

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

---

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

---

MERCEDES-BENZ GROUP AG,  
Petitioner,

v.

THE PHELAN GROUP, LLC,  
Patent Owner.

---

IPR2025-00930  
Patent 11,472,427 B2

---

Before LINDA E. HORNER, MITCHELL G. WEATHERLY, and  
KARA L. SZPONDOWSKI, *Administrative Patent Judges*.

WEATHERLY, *Administrative Patent Judge*.

TERMINATION

Due to Settlement After Institution of Trial  
*35 U.S.C. § 317; 37 C.F.R. § 42.74*

The parties have requested that this proceeding be terminated pursuant to a settlement. On November 25, 2025, we authorized the parties via e-mail to file a joint request to terminate this proceeding and to file the settlement agreement as business confidential information under 37 C.F.R. § 42.74(c). The parties filed their joint motion on November 26, 2025. Paper 11.

Under 35 U.S.C. § 317(a), “[a]n inter partes review instituted under this chapter shall be terminated with respect to any petitioner upon the joint request of the petitioner and the patent owner, unless the Office has decided the merits of the proceeding before the request for termination is filed.” We instituted trial in this proceeding on November 21, 2025. Paper 9. The parties indicate that they have agreed to resolve all disputes between them related to the challenged patent that are pending before the Office and the District Court in the related litigation. Paper 11, 2–3. A final written decision is not due in this proceeding until November 2026. Under these circumstances, we determine that it is appropriate to terminate the proceeding.

With their joint motion to terminate, the parties also filed a joint request to keep their written settlement agreement confidential along with a copy of that settlement agreement. Paper 12 (filed concurrently with Ex. 1017 (“Settlement Agreement”)). The parties represent that the filed copy of the Settlement Agreement is a true copy, and that “there are no collateral agreements or understandings between them made in connection with, or in contemplation of, termination of this proceeding.” Paper 11, 3. We find that the Settlement Agreement contains confidential business information regarding the terms of settlement. Accordingly, we determine that good cause exists to treat the Settlement Agreement as business confidential information pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 42.74(c).

Accordingly, it is:

ORDERED that the Joint Motion to Terminate Proceeding under 35 U.S.C. § 317(a) (Paper 11) is *granted* and IPR2025-00930 is *terminated*

IPR2025-00930  
Patents 11,472,427 B2

with respect to all parties pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 317(a) and 37 C.F.R. § 42.72;

FURTHER ORDERED that the Joint Request to Treat Settlement Agreement as Business Confidential Information under 35 U.S.C. § 317(b) (Paper 12) is *granted*; and

FURTHER ORDERED that the Settlement Agreement (Ex. 1017) shall be treated as business confidential information and kept separate from the file of U.S. Patent No. 11,472,427 B2 and made available only to Federal Government agencies on written request, or to any person on a showing of good cause, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 317(b) and 37 C.F.R. § 42.74(c).

IPR2025-00930  
Patents 11,472,427 B2

PETITIONER:

Celine Crowson  
Joseph Raffetto  
Scott Hughes  
Nicholas Rotz  
HOGAN LOVELLS US LLP  
celine.crowson@hoganlovells.com  
joseph.raffetto@hoganlovells.com  
scott.hughes@hoganlovells.com  
nicholas.rotz@hoganlovells.com

PATENT OWNER:

Gregory S. Donahue  
Andrew G. DiNovo  
DINOVO PRICE LLP  
gdonahue@dinovoprice.com  
adinovo@dinovoprice.com  
docketing@dinovoprice.com