

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION**

HFT SOLUTIONS, LLC,

Plaintiff / Counterclaim Defendant,

v.

JUMP TRADING, LLC,

Defendant / Counterclaim Plaintiff.

Case No. 1:24-CV-13214

Hon. John J. Tharp, Jr.

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

REPORT OF THE PARTIES' PLANNING MEETING

Pursuant to the Court's Orders (ECF Nos. 20, 25, 27), the Court's Case Procedures, and Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(f), Plaintiff/Counterclaim Defendant HFT Solutions, LLC and Defendant/Counterclaim Plaintiff Jump Trading, LLC submit the following Joint Initial Status Report.

At the outset, the parties note that Plaintiff asserts three patents in this case: U.S. Patent Nos. 10,931,286, 11,128,305, and 11,575,381. All three patents share a common specification and are titled "Field Programmable Gate Array With External Phase-Locked Loop." Defendant denies that it has committed any act of infringement and has filed counterclaims seeking declarations of non-infringement and invalidity of each of the three asserted patents. On the same day Plaintiff filed this action, Plaintiff sued Citadel Securities LLC asserting the same three patents-in-suit in a case that has been assigned to, and is pending before, Judge Coleman, styled as *HFT Solutions, LLC v. Citadel Securities LLC*, No. 1:24-cv-13213. In the *Citadel* action, defendant Citadel filed a motion to dismiss on the grounds that the three patents-in-suit are invalid under 35 U.S.C.

§ 101. Judge Coleman has set a briefing schedule on that motion, and the court has not yet entered a schedule or set dates for the completion of fact or expert discovery.

1. The following persons participated in a Rule 26(f) conference via emails exchanged the week of April 14, 2025, and then on April 21, 2025 by telephone:

Joshua Scheufler, representing HFT Solutions, LLC

Matthew Hertko, representing Jump Trading, LLC

2. **Initial Disclosures.** The Parties propose that the parties complete the initial disclosures required by Rule 26(a)(1) by May 9, 2025.
3. **Disclosures and Discovery Pursuant to Local Patent Rules.** The parties acknowledge that the requirements of the Local Patent Rules apply to this case.
4. **Additional Discovery Plan.** The parties propose the following in addition to the discovery plan and schedules addressed in the Local Patent Rules:
 - (a) Interrogatories. Each party is permitted no more than 25 interrogatories, including sub-parts, consistent with Fed. R. Civ. P. 33.
 - (b) Requests for Admission. Each party is permitted no more than 50 requests for admission on substantive issues not related to the authentication of documents.
 - (c) Fact Depositions. The parties agree to the default limits under Rule 30(a)(2). Either party may seek leave of Court to conduct additional depositions if good cause exists.
 - (d) Length of Depositions. Pursuant to Rule 30(d)(1), the length of depositions is limited to 1 day of 7 hours.
 - (e) Discovery is permitted with respect to claims of willful infringement and defenses of patent invalidity or unenforceability not pleaded by a party, where the evidence

needed to support these claims or defenses is in whole or in part in the hands of another party.

5. **Alternative Discovery Plan.** The parties do not propose a discovery plan that differs from that provided in the Local Patent Rules, except as outlined in the proposed Case Management Schedule set forth in Exhibit A.

6. **Other Dates:**

(a) Dates for supplementation under Rule 26(e). Any supplementation or correction of initial disclosures or written discovery responses must comply with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(e) and be served by the end of expert discovery.

(b) The parties do not currently ask to meet with the Court before a scheduling order is entered, but can be available to meet with the Court at the Court's convenience if a meeting would benefit the Court.

(c) Requested dates for pretrial conferences. The parties request a pretrial conference 14 days prior to trial.

(d) Final date for the plaintiff to amend pleadings or to join parties (without good cause): November 7, 2025 (as shown in the proposed Case Management Schedule set forth in Exhibit A).

(e) Final date for the defendant to amend pleadings or to join parties (without good cause): December 12, 2025 (as shown in the proposed Case Management Schedule set forth in Exhibit A).

(f) Final dates for submitting Rule 26(a)(3) witness lists, designations of witnesses whose testimony will be presented by deposition, and exhibit lists. The parties agree to meet-and-confer regarding pretrial deadlines—including final dates for submitting

Rule 26(a)(3) witness lists, designations of witnesses whose testimony will be presented by deposition, and exhibit lists—14 days after the end of fact discovery.

- (g) Final dates to file objections under Rule 26(a)(3). The parties agree to meet-and-confer regarding pretrial deadlines—including final dates to file objections under Rule 26(a)(3)—14 days after the end of fact discovery.

7. **Other Items:**

- (a) State the prospects for settlement. No settlement discussions have yet occurred.
- (b) Identify any alternative dispute resolution procedure that may enhance settlement prospects. Neither party proposes a specific alternative dispute resolution procedure at this time, but the parties agree to revisit the topic of alternative dispute resolution procedures as the case proceeds and after taking discovery.
- (c) Communications between a party's attorney and a testifying expert relating to the issues on which he/she opines, or to the basis or grounds in support of or countering the opinion, are subject to discovery by the opposing party only to the extent provided in Rule 26(b)(4)(B) and (C).
- (d) The parties agree that drafts of expert reports will not be retained and produced.
- (e) In responding to discovery requests, each party shall construe broadly terms of art used in the patent field (e.g., "prior art", "best mode", "on sale"), and read them as requesting discovery relating to the issue as opposed to a particular definition of the term used. Compliance with this provision is not satisfied by the respondent including a specific definition of the term in its response, and limiting the response to that definition.

(f) The parties agree the video “The Patent Process: An Overview for Jurors” or any subsequent version of the same distributed by the Federal Judicial Center should be shown to the jurors in connection with its preliminary jury instructions.

Dated: April 21, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Marc A. Fenster

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EXHIBIT A

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PROPOSED CASE MANAGEMENT SCHEDULE

<u>Event</u>	<u>Proposed Date/Deadline</u>
<u>Initial Disclosures of Both Parties (with no patent infringement counter-claim) / Commencement of Fact Discovery</u> (LPR 2.1, LPR 1.3)	5/9/25
<u>Initial Infringement Contentions</u> (LPR 2.2)	6/6/25
<u>Initial Non-Infringement, Unenforceability and Invalidity Contentions</u> (LPR 2.3)	7/11/25
<u>Initial Response To Invalidity Contentions</u> (LPR 2.5)	8/8/25
<u>Final Infringement, Unenforceability and Invalidity Contentions</u> (LPR 3.1)	10/31/25
<u>Deadline for Plaintiff to Amend Pleadings or Join Parties (without good cause)</u>	11/7/25
<u>Final Non-infringement, Enforceability and Validity Contentions</u> (LPR 3.2)	12/5/25
<u>Deadline for Defendant to Amend Pleadings or Join Parties (without good cause)</u>	12/12/25
<u>Exchange of Claim Terms Needing Construction and Proposed Construction</u> (LPR 4.1)	12/19/25
<u>Opening Claim Construction Brief</u> (LPR 4.2(a))	1/30/26
<u>Responsive Claim Construction Brief</u> (LPR 4.2(c))	2/27/26
<u>Reply Claim Construction Brief</u> (LPR 4.2(d))	3/13/26
<u>Joint Claim Construction Chart</u> (LPR 4.2(f))	3/20/26
<u>Claim Construction Hearing</u> (LPR 4.3)	4/17/26 or at the Court's convenience

<u>Event</u>	<u>Proposed Date/Deadline</u>
<u>Close of Fact Discovery</u> (LPR 1.3)	7/3/26 or 42 days after the claim construction ruling, whichever is later
<u>Expert Reports of Parties with Burden of Proof</u> (LPR 5.1(b))	7/31/26 or 28 days after the close of fact discovery, whichever is later
<u>Rebuttal Expert Reports</u> (LPR 5.1)	9/4/26 or 35 days after service of initial expert reports, whichever is later
<u>Completion of Expert Witness Depositions</u> (LPR 5.2)	10/9/26 or 35 days after service of rebuttal expert reports, whichever is later
<u>Final Day for Filing Dispositive Motions</u> (LPR 6.1)	11/6/26 or 28 days after the close of expert discovery, whichever is later
<u>Case Ready for Trial</u>	3/26/27 or 20 weeks after the filing of dispositive motions, whichever is later