

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN JOSE DIVISION

Language Line Services, Inc.,

NO. C 10-02605 JW

Plaintiff,

**ORDER OVERRULING DEFENDANT'S
OBJECTIONS TO SPECIAL MASTER'S
DISCOVERY ORDER NO. 4**

v.

Language Services Assoc., LLC, et al.,

Defendants.

Presently before the Court is Language Services Associates, Inc.'s ("Defendant LSA") Objections to the Special Master's December 22, 2010 Discovery Order Number 4. (hereafter, "Objections," Docket Item No. 111.) Language Line Services, Inc. ("Plaintiff") filed an Opposition to the Objections. (Docket Item No. 114.) The Court finds it appropriate to take the matter under submission without oral argument. See Civ. L.R. 7-1(b).¹

On December 22, 2010, the Special Master issued Discovery Order No. 4, in which he denied Defendant LSA's Request for Special Master's Recommendation That LSA Can Communicate With National Grid. (hereafter, "DO 4," Docket Item No. 110.) In denying Defendant LSA's Request, the Special Master specifically determined that Defendant LSA did not have an existing contractual relationship with National Grid and was prohibited from contacting them pursuant to the terms of the Court's prior Injunction. (DO 4 at 2-3.)

¹ Accordingly, the Court DENIES as moot Defendant LSA's Motion for an Order Scheduling a Hearing for Defendant LSA's Objections. (Docket Item No. 113.) As the Court has previously stated, there is no requirement to grant Defendant "a hearing" on its objections, as Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 53(f) merely speaks to "giv[ing] the parties notice and an opportunity to be heard." Fed. R. Civ. P. 53(f)(1). (See Docket Item No. 104.) Here, Defendant LSA has filed an extensive brief for the Court's consideration. (Docket Item No. 111.) Thus, the Court has afforded Defendant LSA with an opportunity to make its case.

1 The Court reconsiders a recommendation of the Special Master pertaining to a non-
2 dispositive motion or pretrial discovery matter only where the Special Master's recommendation is
3 clearly erroneous or contrary to law. (See Order of Appointment, Docket Item No. 51 at 2.)


4 Here, the Court finds that the Special Master's recommendation is not clearly erroneous or
5 contrary to law. The Court's Injunction prevents Defendant from:

6 Contacting, communicating, soliciting, dealing, or doing business with any of the customers
7 or their representatives appearing on the Brian List, the September 2009 Report or any other
8 document or records containing any of Plaintiff's Trade Secrets, except where Defendant
9 LSA has an existing contractual relationship with such a customer that was not obtained
10 using any of Plaintiff's Trade Secrets, and only to the extent necessary for Defendant LSA to
11 satisfy its currently existing contractual obligations to that customer.

12 (Docket Item No. 50 at 10-11.) The Special Master found that Defendant's own moving papers
13 demonstrated that Defendant LSA was "seeking to do business with this entity for the first time."
14 (DO 4 at 2-3.) The Special Master also found, and Defendant LSA does not contest, that National
15 Grid was listed on one of the misappropriated trade secret lists. (Id. at 3; see generally Objections.)
16 Moreover, while Defendant LSA contends that there is no evidence that Defendant LSA could have
17 used any of Plaintiff's information to compete for National Grid's account, the Special Master
18 specifically rejected this contention and noted that two of Plaintiff's former employees, Patrick
19 Curtin (an individual Defendant) and Jerry Lotierzo, who now work for Defendant LSA, had
20 supervisory responsibility for National Grid and thus were exposed to confidential communications
21 regarding that customer. (DO 4 at 3-4.) Upon review, the Court finds that these factual findings by
22 the Special Master are not clearly erroneous. To the extent that Defendant again seeks to revisit or
23 modify the terms of the Injunction, the Court has previously denied Defendant's Motion for
24 Reconsideration. (See Docket Item No. 66.)

25 Accordingly, the Court OVERRULES Defendant's Objection to Special Master Discovery
26 Order No. 4.

27 Dated: January 19, 2011

28 
JAMES WARE
United States District Chief Judge

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT COPIES OF THIS ORDER HAVE BEEN DELIVERED TO:

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Dated: January 19, 2011

Richard W. Wieking, Clerk

By: /s/ JW Chambers
Elizabeth Garcia
Courtroom Deputy