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10 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
 11 EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

12 AMALRAJ GNANASIGAMANI,
 13 Plaintiff,
 14 v.
 15 SGS TESTCOM, INC., and DOES 1-25
 inclusive,
 16 Defendant.
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Case No. 2:15-cv-01931-KJM-EFB
STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER

28 Case No. 2:15-cv-01931-KJM-EFB

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1. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS

Disclosure and discovery activity in this action are likely to involve production of confidential, proprietary, or private information, including **medical** information for which special protection from public disclosure and from use for any purpose other than prosecuting this litigation may be warranted. Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the court to enter the following Stipulated Protective Order.

The parties acknowledge that this Order does not confer blanket protections on all disclosures or responses to discovery and that the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under the applicable legal principles. The parties further acknowledge, as set forth in Section 12.3, below, that this Stipulated Protective Order does not entitle them to file confidential information under seal; Civil Local Rules 140 and 141 set forth the procedures that must be followed and the standards that will be applied when a party seeks permission from the court to file material under seal.

2. DEFINITIONS

2.1 Challenging Party: a Party or Non-Party that challenges the designation of information or items under this Order.

2.2 “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items: information (regardless of how it is generated, stored or maintained) or tangible things that qualify for protection under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c).

2.3 Counsel (without qualifier): Outside Counsel of Record and House Counsel (as well as their support staff).

2.4 Designating Party: a Party or Non-Party that designates information or items that it produces in disclosures or in responses to discovery as “CONFIDENTIAL.”

2.5 Disclosure or Discovery Material: all items or information, regardless of the medium or manner in which it is generated, stored, or maintained (including, among other things, testimony, transcripts, and tangible things), that are produced or generated in disclosures or responses to discovery in this matter.

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2 2.6 Expert: a person with specialized knowledge or experience in a matter pertinent to the
3 litigation who has been retained by a Party or its counsel to serve as an expert witness or as a
4 consultant in this action.

5 2.7 House Counsel: attorneys who are employees of a party to this action. House Counsel
6 does not include Outside Counsel of Record or any other outside counsel.

7 2.8 Non-Party: any natural person, partnership, corporation, association, or other legal
8 entity not named as a Party to this action.

9 2.9 Outside Counsel of Record: attorneys who are not employees of a party to this action
10 but are retained to represent or advise a party to this action and have appeared in this action on behalf
11 of that party or are affiliated with a law firm which has appeared on behalf of that party.

12 2.10 Party: any party to this action, including all of its officers, directors, employees,
13 consultants, retained experts, and Outside Counsel of Record (and their support staffs).

14 2.11 Producing Party: a Party or Non-Party that produces Disclosure or Discovery Material
15 in this action.

16 2.12 Professional Vendors: persons or entities that provide litigation support services (e.g.,
17 photocopying, videotaping, translating, preparing exhibits or demonstrations, and organizing, storing,
18 or retrieving data in any form or medium) and their employees and subcontractors.

19 2.13 Protected Material: any Disclosure or Discovery Material that is designated as
20 “CONFIDENTIAL.”

21 2.14 Receiving Party: a Party that receives Disclosure or Discovery Material from a
22 Producing Party.

23 3. SCOPE

24 The protections conferred by this Stipulation and Order cover not only Protected Material (as
25 defined above), but also (1) any information copied or extracted from Protected Material; (2) all
26 copies, excerpts, summaries, or compilations of Protected Material; and (3) any testimony,
27 conversations, or presentations by Parties or their Counsel that might reveal Protected Material.
28 However, the protections conferred by this Stipulation and Order do not cover the following

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2 information: (a) any information that is in the public domain at the time of disclosure to a Receiving
3 Party or becomes part of the public domain after its disclosure to a Receiving Party as a result of
4 publication not involving a violation of this Order, including becoming part of the public record
5 through trial or otherwise; and (b) any information known to the Receiving Party prior to the
6 disclosure or obtained by the Receiving Party after the disclosure from a source who obtained the
7 information lawfully and under no obligation of confidentiality to the Designating Party. Any use of
8 Protected Material at trial shall be governed by a separate agreement or order.

9 4. DURATION

10 Even after final disposition of this litigation, the confidentiality obligations imposed by this
11 Order shall remain in effect until a Designating Party agrees otherwise in writing or a court order
12 otherwise directs. Final disposition shall be deemed to be the later of (1) dismissal of all claims and
13 defenses in this action, with or without prejudice; and (2) final judgment herein after the completion
14 and exhaustion of all appeals, rehearings, remands, trials, or reviews of this action, including the
15 time limits for filing any motions or applications for extension of time pursuant to applicable law.

16 5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL

17 5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection. Each Party or
18 Non-Party that designates information or items for protection under this Order must take care to
19 limit any such designation to specific material that qualifies under the appropriate standards. The
20 Designating Party must designate for protection only those parts of material, documents, items, or
21 oral or written communications that qualify – so that other portions of the material, documents,
22 items, or communications for which protection is not warranted are not swept unjustifiably within
23 the ambit of this Order.

24 Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations that are shown
25 to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper purpose (e.g., to unnecessarily
26 encumber or retard the case development process or to impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on
27 other parties) may expose the Designating Party to sanctions.

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2 If it comes to a Designating Party's attention that information or items that it designated for
3 protection do not qualify for protection, that Designating Party must promptly notify all other Parties
4 that it is withdrawing the mistaken designation.

5 5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in this Order
6 (see, e.g., second paragraph of section 5.2(a) below), or as otherwise stipulated or ordered,
7 Disclosure or Discovery Material that qualifies for protection under this Order must be clearly so
8 designated before the material is disclosed or produced.

9 Designation in conformity with this Order requires:

10 (a) for information in documentary form (e.g., paper or electronic documents, but
11 excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial proceedings), that the Producing Party
12 affix the legend "CONFIDENTIAL" to each page that contains Protected Material. If only a portion
13 or portions of the material on a page qualifies for protection, the Producing Party also must clearly
14 identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the margins).

15 A Party or Non-Party that makes original documents or materials available for inspection
16 need not designate them for protection until after the inspecting Party has indicated which material it
17 would like copied and produced. During the inspection and before the designation, all of the material
18 made available for inspection shall be deemed "CONFIDENTIAL." After the inspecting Party has
19 identified the documents it wants copied and produced, the Producing Party must determine which
20 documents, or portions thereof, qualify for protection under this Order. Then, before producing the
21 specified documents, the Producing Party must affix the "CONFIDENTIAL" legend to each page
22 that contains Protected Material. If only a portion or portions of the material on a page qualifies for
23 protection, the Producing Party also must clearly identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making
24 appropriate markings in the margins).

25 (b) for testimony given in deposition or in other pretrial or trial proceedings, that
26 the Designating Party identify on the record, before the close of the deposition, hearing, or other
27 proceeding, all Protected Material.

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2 (c) for information produced in some form other than documentary and for any
3 other tangible items, that the Producing Party affix in a prominent place on the exterior of the
4 container or containers in which the information or item is stored the legend “CONFIDENTIAL.” If
5 only a portion or portions of the information or item warrant protection, the Producing Party, to the
6 extent practicable, shall identify the protected portion(s).

7 5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. An inadvertent failure to designate qualified
8 information or items does not, standing alone, waive the Designating Party’s right to secure
9 protection under this Order for such material. Upon notice of correction of a non-designation, the
10 Receiving Party must make reasonable efforts to assure that the material is treated in accordance
11 with the provisions of this Order. Challenges to designations after an inadvertent failure to designate
12 are governed by Section 6.

13 6. CHALLENGING “CONFIDENTIAL” DESIGNATIONS

14 6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any Party or Non-Party may challenge a designation of
15 “CONFIDENTIAL” at any time. Unless a prompt challenge to a Designating Party’s designation is
16 necessary to avoid foreseeable, substantial unfairness, unnecessary economic burdens, or a
17 significant disruption or delay of the litigation, a Party does not waive its right to challenge a
18 confidentiality designation by electing not to mount a challenge promptly after the original
19 designation is disclosed.

20 6.2 Meet and Confer. The Challenging Party shall initiate the dispute resolution process
21 by providing written notice of each designation it is challenging and describing the basis for each
22 challenge. To avoid ambiguity as to whether a challenge has been made, the written notice must
23 recite that the challenge is being made in accordance with this specific paragraph of the Protective
24 Order. The Parties shall attempt to resolve each challenge in good faith and must begin the process
25 by conferring directly (in voice to voice dialogue; other forms of communication are not sufficient)
26 within 14 days of the date of service of notice. In conferring, the Challenging Party must explain the
27 basis for its belief that the confidentiality designation was not proper and must give the Designating
28 Party an opportunity to review the designated material, to reconsider the circumstances, and, if no

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2 change in designation is offered, to explain the basis for the chosen designation. A Challenging Party
3 may proceed to the next stage of the challenge process only if it has engaged in this meet and confer
4 process first or establishes that the Designating Party is unwilling to participate in the meet and
5 confer process in a timely manner.

6 6.3 Judicial Intervention. If the Parties cannot resolve a challenge without court
7 intervention, the Designating Party shall file and serve a motion to retain confidentiality ~~under Civil~~
8 ~~Local Rule 7 (and in compliance with Civil Local Rule 79-5, if applicable)~~ within 21 days of the
9 initial notice of challenge or within 14 days of the parties agreeing that the meet and confer process
10 will not resolve their dispute, whichever is earlier. Each such motion must be accompanied by a
11 competent declaration affirming that the movant has complied with the meet and confer
12 requirements imposed in the preceding paragraph. Failure by the Designating Party to make such a
13 motion including the required declaration within 21 days (or 14 days, if applicable) shall
14 automatically waive the confidentiality designation for each challenged designation. In addition, the
15 Challenging Party may file a motion challenging a confidentiality designation at any time if there is
16 good cause for doing so, including a challenge to the designation of a deposition transcript or any
17 portions thereof. Any motion brought pursuant to this provision must be accompanied by a
18 competent declaration affirming that the movant has complied with the meet and confer
19 requirements imposed by the preceding paragraph.

20 The burden of persuasion in any such challenge proceeding shall be on the Designating Party.
21 Frivolous challenges, and those made for an improper purpose (e.g., to harass or impose unnecessary
22 expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the Challenging Party to sanctions. Unless the
23 Designating Party has waived the confidentiality designation by failing to file a motion to retain
24 confidentiality as described above, all parties shall continue to afford the material in question the level
25 of protection to which it is entitled under the Producing Party's designation until the court rules on the
26 challenge.

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7. ACCESS TO AND USE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

7.1 Basic Principles. A Receiving Party may use Protected Material that is disclosed or produced by another Party or by a Non-Party in connection with this case only for prosecuting, defending, or attempting to settle this litigation. Such Protected Material may be disclosed only to the categories of persons and under the conditions described in this Order. When the litigation has been terminated, a Receiving Party must comply with the provisions of section 13 below (FINAL DISPOSITION).

Protected Material must be stored and maintained by a Receiving Party at a location and in a secure manner that ensures that access is limited to the persons authorized under this Order.

7.2 Disclosure of “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items. Unless otherwise ordered by the court or permitted in writing by the Designating Party, a Receiving Party may disclose any information or item designated “CONFIDENTIAL” only to:

(a) the Receiving Party’s Outside Counsel of Record in this action, as well as employees of said Outside Counsel of Record to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the information for this litigation and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” that is attached hereto as Exhibit A;

(b) the officers, directors, and employees (including House Counsel) of the Receiving Party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” that is attached hereto as Exhibit A;

(c) Experts (as defined in this Order) of the Receiving Party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

(d) the court and its personnel;

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2 (e) court reporters and their staff, professional jury or trial consultants, mock
3 jurors, and Professional Vendors to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation and
4 who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

5 (f) during their depositions, witnesses in the action to whom disclosure is
6 reasonably necessary and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound”
7 (Exhibit A), unless otherwise agreed by the Designating Party or ordered by the court. Pages of
8 transcribed deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal Protected Material must be
9 separately bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except as permitted under
10 this Stipulated Protective Order.

11 (g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a
12 custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information.

13 8. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED IN OTHER
14 LITIGATION

15 If a Party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation that compels
16 disclosure of any information or items designated in this action as “CONFIDENTIAL”, that Party
17 must:

18 (a) promptly notify in writing the Designating Party. Such notification shall
19 include a copy of the subpoena or court order;

20 (b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to issue
21 in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena or order is subject to
22 this Protective Order. Such notification shall include a copy of this Stipulated Protective Order; and

23 (c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued by
24 the Designating Party whose Protected Material may be affected.

25 If the Designating Party timely seeks a protective order, the Party served with the subpoena
26 or court order shall not produce any information designated in this action as “CONFIDENTIAL”
27 before a determination by the court from which the subpoena or order issued, unless the Party has
28 obtained the Designating Party’s permission. The Designating Party shall bear the burden and

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2 expense of seeking protection in that court of its Protected Material – and nothing in these provisions
3 should be construed as authorizing or encouraging a Receiving Party in this action to disobey a
4 lawful directive from another court.

5 9. A NON-PARTY’S PROTECTED MATERIAL SOUGHT TO BE PRODUCED IN THIS
6 LITIGATION

7 (a) The terms of this Order are applicable to information produced by a Non-
8 Party in this action and designated as “CONFIDENTIAL.” Such information produced by Non-
9 Parties in connection with this litigation is protected by the remedies and relief provided by this
10 Order. Nothing in these provisions should be construed as prohibiting a Non-Party from seeking
11 additional protections.

12 (b) In the event that a Party is required, by a valid discovery request, to produce a
13 Non-Party’s Protected Material in its possession, and the Party is subject to an agreement with the
14 Non-Party not to produce the Non-Party’s Protected Information, then the Party shall:

15 (1) promptly notify in writing the Requesting Party and the Non-Party that
16 some or all of the information requested is subject to a confidentiality agreement with a Non-Party;

17 (2) promptly provide the Non-Party with a copy of the Stipulated
18 Protective Order in this litigation, the relevant discovery request(s), and a reasonably specific
19 description of the information requested; and

20 (3) make the information requested available for inspection by the Non-
21 Party.

22 (c) If the Non-Party fails to object or seek a protective order from this court
23 within 14 days of receiving the notice and accompanying information, the Receiving Party may
24 produce the Non-Party’s Protected Material responsive to the discovery request. If the Non-Party
25 timely seeks a protective order, the Receiving Party shall not produce any Protected Material in its
26 possession or control that is subject to the confidentiality agreement with the Non-Party before a
27 determination by the court. Absent a court order to the contrary, the Non-Party shall bear the burden
28 and expense of seeking protection in this court of its Protected Material.

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10. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

If a Receiving Party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed Protected Material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this Stipulated Protective Order, the Receiving Party must immediately (a) notify in writing the Designating Party of the unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its best efforts to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the Protected Material, (c) inform the person or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of this Order, and (d) request such person or persons to execute the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

11. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE PROTECTED MATERIAL

When a Producing Party gives notice to Receiving Parties that certain inadvertently produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection, the obligations of the Receiving Parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This provision is not intended to modify whatever procedure may be established in an e-discovery order that provides for production without prior privilege review. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence 502(d) and (e), insofar as the Parties reach an agreement on the effect of disclosure of a communication or information covered by the attorney-client privilege or work product protection, the parties may incorporate their agreement in the stipulated protective order submitted to the court.

12. MISCELLANEOUS

12.1 Right to Further Relief. Nothing in this Order abridges the right of any person to seek its modification by the court in the future.

12.2 Right to Assert Other Objections. By stipulating to the entry of this Protective Order no Party waives any right it otherwise would have to object to disclosing or producing any information or item on any ground not addressed in this Stipulated Protective Order. Similarly, no Party waives any right to object on any ground to use in evidence of any of the material covered by this Protective Order.

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2 12.3 Filing Protected Material. Without written permission from the Designating Party or a
3 court order secured after appropriate notice to all interested persons, a Party may not file in the
4 public record in this action any Protected Material. A Party that seeks to file under seal any Protected
5 Material must comply with Civil Local Rules 140 and 141. If a Receiving Party's request to file
6 Protected Material under seal pursuant to Civil Local Rules 140 and 141 is denied by the court, then
7 the Receiving Party may file the information in the public record unless otherwise instructed by the
8 court.

9 13. FINAL DISPOSITION

10 Within 60 days after the final disposition of this action, as defined in paragraph 4, each
11 Receiving Party, other than Counsel, must return all Protected Material to the Producing Party or
12 destroy such material. As used in this subdivision, "all Protected Material" includes all copies,
13 abstracts, compilations, summaries, and any other format reproducing or capturing any of the
14 Protected Material. Whether the Protected Material is returned or destroyed, the Receiving Party
15 must submit a written certification to the Producing Party (and, if not the same person or entity, to
16 the Designating Party) by the 60 day deadline that (1) identifies (by category, where appropriate) all
17 the Protected Material that was returned or destroyed and (2) affirms that the Receiving Party has not
18 retained any copies, abstracts, compilations, summaries or any other format reproducing or capturing
19 any of the Protected Material. Notwithstanding this provision, Counsel are entitled to retain an
20 archival copy of all pleadings, motion papers, trial, deposition, and hearing transcripts, legal
21 memoranda, correspondence, deposition and trial exhibits, expert reports, attorney work product, and
22 consultant and expert work product, even if such materials contain Protected Material. Any such
23 archival copies that contain or constitute Protected Material remain subject to this Protective Order
24 as set forth in Section 4 (DURATION).

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IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.

DATED: December 7, 2016 /s/Vicki E. Cody (approved VEC)
Robert C. Bowman
Vicki E. Cody
Law Offices of Bowman & Associates, P.C.
Attorneys for Plaintiff

DATED: December 7, 2016 /s/ Britney N. Torres (approved BNT)
Richard R. Gray
Britney N. Torres
Littler Mendelson, P.C.
Attorneys for Defendant SGS Testcom, Inc.

I, the filer of this document, attest that all other signatories listed, and on whose behalf the filing is submitted, concur in the filing's content and have authorized the filing.

DATED: December 7, 2016 /s/ Vicki E. Cody (approved VEC)
Law Offices of Bowman & Associates
Attorneys for Plaintiff

PURSUANT TO STIPULATION, IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: December 15, 2016.


EDMUND F. BRENNAN
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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EXHIBIT A

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND

I, _____ [print or type full name], of
_____ [print or type full address], declare under penalty of perjury that
I have read in its entirety and understand the Stipulated Protective Order that was issued by the
United States District Court for the Eastern District of California in the case of *Amalraj
Gnanasigamani v. SGS Testcom, Inc.*, Case No. 2:15-CV-01931-KJM-EFB. I agree to comply with
and to be bound by all the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order and I understand and
acknowledge that failure to so comply could expose me to sanctions and punishment in the nature of
contempt. I solemnly promise that I will not disclose in any manner any information or item that is
subject to this Stipulated Protective Order to any person or entity except in strict compliance with the
provisions of this Order.

I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the
Eastern District of California for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this Stipulated Protective
Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after termination of this action.

I hereby appoint _____ [print or type full name] of
_____ [print or type full address and telephone number] as
my California agent for service of process in connection with this action or any proceedings related
to enforcement of this Stipulated Protective Order.

Date: _____

City and State where sworn and signed: _____

Printed name: _____
[printed name]

Signature: _____
[signature]