

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

INERGY TECHNOLOGY, INC.,
Petitioner,

v.

FORCE MOS TECHNOLOGY CO., LTD.,
Patent Owner.

IPR2024-00093 (Patent 7,629,634 B2)
IPR2024-00094 (Patent 7,812,409 B2)¹

Before GRACE KARAFFA OBERMANN, CHRISTOPHER L. OGDEN,
and MARY C. HOFFMAN, *Administrative Patent Judges*.

OBERMANN, *Administrative Patent Judge*.

ORDER
Setting Oral Argument
37 C.F.R. § 42.70

¹ This order addresses issues common to both cases. For convenience, we enter the same order in each case. The parties may use this heading when filing the same paper in both cases, provided that the heading includes a footnote attesting that “the word-for-word identical paper is filed in both proceedings identified in the heading.” Although final oral arguments will be heard in a single hearing, the cases are not consolidated or joined.

I. ORAL ARGUMENT

The Scheduling Order for the above-captioned proceedings sets the date for oral argument to be February 21, 2025, if requested by the parties and granted by the Board. Paper 12, 11.² On January 6, 2025, Petitioner and Patent Owner filed requests for oral argument. Papers 30, 29. Patent Owner requests that oral arguments be held by video conference. Paper 29, 2. Petitioner requests that oral arguments be held in-person, but is also amenable to a virtual hearing. Paper 30, 1.

Patent Owner requests that each case be heard separately, with sixty minutes of argument time allotted per side, for each proceeding. Paper 29, 2; *id.* at n.1. Petitioner requests, in each proceeding, forty-five minutes of argument time per side, for a total of ninety minutes per side across the two proceedings. Paper 30, 1.

Taking account of the parties' differing positions, and based on our review of the claims, grounds, and disputed issues in these cases, we determine that the following time and format is appropriate and sufficient: Although not consolidated or joined, the cases shall be heard together in a single hearing. Each party shall be allotted **a total of ninety (90) minutes** to present arguments. Each party shall determine how they wish to divide their total time between the two cases. The hearing shall be held remotely by **VIDEO**. We set forth below additional details about the time and format.

² We cite to papers in IPR2024-00093. Corresponding papers were filed in IPR2024-00094.

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A. Time and Format

Oral arguments will commence at **1:00 pm Eastern Time on February 21, 2025, by VIDEO.**³ The Board will provide a court reporter for the hearing, and the reporter’s transcript will constitute the official record of the hearing.

Petitioner will have **a total of ninety (90)** minutes to present argument in these cases and Patent Owner will have **a total of ninety (90)** minutes to respond. Petitioner will open the hearing by presenting its case regarding the challenged claims for which the Board instituted trial. Thereafter, Patent Owner will respond to Petitioner’s argument. Petitioner may reserve rebuttal time to respond to arguments presented by Patent Owner. In accordance with the Consolidated Trial Practice Guide⁴ (“CTPG”), issued in November 2019, Patent Owner may request to reserve time for a brief sur-rebuttal. *See* CTPG 83. Because this consolidated hearing will relate to two distinct proceedings, counsel shall make clear for the record which proceeding is under discussion at any given time during presentation of arguments.

The parties may request a pre-hearing conference in advance of the hearing. *See id.* at 82. “The purpose of the pre-hearing conference is to afford the parties the opportunity to preview (but not argue) the issues to be discussed at the hearing, and to seek the Board’s guidance as to particular issues that the panel would like addressed by the parties.” *Id.* If either party

³ If there are any concerns about disclosing confidential information, the parties must contact the Board at Trials@uspto.gov at least ten (10) business days before the hearing date.

⁴ Available at <https://www.uspto.gov/TrialPracticeGuideConsolidated>.

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desires a pre-hearing conference, the parties should jointly contact the Board at Trials@uspto.gov at least seven (7) business days before the hearing date to request a conference call for that purpose.⁵

B. Demonstratives

As set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 42.70(b), demonstratives shall be served on opposing counsel at least seven (7) business days before the hearing date.⁶ The parties shall file their demonstratives as exhibits no later than three (3) business days before the hearing.

Demonstratives are not a mechanism for making new arguments. Demonstratives also are not evidence, and will not be relied upon as evidence. Rather, demonstratives are visual aids to a party's oral presentation regarding arguments and evidence previously presented and discussed in the papers. Accordingly, demonstratives shall be clearly marked with the words "DEMONSTRATIVE EXHIBIT – NOT EVIDENCE" in the footer. *See Dell Inc. v. Acceleron, LLC*, 884 F.3d 1364, 1369 (Fed. Cir. 2018) (holding that the Board is obligated under its own regulations to dismiss untimely argument "raised for the first time during oral argument"). "[N]o new evidence may be presented at the oral argument." CTPG 85; *see also St. Jude Med., Cardiology Div., Inc. v. The Bd. of Regents of the Univ. of Mich.*, IPR2013-00041, Paper 65, 2–3 (PTAB Jan. 27, 2014) (explaining

⁵ The time period for requesting a pre-hearing conference set forth in this Order, i.e., at least seven (7) business days before the hearing date, supersedes the due date in the Scheduling Order.

⁶ The parties may stipulate to an alternative schedule for serving demonstratives, and request that the Board modify the schedule for serving demonstratives at least seven (7) business days before the hearing date.

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that “new” evidence includes evidence already of record but not previously discussed in any paper of record).

Furthermore, because of the strict prohibition against the presentation of new evidence or arguments at a hearing, it is strongly recommended that each demonstrative include a citation to a paper in the record, which allows the Board to easily ascertain whether a given demonstrative contains “new” argument or evidence or, instead, contains only that which is developed in the existing record.

Due to the nature of the Board’s consideration of demonstratives and the opportunity afforded for the parties to reach an agreement without involving the Board, the Board does not anticipate that objections to demonstratives are likely to be sustained. Nevertheless, to the extent that a party objects to the propriety of any demonstrative, the parties shall meet and confer in good faith to resolve any objections to demonstratives prior to filing the objections with the Board. If such objections cannot be resolved, the parties may file any objections to demonstratives with the Board no later than the time of the hearing. The objections shall identify with particularity which portions of the demonstratives are subject to objection (and should include a copy of the objected-to portions) and include a one (1) sentence statement of the reason for each objection. No argument or further explanation is permitted. The Board will consider any objections, and may reserve ruling on the objections.⁷ Any objection to demonstratives that is not timely presented will be considered waived.

⁷ If time permits, the Board may schedule a conference call with the parties to discuss any filed objections.

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Finally, the parties are reminded that each presenter should identify clearly and specifically each paper (e.g., by slide or screen number for a demonstrative) referenced during the hearing to ensure the clarity and accuracy of the court reporter's transcript and for the benefit of all participants appearing electronically.

C. Presenting Counsel

The Board generally expects lead counsel for each party to be present at the hearing. *See* CTPG 11. Any counsel of record may present the party's argument as long as that counsel is present by video.

D. Video or Telephonic Hearing Details

To facilitate planning, each party must contact the Board at PTABHearings@uspto.gov at least five (5) business days prior to the hearing date to receive video set-up information. As a reminder, all arrangements and the expenses involved with appearing by video, such as the selection of the facility from which a party will attend by video, must be borne by that party. If a video connection cannot be established, the parties will be provided with dial-in connection information, and the hearing will be conducted telephonically.

If one or both parties would prefer to participate in the hearing telephonically, they must contact the Board at PTABHearings@uspto.gov at least five (5) business days prior to the hearing date to receive dial-in connection information.

Counsel should unmute only when speaking. The panel will have access to all papers filed with the Board, including demonstratives. During the hearing, the parties are reminded to identify clearly and specifically each paper referenced (e.g., by slide or screen number for a demonstrative) to

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ensure the clarity and accuracy of the court reporter's transcript and for the benefit of all participants appearing electronically. In addition, the parties are advised to identify themselves each time they speak. Furthermore, the remote nature of the hearing may also result in an audio lag, and thus the parties are advised to observe a pause prior to speaking, so as to avoid speaking over others.

If at any time during the hearing, counsel encounters technical or other difficulties that fundamentally undermine counsel's ability to adequately represent its client, please let the panel know immediately, and adjustments will be made.⁸

E. Remote Attendance Requests

Members of the public may request to listen to and/or view this hearing. If resources are available, the Board generally expects to grant such requests. If either party objects to the Board granting such requests, for example, because confidential information may be discussed, the party must notify the Board at PTABHearings@uspto.gov at least ten (10) business days prior to the hearing date.

F. Audio/Visual Equipment Requests

Any special requests for audio-visual equipment should be directed to PTABHearings@uspto.gov. A party may also indicate any special requests related to appearing at a video hearing, such as a request to accommodate deaf or hard-of-hearing individuals and blind or low vision individuals, and indicate how the PTAB may accommodate the special request. Any special

⁸ For example, if a party is experiencing poor video quality, the Board may provide alternate dial-in information.

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requests must be presented in a separate communication at least five (5) business days before the hearing date.

G. Legal Experience and Advancement Program

The Board has established the “Legal Experience and Advancement Program,” or “LEAP,” to encourage advocates with less legal experience to argue before the Board to develop their skills. The Board defines a LEAP practitioner as a patent agent or attorney having three (3) or fewer substantive oral arguments in any federal tribunal, including PTAB.⁹

The parties are encouraged to participate in the Board’s LEAP program. Either party may request that a qualifying LEAP practitioner participate in the program and conduct at least a portion of the party’s oral argument. The Board will grant up to fifteen (15) minutes of additional argument time to that party, depending on the length of the proceeding and the PTAB’s hearing schedule. A party should submit a request, no later than at least five (5) business days before the oral hearing, by email to the Board at PTABHearings@uspto.gov.¹⁰

The LEAP practitioner may conduct the entire oral argument or may share time with other counsel, provided that the LEAP practitioner is offered a meaningful and substantive opportunity to argue before the Board. The

⁹ Whether an argument is “substantive” for purposes of determining whether an advocate qualifies as a LEAP practitioner will be made on a case-by-case basis with considerations to include, for example, the amount of time that the practitioner argued, the circumstances of the argument, and whether the argument concerned the merits or ancillary issues.

¹⁰ Additionally, a LEAP Verification Form shall be submitted by the LEAP practitioner, confirming eligibility for the program. A combined LEAP Practitioner Request for Oral Hearing Participation and Verification Form is available on the LEAP website, www.uspto.gov/leap.

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party has the discretion as to the type and quantity of oral argument that will be conducted by the LEAP practitioner.¹¹ Moreover, whether the LEAP practitioner conducts the argument in whole or in part, the Board will permit more experienced counsel to provide some assistance to the LEAP practitioner, if necessary, during oral argument, and to clarify any statements on the record before the conclusion of the oral argument. Importantly, the Board does not draw any inference about the importance of a particular issue or issues, or the merits of the party's arguments regarding that issue, from the party's decision to have (or not to have) a LEAP practitioner argue.

In instances where an advocate does not meet the LEAP eligibility requirements due to the number of "substantive" oral hearing arguments, but nonetheless has a basis for considering themselves to be in the category of advocates that this program is intended to assist, the Board encourages argument by such advocates during oral hearings. Even though additional argument time will not be provided when the advocate does not qualify for LEAP, a party may share argument time among counsel and the Board will permit the more experienced counsel to provide some assistance, if necessary, during oral argument, and to clarify any statements on the record before the conclusion of the oral argument.

All practitioners appearing before the Board shall demonstrate the highest professional standards. All practitioners are expected to have a

¹¹ Examples of the issues that a LEAP practitioner may argue include claim construction argument(s), motion(s) to exclude evidence, or patentability argument(s) including, e.g., analyses of prior art or objective indicia of non-obviousness.

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command of the factual record, the applicable law, and Board procedures, as well as the authority to commit the party they represent.

II. ORDER

Accordingly, it is

ORDERED that oral argument for this proceeding shall commence at **1:00 pm Eastern Time on February 21, 2025**, by video, and proceed in the manner set forth herein.

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