing methods to

enable production of hollow injection molded products with reduced wall thickness and improved dimensional control. Where applicable, the capacity to produce injection-molded products with reduced wall thickness allows for the use of less plastic in the manufacture and generally allows for faster production cycle times.

The '184 patent provides a long-sought elegant solution to a pervasive problem in the injection molding of hollow plastic products. The problem is that the highly pressurized injection of molten plastic forces the mold parts to move relative to each other. This mold movement problem causes misalignment of the mold parts and results in products with walls of undesirable thickness variations if not adequately controlled. Mr. Sorensen has invented a number of methods for mold stabilization that are applicable in different injection molding situations, and can be used to supplement other methods such as the use of mechanical locking devices. For these inventions, Mr. Sorensen has been awarded several different patents recognized in the United States and other major industrial powers around the world.

The '184 patented method facilitates production of plastic components made with two or more plastic injections with different characteristics. The '184 patented technology provides an improved method for reducing mold misalignment during the injection molding process. This assists the manufacturer in producing parts with controlled dimensions fabricated within narrower tolerances. The improved dimensional control can be used to produce components with more refined fit and finish, improving the overall quality and appearance of the product. Moreover, the improved dimensional control can facilitate a reduction in material wasted and a reduction in manufacturing cycle time, both of which can be leveraged into reduced manufacturing cost.

The '184 patented method increases stabilization of the mold parts during injection molding of laminated plastic parts produced sequentially in two cavities made up of one common mold part and different complementary mold parts. The '184 patent teaches a method to stabilize the core during the second or later plastic injection by molding one or more stabilizing regions into the first plastic material component(s) that impede relative movement of the mold parts during the second or later injection. By providing this additional stabilization of the mold parts against movement during the injection process, hollow products may be produced having more controlled dimensions. Use of the '184 process offers significant benefit in the manufacture of two-plastic plastic housings and similar products.

The following table lists RALLY products that our inspection show to be substantially likely to have been produced through the use of a process which infringes the '184 patent (hereinafter, "Accused Products"). This list is not intended to be

exhaustive, rather it indicates Accused Products that we have discovered and examined. Our investigation into additional Accused Products continues:

ACCUSED PRODUCT
Rally Rechargeable Spotlight

My client is prepared to discuss reasonable terms for a license that would allow RALLY to continue to practice the '184 process in the manufacture of its products. RALLY must obtain a license under the '184 patent in order to continue importing into, manufacturing, offering for sale and/or selling the Accused Products within the United States. This requirement extends to any additional infringing RALLY products that we have not yet identified. RALLY has a legal duty to avoid infringement of United States patents. RALLY's manufacture of its plastic housings outside the United States does not avoid infringement liability when infringing products are imported into the United States.

I have enclosed for your convenience, a set of D-size drawing number D-5579 prepared by my client. We are providing these drawings as exemplars of the Accused Products that illustrate our infringement analysis. The top view (Fig. 1) of each drawing shows the Accused Product with an exemplary section line 4-4 through the product. The sectional views shown in Fig. 4 taken along section line 4-4, and correspond to Fig. 2B of the '184 patent. Fig. 4 illustrates where each element of the patent claims appears in the Accused Product. A comparison of Fig. 4 and Figure 2B of the '184 patent (illustrated at the bottom-left of the drawing) demonstrates that the claimed limitations of the '184 patent are present in the Accused Products in the same manner as in a preferred embodiment of the patent. Both figures show a cross-section of the molds with the hollow products having a closed end and an open end positioned in the mold cavity formed between a first common mold part (10) and second complementary mold part (26). The products have laminated walls (38) that extend to the rim of the products and consist of plastics having different characteristics. Additionally, each product has a portion of the first plastic material component (20) which functions as a stabilizing region (30) to impede the relative movement of the mold parts during the second injection.

RALLY's use of the '184 patented technology is further substantiated by the enclosed claim charts associated with the attached drawings. The claim charts

compare the illustrated Accused Product to claim number one (1) of the '184 patent. The first column of the claim chart quotes the text of the claim. The second column provides commentary pointing out the corresponding structure or element of the Accused Product. The third column is a remark reference number. Finally, the fourth column identifies one or more reference figures from the accompanying drawing showing the particular aspect that is the subject of the remark. The chart rows are broken down by convenience to the commentary text. For your convenient reference, a copy of the '184 patent is enclosed.

It may be possible, although not substantially likely, that RALLY manufactures some of the Accused Products in a manner such that production does not infringe the '184 patented process. If RALLY asserts that any Accused Product is not made with an infringing process, please provide us with detailed information about the Accused Process and an explanation of what elements of the '184 patented process that you contend are absent from the Accused Process. In the absence of such countervailing evidence, our analysis leads us to the conviction that RALLY is making unauthorized use of the '184 patented technology in the manufacture of each Accused Product.

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THE FOREGOING IS A REQUEST UNDER THE UNITED STATES PROCESS PATENT AMENDMENTS ACT OF 1988, AND MORE SPECIFICALLY WITH REFERENCE TO 35 UNITED STATES CODE § 295, SEEKING FACTUAL INFORMATION NECESSARY TO VERIFY THAT PRODUCTS MADE, SOLD, IMPORTED INTO, OR USED IN THE UNITED STATES ARE MADE BY A PROCESS PATENTED IN THE UNITED STATES.

The United States Process Patent Amendments Act of 1988 ("PPAA") provides at 35 U.S.C. § 295 as follows:

> **Sec. 295. Presumption: Product made by patented process**
>
> In actions alleging infringement of a process patent based on the importation, sale, offer for sale, or use of a product which is made from a process patented in the United States, if the court finds—
>
> (1) that a substantial likelihood exists that the product was made by the patented process, and
>
> (2) that the plaintiff has made a reasonable effort to determine the process actually used in the production of the product and was unable to so determine,

> the product shall be presumed to have been so made, and the burden of establishing that the product was not made by the process shall be on the party asserting that it was not so made.

Please provide the information requested within thirty (30) days of the date of this letter. This provides RALLY with more than a reasonable amount of time to collect the required information. My client and I are prepared to hold such information in confidence, and to sign a suitable confidentiality agreement to that end.

Be advised that this constitutes a notice of patent infringement in violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271. Should RALLY fail to diligently investigate this matter upon receipt of this notice, it will be considered a breach of RALLY's affirmative duty to investigate allegations of patent infringement as provided in 35 U.S.C. § 287. Such breach of the duty to investigate is evidence of willful infringement of the '184 patent, which finding can support enhancement of damages awarded pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 284.

We recognize that RALLY contracts out the fabrication of many components of its products to manufacturing agents. However, RALLY is ultimately responsible for the infringement of the '184 patent in making, importing, offering for sale or selling its products and components. RALLY's liability holds regardless of whether it makes these parts itself or through a third-party. Neither production of the Accused Products through manufacturing agents, nor production of the Accused Products outside of the United States excuses RALLY's liability for infringement of the '184 patent. Title 35, section 271 of the United States Code provides that:

> (a) Except as otherwise provided in this title, whoever without authority makes, uses, offers to sell, or sells any patented invention, within the United States or imports into the United States any patented invention during the term of the patent therefor, infringes the patent.

Moreover, with regard to patented processes, section 271 provides:

> (g) Whoever without authority imports into the United States or offers to sell, sells, or uses within the United States a product which is made by a process patented in the United States shall be liable as an infringer, if the importation, offer to sell, sale, or use of the product occurs during the term of such process patent.

My client has no interest in the policing problems that are inherent in licensing contracted parts fabricators. RALLY is the party that offers to sell and sells these products in the United States. Therefore, RALLY is liable as a direct infringer for those products which infringe United States patents, including the '184 patent.

While our infringement and licensing discussions will be with RALLY, we will consider any evidence of non-infringement that is produced by RALLY or its manufacturing agents. If RALLY possesses evidence showing that any Accused Product is not actually made by an infringing process, providing that evidence to us immediately would greatly simplify matters. My client is prepared to withdraw the assertion of infringement with respect to any product upon sufficient proof demonstrating that the process actually used to make the product does not infringe the '184 patent.

There are scores of businesses that have licensed their usage of the '184 patented technology. To protect my clients' intellectual property rights, we cannot allow RALLY's unlicensed usage to continue. During this narrow window of opportunity at this early stage wherein the parties can resolve this matter without incurring high costs and legal fees through amicable discussions leading to a license agreement, my client has authorized me to extend to license RALLY's past, present and future usage of the '184 patent in fabrication of the identified Accused Products for a one time fully paid up royalty of Two Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars ($220,000). This offer expires by its own terms if RALLY does not communicate its acceptance to this office on or before December 7, 2005.

Your anticipated courtesy in working with us toward a rapid and amicable resolution of this matter is greatly appreciated.

Cordially,

J. Michael Kaler

Encl: Drawing No. D-5579
Claim Chart for Drawing No. D-5579
U.S. Patent No. 4,935,184

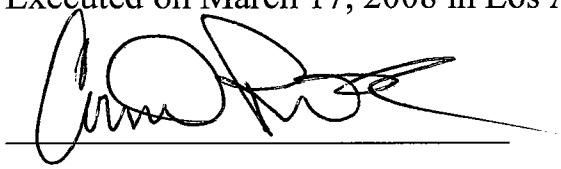
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on March 17, 2008 a copy of the foregoing DECLARATION OF MATTHEW STAVISH IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO STAY LITIGATION PENDING THE OUTCOME OF THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE REEXAMINATION PROCEEDING FOR THE PATENT-IN-SUIT was this served upon all counsel of record by placing a copy of the same in the United States Mail, postage prepaid, and sent to their last known address as follows:

James Michael Kaler, Esq.
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Melody A. Kramer, Esq.
Kramer Law Office
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Executed on March 17, 2008 in Los Angeles, California



Carrie L. Rose