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8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
9 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
10 SAN JOSE DIVISION

11 WILLIAM SYVERSON, et al.,)

12 Plaintiffs,)

13 v.)

14 INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS)
MACHINES CORPORATION,)

15 Defendant.)
16

Case No.: C 03-4529 RMW (PVT)

**ORDER DENYING DEFENDANT'S
MOTION TO STRIKE EXPERT
REPORT**

17 On October 10, 2008, Defendant filed a Motion to Strike Report of Plaintiffs' Expert, David
18 Neumark, Ph.D.. Plaintiffs opposed the motion. Having reviewed the papers submitted by the
19 parties, the court finds it appropriate to issue this order without oral argument. Based on the moving,
20 opposition and reply papers¹ submitted,

21 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Defendant's motion is DENIED. Plaintiff's disclosure of
22 David Neumark as an expert qualifies as disclosure of a rebuttal expert. Defendant's expert opined
23 on subjects not covered by Plaintiff's first expert witness. It appears from the record that the
24 opinions of Dr. Neumark are intended to "contradict or rebut evidence on the same subject matter"
25 identified by Defendant's expert. *See* FED.R.CIV.PRO. 26(a)(2)(C)(ii). Thus, the only question is

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27 ¹ The parties also filed unauthorized post-reply letter briefs. Because neither party sought
28 leave of court to file these unauthorized briefs, the court is not considering them. *See* Civil L.R. 7-3(d)
(after a reply is filed "no additional memoranda, papers or letters may be filed without prior Court
approval").

1 whether the disclosure was a timely disclosure of a rebuttal expert.

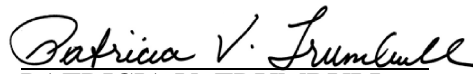
2 Under Rule 26(a)(2)(C)(ii), absent a stipulation or order of the court, rebuttal experts must be
3 identified within 30 days after the other party's disclosure. Defendant disclosed its expert on August
4 19, 2008. Absent a stipulation or order, the deadline for Plaintiff to disclose any rebuttal experts
5 would have been September 18, 2008. However, there is a court order allowing disclosure of
6 "Experts' Supplemental Reports" by September 25, 2008, the day Plaintiffs disclosed Dr. Neumark.

7 Rule 26 does not discuss "experts' supplemental reports." It does refer to parties' obligation
8 to supplement their expert disclosures. Such supplementation is required by Rule 26(e)(2), and that
9 rule sets the deadline for supplementation. Unlike the initial expert disclosure deadlines, for which
10 the rules authorize the court to order deadlines other than those set by the rule, Rule 26(e)(2) does
11 not authorize the court to set a different deadline. *See* FED.R.CIV.PRO. Rule 26(e)(2) ("Any
12 additions or changes to this information must be disclosed by the time the party's pretrial disclosures
13 under Rule 26(a)(3) are due"). Because the court is not authorized to alter the date for
14 supplementing expert disclosures, the deadline for disclosure of "Experts' Supplemental Reports"
15 cannot refer to such supplementation. Thus, the only reasonable interpretation of the language in this
16 court's prior order is that any disclosures of rebuttal experts were due by September 25, 2008.

17 This ruling is consistent with the purpose of the Federal Rules of Procedure to allow for a
18 rational and well-balanced search for truth, and the public policy favoring resolution of disputes on
19 the merits rather than technicalities. *See Hickman v. Taylor*, 329 U.S. 495, 500-01 (1947); *see also*
20 *Foman v. Davis*, 371 U.S. 178, 181 (1962) ("It is too late in the day and entirely contrary to the spirit
21 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure for decisions on the merits to be avoided on the basis of such
22 mere technicalities").

23 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the parties shall promptly meet and confer regarding a date
24 for the deposition of Dr. Neumark. If, by November 7, 2008, the parties are unable to agree to a date
25 for the deposition, then each party shall file a declaration setting forth the scheduling needs of that
26 party's counsel and, for Plaintiffs, the scheduling needs of Dr. Neumark.

27 Dated: 11/5/08

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PATRICIA V. TRUMBULL
United States Magistrate Judge