

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

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SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS AMERICA INC.,

SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS CO., LTD.,

Petitioners

v.

KONINKLIJKE KPN N.V.,

Patent Owner

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Case No. IPR2025-00533

U.S. Patent No. RE48,089

**PATENT OWNER'S REQUEST FOR DISCRETIONARY DENIAL OF  
INSTITUTION**

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## I. SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT

Pursuant to Acting Director Stewart’s March 26, 2025 Memorandum titled “Interim Processes for PTAB Workload Management” (“Workload Memo”), Patent Owner Koninklijke KPN N.V. (“KPN”) respectfully requests that the Director exercise discretion and deny institution of *inter partes* review.

The Workload Memo states that—in addition to the discretionary considerations set forth in existing Board precedent (e.g., *Fintiv*) and the Consolidated Trial Practice Guide (Nov. 2019)—the Director will take into account “all relevant considerations,” including but not limited to the strength of the unpatentability challenge, the extent of the petitioner’s reliance on expert testimony, settled expectations of the parties, compelling economic interests, and the ability of the PTAB to comply with its statutory deadlines. Workload Memo, 2-3. Given the unique circumstances presented here, discretionary denial is warranted based on these and other considerations.

First, unlike virtually all other IPR and PGR proceedings, there are no pending infringement claims against Samsung Electronics America, Inc. or Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd (collectively, “Samsung”). To the contrary, KPN has moved to dismiss Samsung’s declaratory judgment lawsuit on the basis that no actual case or controversy exists because KPN has never threatened to sue Samsung for infringement of the patents involved, such as U.S. Patent No.

RE48,089 that is challenged here (“the ’089 Patent”). Given “the current workload needs of the PTAB” and consideration of “the ability of the PTAB to comply with ... its statutory deadlines for AIA proceedings” (*id.*), institution should be discretionarily denied so that the Board may prioritize proceedings involving patents that have either been asserted or clearly alleged to be infringed. Indeed, post grant proceedings can only serve as a “true alternative” to district court proceedings when a legitimate basis for litigation exists. *Sotera Wireless, Inc. v. Masimo Corp.*, IPR2020-01019, Paper 12 at 19 (P.T.A.B. Dec. 1, 2020) (precedential).

Second, there are “legitimate questions about whether the petition is reasonably designed to advance the beneficial aims of the AIA or this Office.” *See OpenSky Industries, LLC. v. VLSI Technology LLC*, IPR2021-01064, Paper 102 at 36 (P.T.A.B. Oct. 4, 2022) (precedential). The evidence suggests that Samsung did not file its numerous IPR petitions because of a legitimate infringement concern. Instead, Samsung filed its petitions and declaratory judgment actions in pure retaliation because KPN was awarded **\$342M** (plus accruing interest) in breach of contract damages by a Texas state court for Samsung’s breach of a 2016 settlement agreement (“2016 Settlement Agreement”), which Samsung has repeatedly tried to pressure KPN to abandon. In fact, Samsung’s IPR petitions are the subject of a

second Texas state court lawsuit by KPN alleging that Samsung's filing of the petitions violates the 2016 Settlement Agreement. Ex. 2101 ¶¶ 28-68.

Third, discretion should be exercised because KPN will suffer irreparable harm if Samsung is found to be in breach in the second Texas state court lawsuit after the Board issues a merits-based decision on institution. Although the merits of the Petition are weak, any decision by the Board addressing the merits would become part of the public domain and could be used by future petitioners to attempt to create new petitions, including by remedying the weaknesses in the Petition. Even a later-issued injunction could not undo the harm this would cause KPN.

Fourth, there are compelling economic interests favoring the exercise of discretion. There is a strong economic interest in holding technology companies to the terms of contractual agreements. There is also a robust economic interest in encouraging innovation by allowing technology companies, such as KPN, to license their novel technologies, which is used to fund further technological developments. Samsung's strategy of arbitrarily targeting valuable patents in KPN's portfolio as retaliation is an improper attempt to undermine that economic interest.

Fifth, the *General Plastic* factors favor discretionary denial. The petition challenges the same patent as a previous petition by Ericsson, and all of the

*General Plastic* factors favor discretionary denial except the first factor (whether there is a significant relationship with the previous petitioner), which should be considered as only one factor along with reviewing all of the other factors. Here, there is the additional factor that there has been no assertion of any claim of the '089 Patent against Samsung, which means that institution will not achieve an objective of the AIA to provide an effective and efficient alternative to a district court litigation, because there are no claims involved in district court litigation.

Sixth, Samsung's patentability challenges are weak. In fact, in a prior litigation involving the '089 Patent, the jury returned a unanimous verdict that none of the challenged claims of the '089 Patent were invalid and found Ericsson liable for infringement for about \$31.5M. Moreover, there are specific merits-based weaknesses in each ground.

Seventh, the Petition relies extensively on expert testimony and there are, at minimum, reasonable disputes as to whether certain claim elements are satisfied by the alleged prior art. Pursuant to the Workload Memo, this consideration weighs in favor of discretionary denial.

Eighth, the expectations of the parties have long been settled. KPN has for decades relied on the licensing of patented technology that it internally develops to grow and support its telecommunications business. The '089 Patent was issued nearly five years ago, and Samsung has been aware of it for several years.

Ninth, given the current workload needs of the Board, another important consideration is the overall burden that the particular petitioner at issue places on the PTAB. At the current pace Samsung is filing IPR petitions this year, Samsung will account for **over 15%** of **all** IPRs or PGRs filed in 2025. Fundamental fairness dictates that the exercise of discretion should lean toward denial for petitioners that file an abnormally high number of petitions, which places a significant burden on the Board and increases the likelihood that the meritorious challenges of petitioners that rarely file IPRs will be discretionarily denied.

Finally, the exercise of discretion here would preserve an unusually large amount of Board resources. Although there are six Samsung IPR petitions challenging unrelated and fundamentally different patents, the reasons for discretionary denial herein largely apply the same to each proceeding. Thus, exercising discretion would preserve an extraordinary amount of Board resources that could be dedicated to proceedings involving patents that have been asserted or actually threatened.

## **II. BACKGROUND**

### **A. Koninklijke KPN N.V.**

KPN is a 150-year-old company that provides telecommunication services to millions of consumers in the Netherlands. Ex. 2101 ¶ 1. KPN has devoted billions of dollars to research and development activities designed to improve its

telecommunication services. *Id.* To help fund these efforts, KPN relies on licensing revenue from its robust intellectual property portfolio that includes approximately 1,750 patents, many of which are declared essential to 3G, 4G, and 5G wireless standards. *Id.*

To support its research efforts, KPN licenses its patents directly, as well as through patent pools, and has provided licenses to many of the world's leading technology companies, including Microsoft, LG, Lenovo, BlackBerry, Nokia, Ericsson, Dell, Oracle, Xiaomi, Acer, HTC, Huawei, Cisco, HP, ZTE, Fujitsu, ASUSTek, TCL, Motorola, Oracle, Panasonic, and Sony. *Id.* ¶ 2. Samsung also has licensed KPN's patents at various points, including in its 2016 Settlement Agreement with KPN, discussed further below.

### **B. The 2016 Settlement Agreement**

Around 2015, KPN filed multiple lawsuits against Samsung in the United States, as well as in Germany and China, to attempt to resolve Samsung's willful infringement of several of KPN's patented inventions. *Id.* ¶ 4. Each United States lawsuit was filed before the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas, Marshall Division. *See Koninklijke KPN NV v. Samsung Electronics America, Inc.*, 2:14-cv-01165 (E.D. Tex., filed Dec. 30, 2014); *Koninklijke KPN NV v. Samsung Electronics America, Inc.*, 2:15-cv-00948 (E.D. Tex., filed June 5, 2015). In response, Samsung filed IPRs challenging several of the asserted patents.

*See Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. v. Koninklijke KPN N.V.*, IPR2016-00392 (P.T.A.B.) (challenging U.S. Patent No. 6,212,662); *Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. v. Koninklijke KPN N.V.*, IPR2016-00808 (P.T.A.B.) (challenging U.S. Patent No. 8,886,772); *Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. v. Koninklijke KPN N.V.*, IPR2016-01087 (P.T.A.B.) (challenging U.S. Patent No. 9,014,667).

In 2016, just weeks before facing a federal jury trial, Samsung agreed to settle KPN's infringement claims for a combination of an upfront payment and a promise of future compensation in the form of patent pool licensing revenue. Ex. 2101 ¶ 5. The parties' respective obligations were detailed in their 2016 Settlement Agreement. Ex. 2102. After the 2016 Settlement Agreement was executed, Samsung jointly moved to terminate the then-pending IPR proceedings against KPN, and the Board granted those requests. *See Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. v. Koninklijke KPN N.V.*, IPR2016-00392, Paper 26 (P.T.A.B. Sept. 28, 2016); *Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. v. Koninklijke KPN N.V.*, IPR2016-01087, Paper 9 (P.T.A.B. Sept. 28, 2016).<sup>1</sup>

### **C. The 2021 Ericsson Litigation**

KPN asserted the '089 Patent against Ericsson in March of 2021 along with

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<sup>1</sup> Institution was denied in *Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. v. Koninklijke KPN N.V.*, IPR2016-00808 before the Settlement Agreement was executed.

other patents. *Koninklijke KPN N.V. v. Telefonaktiebolaget LM Ericsson*, No. 2:21-CV-00113-JRG (E.D. Tex.). Ericsson filed IPR petitions against several of the asserted patents, including the '089 Patent. *Ericsson Inc. v. Koninklijke KPN NV*, IPR2022-00069 (P.T.A.B. 2023); *Ericsson Inc. v. Koninklijke KPN NV*, IPR2022-00068 (P.T.A.B. 2023) (challenging U.S. Patent No. 9,549,426); *Ericsson Inc. v. Koninklijke KPN NV*, IPR2022-00401 (P.T.A.B. 2022) (challenging additional claims of U.S. Patent No. 9,549,426); *Ericsson Inc. v. Koninklijke KPN NV*, IPR2022-00557 (P.T.A.B. 2023) (challenging U.S. Patent No. 9,667,669); *Ericsson Inc. v. Koninklijke KPN NV*, IPR2022-00079 (P.T.A.B. 2023) (challenging the '089 Patent).

In August of 2022 the jury returned a unanimous verdict that none of the challenged claims of the '089 Patent were invalid and found Ericsson liable for infringement for about \$31.5M. Ex. 2104, 5, 7; Ex. 2105.

Although the PTAB subsequently found Claims 1-5, 11, and 13-15 of the '089 Patent unpatentable, none of the challenged claims in this IPR (Claims 6-10 and 12) were involved in the PTAB decision in IPR2022-00079. *See Ericsson Inc. v. Koninklijke KPN NV*, IPR2022-00079, Paper 29 at 72 (P.T.A.B., May 23, 2023); Pet. at 1. After KPN appealed that PTAB decision to the Federal Circuit, the parties settled their dispute, and the appeal was voluntarily dismissed before briefing in the appeal began. *See Ericsson Inc. v. Koninklijke KPN NV*, IPR2022-

00079, Paper 30 (P.T.A.B., July 25, 2023); *Koninklijke KPN N.V. v. Ericsson, Inc.*, No. 2023-2217, Paper 17 (Fed. Cir., January 24, 2024).

#### **D. The First Breach Lawsuit**

In 2021, Samsung breached the 2016 Settlement Agreement by taking a license to a contractually defined “Patent Pool” that triggered certain payment obligations under Article 2.3.1. Ex. 2101 ¶ 7; Ex. 2106 ¶¶ 9-41. Rather than pay KPN as required, Samsung hid the fact that it had entered into a Patent Pool agreement and did not pay KPN a single cent. Ex. 2101 ¶ 7.

In fact, when KPN subsequently learned that Samsung’s payment obligation had been triggered, it reached out to Samsung to give it an opportunity to remedy its breach. *Id.* ¶ 8. Samsung refused. *Id.* Accordingly, KPN filed suit against Samsung in September of 2022. Ex. 2106. That lawsuit proceeded before the state court in Houston, Texas under Case No. 22-0762 (“First Breach Lawsuit”). *Id.*

On February 23, 2024, after a four-day trial, the jury found that Samsung had breached Article 2.3.1 of the 2016 Settlement Agreement by doing exactly what KPN had alleged: taking a license to a Patent Pool without paying KPN the agreed “KPN share.” Ex. 2107, 5. And the jury’s verdict demonstrated the magnitude of Samsung’s actions. The jury awarded KPN **\$287 million** in contractual damages, i.e., the “KPN share,” calculated by applying the minimum per unit contractual rate KPN was entitled to receive (per the terms of the relevant

Patent Pool agreements) to the billions of Samsung products sold during the relevant timeframe. *Id.* at 6. The court ultimately entered judgment on the verdict, awarding KPN more than **\$342 million** plus accruing interest. Ex. 2108, 2-3.

### **E. Samsung’s Post-Verdict Efforts**

Since the verdict, Samsung has embarked on a nationwide campaign to try to force KPN to abandon its judgment by making litigation as expensive and painful as possible.

#### **1. Samsung’s “Removal” Attempt**

One business day after the verdict was rendered, Samsung removed the state-court breach of contract case to federal court—arguing that it had realized for the first time *at trial* that KPN actually was asserting a claim for patent infringement that implicated federal jurisdiction. Ex. 2101 ¶ 12. The federal court swiftly rejected Samsung’s ploy, explaining that Samsung had “*no credible* argument that the breach of contract claim necessarily raises a patent law issue.” *Koninklijke KPN N.V. v. Samsung Elecs. Co.*, No. 2:24-CV-0135-JRG-RSP, 2024 WL 2019739, at \*3 (E.D. Tex. Apr. 4, 2024), report and recommendation adopted, 2024 WL 2019726 (Apr. 24, 2024) (emphasis added). Consequently, the federal court clearly ruled that KPN’s state-court claims did not assert or raise patent infringement.

Samsung similarly then tried to persuade the state court that the verdict

should be overturned, including because—according to Samsung—“KPN is attempting to recover royalties *for infringement*.” Ex. 2101 ¶ 14 (quoting Mot. for JNOV, at 38, *Koninklijke KPN N.V. v. Samsung Elecs. Co.*, No. 22-0762 (71st Dist. Ct. Harrison Cty. Tex., June 3, 2024)) (emphasis added). The state court likewise rejected that argument. *Id.* Thus, both a federal and state court have rejected Samsung’s attempts to portray KPN as having asserted patent infringement claims against Samsung.

## 2. Samsung’s Declaratory Judgment Lawsuits

Samsung then pivoted to its latest tactic: “to make the litigation as painful as possible.” Samsung filed two lawsuits in the United States District Court for the District of Delaware—one on December 31, 2024, and one on January 1, 2025. The former sought a declaratory judgment of non-infringement of 9 different KPN patents, including the ’089 Patent. Ex. 2109, 1. The latter sought a declaratory judgment of non-infringement of 8 different KPN patents. Ex. 2110, 1. Samsung did not seek a declaratory judgment of invalidity in either lawsuit. *See generally* Exs. 2109, 2110.

KPN has moved to dismiss both declaratory actions because, *inter alia*, no actual case or controversy exists given that KPN has never threatened to sue Samsung for infringement of any of the identified patents, including the ’089 Patent. *See* Ex. 2111, 11 and 18-27; Ex. 2112, 16-25. As explained in KPN’s

motion to dismiss the declaratory judgment lawsuit involving the '089 Patent, each and every one of Samsung's purported bases for the existence of a case or controversy is fundamentally flawed. *See* Ex. 2111, 19-20 (explaining that KPN did not accuse Samsung of patent infringement or seek patent infringement damages at the breach-of-contract trial); *id.* at 20-23 (explaining that KPN's emails from 2019—*more than five years ago*—and statements from the breach-of-contract trial could not plausibly give rise to a concrete threat of an infringement suit, that KPN never specifically identified any patent-in-suit in any of its communications, and that Samsung's own conduct confirms that it never felt threatened); *id.* at 23-24 (explaining that prior lawsuits filed by KPN against Samsung and unrelated companies involving entirely unrelated patents does not support the existence of a case or controversy); *id.* at 24-26 (explaining that KPN's breach-of-contract damages are irrelevant to whether a case or controversy exists for patent infringement); *id.* at 26 (explaining that the expiration the covenant not to sue in the 2016 Settlement Agreement does not give rise to an imminent threat of an infringement lawsuit).

### **3. Samsung's IPR Filings**

Over the span of a few days beginning January 17, 2025, Samsung also filed six *inter partes* review petitions challenging patents that it has *never* been accused of infringing:

- IPR2025-00502 against U.S. Patent No. 9,667,669 (“the ’669 Patent”);
- IPR2025-00503 against U.S. Patent No. 8,660,560 (“the ’560 Patent”);
- IPR2025-00504 against U.S. Patent No. 8,549,151 (“the ’151 Patent”);
- IPR2025-00512 against U.S. Patent No. 8,881,235 (“the ’235 Patent”);
- IPR2025-00534 against U.S. Patent No. 9,462,544 (“the ’544 Patent”); and
- The present proceeding challenging the ’089 Patent

The ’089 and ’235 Patents were part of the \$31.5M jury verdict against Ericsson. Ex. 2104, 2. And the ’560 Patent was asserted against Ericsson in a later suit that settled before trial. Ex. 2113 ¶ 23; Ex. 2114.

Notably, these IPR proceedings have zero bearing on the existing breach judgment against Samsung. However, Samsung is aware that the now-challenged KPN patents are currently licensed to dozens of companies and result in millions of dollars in annual licensing revenue that KPN uses to support its extensive research and development efforts to improve its business and advance telecommunications technology. Samsung is thus also clearly aware that invalidating the challenged patents would inflict significant economic harm to KPN’s telecommunications business.

#### **F. The Second Breach Lawsuit**

On March 3, 2025, KPN filed a state court lawsuit against Samsung for breaching Article 4.1 of the 2016 Settlement Agreement based on its filing of the six IPRs. Ex. 2101 ¶¶ 28-68.

### III. DISCRETIONARY DENIAL IS WARRANTED

It is well-settled that institution of IPR is discretionary. *See Harmonic Inc. v. Avid Tech., Inc.*, 815 F.3d 1356, 1367 (Fed. Cir. 2016) (“the PTO is permitted, but never compelled, to institute an IPR proceeding”); *see also* 35 U.S.C. § 314(a) (“[t]he Director may not authorize an inter partes review to be instituted unless...”); *Cuozzo Speed Techs., LLC v. Lee*, 579 U.S. 261, 273 (2016) (“[T]he agency’s decision to deny a petition is a matter committed to the Patent Office’s discretion.”). In determining whether to exercise discretion to deny institution, the Director “consider[s] the effect of any such regulation [under this section] on the economy, the integrity of the patent system, the efficient administration of the Office, and the ability of the Office to timely complete proceedings instituted under this chapter.” 35 U.S.C. § 316(b).

Consistent with this authority, the Workload Memo makes clear that the Director will consider “all relevant considerations” in determining whether discretionary denial is warranted, including but not limited to the strength of the unpatentability challenge, the extent of the petitioner’s reliance on expert testimony, settled expectations of the parties, compelling economic interests, and the ability of the PTAB to comply with its statutory deadlines. Workload Memo, 2-3. Discretionary denial is warranted here based on these and other relevant discretionary considerations, particularly given the unique facts presented.

**A. The absence of a clear infringement dispute favors exercising discretion**

*Inter partes* review proceedings are designed to serve as a “true alternative” to district court proceedings. *Sotera Wireless, Inc. v. Masimo Corp.*, IPR2020-01019, Paper 12 at 19 (P.T.A.B. Dec. 1, 2020) (precedential). In virtually all IPR and PGR petitions filed that is the case—there is a clear case or controversy based on an existing or threatened patent infringement lawsuit. Indeed, of the 431 IPRs and PGRs filed between January 1 and April 17 of this year, nearly **90%** involved a patent asserted by the petitioner in district court litigation. Ex. 2115.<sup>2</sup> Moreover, of the 67 IPRs filed by Samsung during that period **all** involved patents that had been asserted against Samsung, *except* for the six IPRs filed against KPN in retaliation and two others. Ex. 2116.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Counsel for KPN in a parallel proceeding (IPR2025-00512) manually reviewed the 431 IPR or PGR filings using Docket Navigator (<https://www.docketnavigator.com/>) to determine the percentage involving patents that had been asserted against petitioner in litigation.

<sup>3</sup> *Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. v. Headwater Partners II LLC*, IPR2025-00426 (filed Jan. 8, 2025) and *Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. v. Ouraring Inc.*, IPR2025-00147 (filed Jan. 23, 2025) do not appear to involve patents asserted against

This proceeding—including any instituted trial—cannot serve as a “true alternative” to district court proceedings, as there is no case or controversy involving the ’089 Patent. *Sotera Wireless, Inc.*, IPR2020-01019, Paper 12 at 19. Indeed, KPN has not asserted the ’089 Patent against Samsung. Nor has KPN even threatened Samsung with an infringement suit. Thus, unlike virtually all other IPRs and PGRs pending before the PTAB, there is a legitimate question as to whether Samsung’s proceedings serve as a true alternative to litigation given the lack of a clear infringement dispute between the parties.

Notably, there appears to be a pattern of Samsung filing a large number of IPRs against patents not even asserted or threatened against it. For example, Samsung very recently had its declaratory judgment action for non-infringement against Oura dismissed because Samsung failed to allege “an actual controversy existed.” *See Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. v. Oura Health OY*, No. 24-cv-03245, 2025 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 57989, 2025 WL 929410 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 27, 2025). Despite this, Samsung chose to burden the PTAB with ten IPR or PGR petitions challenging Oura’s patents. *See* PGR2024-00030, -31, -38, -39; IPR2024-00928, -930, -1077, -1078, -1079; IPR2025-00147.

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Samsung. However, it is unclear whether Samsung was expressly threatened with an infringement lawsuit based on those patents.

Given “the current workload needs of the PTAB” and consideration of “the ability of the PTAB to comply with ... its statutory deadlines for AIA proceedings,” institution should be discretionarily denied so that the Board may prioritize IPRs and PGRs that unquestionably serve as a true alternative to district court proceedings—i.e., those proceedings involving patents that have been asserted in district court or have *clearly* been alleged to be infringed. As a general matter, whether a *clear* case or controversy exists should always be an important consideration in the discretionary denial calculus, but even more so now given the current workload needs of the PTAB. Indeed, assuming institution is discretionarily denied on this basis, Samsung can simply refile its IPR petition if a clear case or controversy actually comes to fruition, at which point the PTAB may have additional available resources.

**B. Legitimate questions about the purpose of the Petition heavily favor exercising discretion**

Board precedent dictates that “legitimate questions about whether the petition is reasonably designed to advance the beneficial aims of the AIA or this Office” should be considered in determining whether discretionary denial is appropriate. *See OpenSky Industries, LLC.*, IPR2021-01064, Paper 102 at 36. The facts here suggest that the six Samsung petitions filed against KPN are not reasonably designed to advance these aims, but are instead part of an expansive

nationwide campaign by Samsung to exert economic pain on KPN in retaliation for KPN's \$342M+ breach of contract judgment. Indeed, it was only *after* Samsung was found liable for its breach of the 2016 Settlement Agreement that it filed its barrage of IPRs targeting patents that Samsung knows have economic value to KPN's 150-year-old business.

Samsung's counsel in the declaratory judgment lawsuits has been chastised for engaging in this type of behavior before. For example, one court determined that counsel had filed wave after wave of patent challenges as part of a plan "to make the litigation as painful as possible" to try to force the other party to abandon its claims—an approach a court described as a "sharp practice that falls far short of model professional conduct[.]" *Vasudevan Software, Inc. v. MicroStrategy, Inc.*, No. C 11-06637 RS, 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 197435, 2022 WL 2354916, \*4-5, 10-11 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 8, 2013) (noting that counsel had even gone so far as to attack patents of unrelated clients of the patent holder's attorney).

Samsung's conduct here is similar. Samsung attempted to remove the breach-of-contract case to federal court, despite the court finding that Samsung had "no credible argument that the breach of contract claim necessarily raises a patent law issue." *Supra* II.E.1. Samsung then offered a similar argument to the state court, which was also rejected. *Id.* When both of those efforts failed, Samsung embarked on its nationwide campaign to exert as much pain as possible on KPN by

first filing the two declaratory judgment actions involving 17 different patents—none of which have ever been asserted or even threatened against Samsung.

Samsung followed up with its six IPR petitions targeting patents that also have never been asserted (or even threatened to be asserted) against Samsung, but that Samsung knows have significant economic value to KPN.

The Director need not determine whether the purpose behind Samsung’s petitions is legitimate—the mere existence of a *legitimate question* should weigh in favor of exercising discretion to deny institution. Indeed, in virtually all IPRs and PGRs before the Board, there is no question that the petition is designed to advance the aims of the AIA or the Office. That is not the case here, as there is ample evidence creating doubt about the impetus for Samsung’s filings. *OpenSky Industries, LLC.*, IPR2021-01064, Paper 102 at 36 (P.T.A.B. Oct. 4, 2022) (determining that petitioner “abused the IPR process by filing this IPR in an attempt to extract payment from” patent owner and explaining that, “[a]lthough it is not *per se* improper for a person not charged with infringement to file an IPR petition, the posture of a petitioner, in conjunction with other surrounding circumstances, could raise legitimate questions about whether the petition is reasonably designed to advance the beneficial aims of the AIA or this Office and whether, in addition, the filing amounts to an abuse of process”). Where there is a legitimate risk that an IPR or PGR has been filed for an improper purpose, the

Director should err on the side of exercising discretion to ensure that the Office is not being used as a tool for abuse and that the Board's finite resources are being dedicated to proceedings that do not have an aura of impropriety.

**C. KPN may suffer irreparable harm if the Board addresses the merits of the Petition**

Discretionary denial is also warranted because KPN would be irreparably harmed if the Board addresses the merits of the Petition and then the state court determines that Samsung has breached Article 4.1. While Samsung's Petition is weak, any determinations of the Board on the merits would be entered into the public domain and would freely available for any future petitioner to rely upon to address weaknesses in Samsung's petitions. For example, even a decision denying institution on the merits would include a detailed, comprehensive Board analysis identifying weaknesses in the Petition and potentially providing the blueprint for future petitioners to prepare an improved petition. It would be unjust to allow Samsung's improperly filed petitions to be the catalyst for what would in essence be an advisory opinion of the Board providing a blueprint for future validity attacks.

Issuing a merits-based opinion based on such a petition would harm KPN in a way that could not be undone. In short, where there is a legitimate risk that a patent owner may be improperly and irreparably harmed by a merits-based

decision of the Board, the PTAB should err on the side of exercising discretion.

**D. Compelling economic interests favor exercising discretion**

The Workload Memo specifically identifies compelling economic interests as one of the relevant considerations for discretionary denial. Workload Memo, 2.

Here, there is a compelling economic interest in innovative technology companies, such as KPN, developing new patented technology, which can then be licensed throughout the United States and rest of the world. Indeed, some of the largest telecommunications companies and smartphone manufacturers in the world are licensees of patented technologies that KPN spent decades developing. The licensing revenue from KPN's patented technologies not only funds its telecommunications service business, but also encourages KPN to continue developing new technologies, many of which become part of the wireless standards adopted throughout the world. Samsung's retaliatory targeting of KPN patents, which are not even asserted against Samsung, undermines this compelling economic interest by discouraging companies like KPN from further innovation.

**E. The *General Plastic* factors weigh in favor of exercising discretion**

In *General Plastic Industrial Co., Ltd. v. Canon Kabushiki Kaisha*, IPR2016-01357, Paper 19 at 15–16 (P.T.A.B. Sept. 6, 2017) (precedential), the Board articulated a non-exhaustive list of factors to be considered in determining

whether to exercise discretion under § 314(a) to deny a petition that challenges the same patent as a previous petition:

1. whether the same petitioner previously filed a petition directed to the same claims of the same patent;
2. whether at the time of filing of the first petition the petitioner knew of the prior art asserted in the second petition or should have known of it;
3. whether at the time of filing of the second petition the petitioner already received the patent owner's preliminary response to the first petition or received the Board's decision on whether to institute review in the first petition;
4. the length of time that elapsed between the time the petitioner learned of the prior art asserted in the second petition and the filing of the second petition;
5. whether the petitioner provides adequate explanation for the time elapsed between the filings of multiple petitions directed to the same claims of the same patent;
6. the finite resources of the Board; and
7. the requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 316(a)(11) to issue a final determination not later than 1 year after the date on which the Director notices institution of review.

Samsung appears to argue that, where there is no significant relationship with an earlier petitioner, factor 1 generally overrides analysis of the remaining factors. Petition at 74. However, this is not consistent with the Board's prior analyses under *General Plastic*. While such a relationship is obviously relevant, the Board nevertheless weighs all of the factors when determining whether

discretionary denial is appropriate. *Ericsson Inc. v. Uniloc 2017 LLC*, IPR2020-00420, Paper 7 at 7-16 (P.T.A.B. June 18, 2020) (finding no significant relationship but reviewing all factors). *See also Valve Corp. v. Electronic Scripting Products, Inc.*, IPR2019-00062, Paper 11 at 8-15 (P.T.A.B. April 2, 2019) (precedential) (finding a significant relationship but nevertheless reviewing all factors).

Here, although there is no significant relationship between Samsung and Ericsson, there is no question that all four references relied upon in the Petition (Olofsson, Kuruvilla, Lee, and Shrum), which were published in 2010, 2009, 2009, and 2012, respectively, were publicly available at the time Ericsson's petition was filed in 2021. Ex. 1004, Ex. 1005, Ex. 1006, Ex. 1007. Samsung knew or should have known of these references at that time. The second factor thus weighs in favor of denial.

Under the third factor, Samsung implicitly acknowledges that it had already received Patent Owner's preliminary response and the Board's institution decision, when it filed the Petition here. Petition at 74. Further, here Samsung not only had the benefit of reviewing these documents, but KPN's full patent owner's response and the Final Written Decision as well – which Samsung acknowledges in the Petition. *See* Pet. at 74 citing Ex. 1009. Samsung's argument that this factor somehow weighs in favor of institution based on the Board's institution decision is

untethered to any authority.

The Board has explained that

factor 3 is directed to Petitioner’s potential benefit from **receiving and having the opportunity to study** Patent Owner’s Preliminary Response, as well as our institution decisions on the first-filed petitions, prior to its filing of follow-on petitions. . . . Multiple, staggered petitions challenging the same patent and same claims raise the potential for abuse. The absence of any restrictions on follow-on petitions would allow petitioners the opportunity to strategically stage their prior art and arguments in multiple petitions, using our decisions as a roadmap, until a ground is found that results in the grant of review. All other factors aside, this is unfair to patent owners and is an inefficient use of the *inter partes* review process and other post-grant review processes.

*General Plastic*, IPR2016-01357, Paper 19 at 17-18 (internal citation and footnote omitted) ; *see also Ericsson Inc*, IPR2020-00420, Paper 7 at 10-11. Here, Samsung’s second-filed petition had the benefit of not only the Board’s institution decision but a roadmap for its attacks on the ’089 Patent gleaned from KPN’s post-institution response. There is no question that Samsung used this roadmap, because Samsung relies upon the same references in its Ground 1 (Olofsson and Kuruvilla) and refers to its analysis being consistent with the Final Written Decision. *See Pet.* at 36. Indeed, unlike *Ericsson*—where the Petitioner elected not to rely on the

references used in the earlier petition after reviewing the preliminary response, institution decision, and patent owner's response<sup>4</sup>—here Samsung relies on the same base combination of Olofsson and Kuruvilla (Ground 1), adding Lee and Shrum (Ground 2) presumably in an attempt to address deficiencies that are present in Ground 1. Thus, this factor weighs either in favor of discretionary denial, or is neutral.

Factor 4 also weighs in favor of denial. Samsung filed its petition in January 2025, which was well after it was or should have been aware of the asserted prior art. That time can be no later than Ericsson's petition in 2021. But Samsung waited over three years after Ericsson's petition to file, and nearly three years after KPN filed its preliminary response. Samsung provides no explanation for the delay in filing its petition. *See* Petition at 74. Factor 4 thus favors discretionary denial.

With regard to factor five, the Board has explained that it “concerns the entire circumstance of why Petitioner could not have filed the Petition earlier” and “is reasonably read to refer to when Petitioner first had a reason to file a petition.” *Ericsson Inc*, IPR2020-00420, Paper 7 at 12-13. Here, the Petition provides no

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<sup>4</sup> *Ericsson Inc*, IPR2020-00420, Paper 7 at 10-11 (explaining that the petitioner's decision to use entirely different references demonstrated advance knowledge based on the earlier filed petition, but ultimately finding the factor neutral).

explanation at all for the time elapsed between the filings. Petition at 74. This is because, as discussed throughout this response, Samsung had no legitimate reason to file the Petition, as (unlike the petitioner in *Ericsson*), KPN has not threatened to sue Samsung for infringement. *Ericsson Inc*, IPR2020-00420, Paper 7 at 13. As discussed below, while this factor may therefore be neutral, this is an important issue related to factors six and seven.

The sixth and seventh factors are efficiency considerations. *Valve Corp.*, IPR2019-00062, Paper 11 at 15. The Board has explained that “[i]n general, having multiple petitions challenging the same patent, especially when not filed at or around the same time as in this case, is inefficient and tends to waste resources.” *Id.* Here, Samsung waited until after both the institution decision and patent owner’s response were filed (and indeed until after the final written decision) in the -00079 IPR before filing its petition. “These serial and repetitive attacks implicate the efficiency concerns underpinning *General Plastic*, and, thus, favor denying institution.” *Id.* Thus, these factors weigh in favor of discretionary denial.

In summary, all of the *General Plastic* factors, except for the first, weigh in favor of discretionary denial or are neutral.

Further, the Board has recognized that additional factors beyond those seven enumerated in *General Plastic* should be considered where appropriate. *Ericsson Inc*, IPR2020-00420, Paper 7 at 14. As previously discussed, there has been no

assertion of any claim of the '089 Patent against Samsung. In such a case, the Board has recognized that institution will not achieve an objective of the AIA to provide an effective and efficient alternative to a district court litigation, because there are no claims involved in district court litigation. *Ericsson Inc*, IPR2020-00420, Paper 7 at 15-16. This thus provides an additional factor weighing against institution apart from the enumerated *General Plastic* factors previously discussed. *Id.* Further, the additional reasons supporting discretionary denial discussed herein, based on the considerations identified in the Workload Memo, also strongly favor discretionary denial.

**F. The weakness of the validity challenge favors exercising discretion**

The Workload Memo identifies “the strength of the unpatentability challenge” as a relevant consideration. Workload Memo, 2. This consideration favors discretionary denial because Samsung’s patentability challenges are weak.

The jury in the Ericsson trial returned a unanimous verdict that none of the challenged claims of the '089 Patent were invalid and found Ericsson liable for infringement for about \$31.5M. Ex. 2104, 5, 7; Ex. 2105. The fact that the claims of the '089 Patent resulted in a significant infringement verdict for KPN and endured the invalidity challenges in the jury trial, is strong evidence of the strength of the claims.

Even beyond this evidence, KPN's preliminary response will identify numerous specific weaknesses in the Petition. For example, the preliminary response will demonstrate that the invalidity challenges based on Olofsson and Kuruvilla (Ground 1) are particularly weak as to claim elements 6[pre], 6[b], 6[h], 7, 9, 12[pre], 12[b], and 12[h] (among others). Similarly, the preliminary response will show that that the ground based on Lee and Shrum (Ground 2) is very weak as to claim elements 6[pre], 6[b]-6[h], 7, 8, 12[pre], and 12[b]-12[h] (among others). These weaknesses are unsurprising given that the jury in the Ericsson trial returned a unanimous verdict that none of the challenged claims of the '089 Patent were invalid.

**G. The Petition's heavy reliance on expert testimony favors exercising discretion**

"The extent of the petition's reliance on expert testimony" is an enumerated consideration set forth in the Workload Memo. Since the memo issued, the Office has further explained:

extensive reliance on expert testimony and/or reasonable disputes between experts on dispositive issues may suggest that the questions are better resolved in an Article III court.... As the judges have technical and legal expertise, it is not necessary for an expert to explain every aspect of the prior art. It is most helpful if an expert is providing focused testimony, for example to provide helpful context or to explain terms of art. The failure to provide focused expert testimony may weigh

against institution.

FAQs for Interim Processes for PTAB Workload Management, at #21 (published Apr. 25, 2025), <https://www.uspto.gov/patents/ptab/faqs/interim-processes-workload-management> (last visited April 28, 2025) (hereafter, “FAQ #21”).

This consideration favors discretionary denial because the Petition relies heavily on the unfocused declaration testimony of Samsung’s proposed technical expert, Kevin Almeroth, Ph.D. (Ex. 1003). Indeed, Dr. Almeroth’s declaration consists of 221 paragraphs of testimony spanning 110 pages. *See generally* Ex. 1003. The Petition extensively cites to and relies upon his testimony, including to try and plug holes by arguing that certain features not disclosed on the relied-on references would have been obvious. *See e.g.*, Pet., 9-17, 20-22, 24, 27-32, 34, 35, 38-45, 47-64, 66, 67, 69, 72, and 73.

Moreover, at minimum there are “reasonable disputes between experts on dispositive issues.” FAQ #21. Indeed, the preliminary response will identify several disputes between experts as to whether certain limitations of the independent claims are anticipated by, or obvious based on, the prior art in each ground, including claim elements 6[pre], 6[b]-6[h], 7-9, 12[pre], and 12[b]-12[h], among others. While KPN submits that the prior art clearly fails to teach these limitations, at minimum there exist reasonable disputes between experts that are “better resolved in an Article III court.” *Id.*

Further, Dr. Almeroth's declaration contains much of the same language as the Petition. *Compare* Pet. at 9-43 (Ground 1), *with* Ex. 1003 ¶¶ 72-146 (discussing Ground 1); Pet. at 44-73 (Ground 2), *with* Ex. 1003 ¶¶ 147-214 (discussing Ground 2). However, the Board has been skeptical of petition arguments repeated verbatim by a witness purporting to give expert testimony. *Kinetic Techs., Inc. v. Skyworks Solutions, Inc.*, IPR2014-00529, Paper 8, 14-15 (PTAB 2014) (denying institution). Such skepticism is warranted in reviewing Samsung's Petition, in light of Dr. Almeroth's extensive repetition of the Petition in his declaration. *Xerox Corp. v. Bytemark, Inc.*, IPR2022-00624, Paper 9, at 15, 19 (PTAB Aug. 24, 2022) (denying institution). The Board's resources would be better allocated to other petitions more grounded in substance.

**H. The long-settled expectations of the parties favor exercising discretion**

“Settled expectations of the parties, such as the length of time the claims have been in force,” favor discretionary denial. Workload Memo, 2. The claims of the '089 Patent issued nearly five years ago and Samsung has been aware of it for several years. Thus, the expectation of KPN that the challenged claims of the '089 Patent (Claims 6-10 and 12) are valid were not only reasonable based on the length of time the claims have been in force, but also based on the length of time that

**Samsung** waited before challenging its validity<sup>5</sup>. As demonstrated by its conduct, Samsung had the same expectation—until it was found liable for \$342M+ for breaching the parties’ 2016 Settlement Agreement.

Moreover, since the issuance of the ’089 Patent, KPN has continued to build up its telecommunications business and invest resources into new telecommunications technologies, with the reasonable expectation that the ’089 Patent would remain a valuable source of licensing revenue. KPN has a portfolio of more than 325 patent families, and KPN’s patented inventions are the product of its extensive research and development efforts. KPN spends between \$300M and \$500M every year on research and development. Ex. 2106 ¶¶ 12.

**I. Samsung’s status as a high-volume petitioner favors exercising discretion**

The Workload Memo states that the “Director will also consider the ability of the PTAB to comply with pendency goals for *ex parte* appeals, its statutory deadlines for AIA proceedings, and other workload needs.” Workload Memo, 3.

At the current pace Samsung is filing IPR petitions this year, Samsung will account for **more than 15%** of all IPRs or PGRs filed in 2025. Specifically, of the

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<sup>5</sup> Samsung was aware of the ’089 Patent at least as early as 2022 when it received a list of KPN patents and applications. Ex. 2109 ¶¶ 21, 86.

431 IPR or PGR petitions filed between January 1 and April 17 of this year, Samsung was a petitioner in 67 of those proceedings. Ex. 2115; Ex. 2116. The post grant process is not reserved for the largest companies in the world—it is a process that is supposed to be available to *all* individuals and businesses that have a legitimate need for a true alternative to district court proceedings, which are significantly more expensive and time consuming than post grant proceedings.

Fundamental fairness dictates that the exercise of discretion should lean toward denial for petitioners that file an abnormally high number of petitions, which places a significant burden on the Board and increases the likelihood that the meritorious challenges of petitioners that rarely file IPRs will be discretionarily denied. Indeed, Samsung's status as a high-volume filer necessarily means that it is draining significant Board resources that would otherwise be available to petitioners that seldom ever file post grant petitions. The adverse effects of this are even more pronounced given the current workload needs of the PTAB, resulting in an even greater fairness deficit.

In view of the above, KPN respectfully submits that a petitioner's status as a high-volume filer should weigh in favor of discretionary denial, at least and until the PTAB workload needs are fully addressed such that the temporary Workload Memo is no longer in place. This will help ensure that petitioners who infrequently file petitions are afforded fair consideration, but also motivate petitioners like

Samsung to be more deliberate as to which patents they chose to challenge before the PTAB.

**J. Discretionary denial would preserve an unusually large amount of Board resources**

Samsung has filed six IPR petitions challenging unrelated and fundamentally different patents. However, the reasons for discretionary denial herein largely apply with equal force to the five other pending petitions. In other words, discretionarily denying in this instance would not only free up Board resources associated with this proceeding, but also those five other proceedings.

Given the Director's focus "on the ability of the PTAB to comply with pendency goals for *ex parte* appeals, its statutory deadlines for AIA proceedings, and other workload needs," KPN respectfully submits that discretionary denial should be favored here because it would result in significant Board resources becoming available, including for appeals relating to ordinary patent prosecution and *ex partes* proceedings. Indeed, exercising discretion would also preserve substantial Board resources that could be dedicated to IPR or PGR involving patents that have been asserted or *actually* threatened, and which are not the subject of a breach of contract lawsuit.

**IV. CONCLUSION**

For the reasons above, Patent Owner KPN respectfully requests that the

Director exercise discretion and deny institution of *inter partes* review. The fact that there are no pending infringement claims against Samsung—as well as the many other considerations justifying discretionary denial discussed above—warrant discretionary denial.

Respectfully submitted this 8<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2025.

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**PATENT OWNERS' LIST OF EXHIBITS**

<b>Exhibit</b>	<b>Description</b>
2001 to 2100	<b>RESERVED FOR PRELIMINARY RESPONSE</b>
2101	KPN's Original Petition and Request for Disclosure in <i>Koninklijke KPN N.V. v. Samsung Elecs. Co.</i> , No. 25-0237 (71st Dist. Ct. Harrison Cty. Tex., March 3, 2025).
2102	2016 Settlement, License and Non-Assertion Agreement between Koninklijke KPN N.V. and Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. ("Financial Conditions" Redacted)
2103	Ericsson's Nov. 16, 2021 Invalidity Contentions in <i>Koninklijke KPN N.V. v. Telefonaktiebolaget LM Ericsson et al.</i> , No. 2:21-CV-00113-JRG
2104	Signed Jury Verdict Form (Dkt. 245) in <i>Koninklijke KPN N.V. v. Telefonaktiebolaget LM Ericsson et al.</i> , No. 2:21-CV-00113-JRG (Aug. 26, 2022)
2105	Amended Final Judgment (Dkt. 325) in <i>Koninklijke KPN N.V. v. Telefonaktiebolaget LM Ericsson et al.</i> , No. 2:21-CV-00113-JRG (Aug. 9, 2023)
2106	KPN's Original Petition and Request for Disclosure in <i>Koninklijke KPN N.V. v. Samsung Elecs. Co.</i> , No. 22-0762 (71st Dist. Ct. Harrison Cty. Tex., Sept. 28, 2022) (redacted)
2107	Signed Jury Verdict Form in <i>Koninklijke KPN N.V. v. Samsung Elecs. Co.</i> , No. 22-0762 (71st Dist. Ct. Harrison Cty. Tex., Feb. 23, 2024) (redacted)
2108	Final Judgment, <i>Koninklijke KPN N.V. v. Samsung Elecs. Co.</i> , No. 22-0762 (71st Dist. Ct. Harrison Cty. Tex., May 2, 2024) (redacted)

2109	Samsung's Complaint for Declaratory Judgment of Non-Infringement (Dkt. 2) in <i>Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. v. Koninklijke KPN N.V.</i> , No. 24-cv-01433-CFC (Dec. 31, 2024) (redacted)
2110	Samsung's Complaint for Declaratory Judgment of Non-Infringement in <i>Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. v. Koninklijke KPN N.V.</i> (Dkt. 2) (redacted), No. 25-cv-00001-CFC (January 1, 2025) (redacted)
2111	Opening Brief in Support of Motion to Dismiss First Amended Complaint (Dkt. 30) in <i>Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. v. Koninklijke KPN N.V.</i> , No. 24-cv-01433-CFC (Apr. 7, 2025) (redacted)
2112	Opening Brief in Support of Motion to Dismiss First Amended Complaint (Dkt. 31) in <i>Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. v. Koninklijke KPN N.V.</i> , No. 25-cv-00001-CFC (Apr. 7, 2025) (redacted)
2113	Amended Complaint (Dkt. 26) in <i>Koninklijke KPN N.V. v. Telefonaktiebolaget LM Ericsson et al.</i> , No. 2:22-CV-00282-JRG (Nov. 15, 2022) (redacted)
2114	Order of Dismissal (Dkt. 236) in <i>Koninklijke KPN N.V. v. Telefonaktiebolaget LM Ericsson et al.</i> , No. 2:22-CV-00282-JRG (Jan. 17, 2024)
2115	Docket Navigator Search Results for All IPR or PGR Petitions Filed Between Jan. 1, 2025 and April 17, 2025
2116	Docket Navigator Search Results for IPR or PGR Petitions Filed by Samsung Between Jan. 1, 2025 and April 17, 2025

**CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE**

I hereby certify that this Patent Owner's Request for Discretionary Denial of Institution complies with the type- volume limitations of 37 C.F.R. § 42.24(b)(1), because it contains 7,904 words, as calculated by the Microsoft Word program excluding the parts of the brief exempted by 37 C.F.R. § 42.24.

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 42.6(e), I hereby certify that on May 8, 2025, the foregoing *Patent Owner's Request for Discretionary Denial of Institution, List of Exhibits, and Exhibits referred to herein* are being served electronically by agreement of the parties at the following email service addresses:

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