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 8

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

12 Tesla Motors, Inc.,	)	CASE NO.: 5:16-cv-00288
	)	
13 Plaintiff,	)	<b>COMPLAINT FOR:</b>
	)	
14 v.	)	1) DECLARATORY JUDGMENT
	)	
15 Hoerbiger Automotive Comfort Systems, LLC	)	2) PROMISSORY ESTOPPEL
and Hoerbiger America Holding, Inc.,	)	
16 Defendants.	)	3) NEGLIGENT MISREPRESENTATION
	)	
17	)	4) NEGLIGENCE
18	)	
	)	<b>DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL</b>
19	)	
20	)	
21	)	
22	)	

**COMPLAINT**

1  
2 Plaintiff Tesla Motors, Inc. (“TESLA”), by and through its undersigned attorneys, brings  
3 this action against Defendant Hoerbiger Automotive Comfort Systems, LLC and Hoerbiger  
4 America Holding, Inc. (collectively referred to as “HOERBIGER”), alleging upon knowledge as  
5 to its own acts and upon information and belief with respect to all other matters, as follows:

**NATURE OF THE ACTION**

6  
7 1. In February 2014, after extensive negotiations, TESLA and HOERBIGER entered into an  
8 agreement entitled GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR PROTOTYPE OR  
9 PRODUCTION – PARTS OR SERVICES (“the GTC”). The GTC established the legal  
10 framework for a business relationship between TESLA and HOERBIGER with respect to the  
11 development and production of a hydraulic actuation system to be used in the Falcon Wing doors  
12 of TESLA’S highly anticipated Model X vehicle. Among other things, the GTC sets forth the  
13 binding terms and conditions that govern the parties’ rights and responsibilities in the event  
14 TESLA decides to issue a purchase order (“PO”) to HOERBIGER or a dispute arises regarding the  
15 parties' relationship. By its terms, the GTC is incorporated into every PO that is issued.

16 2. The GTC provides that TESLA may issue two types of POs to HOERBIGER: (1)  
17 discrete purchase orders (“Discrete POs”) for parts or services that are required in connection with  
18 the *development* of a product, including for single ad hoc orders for prototype parts, and (2)  
19 production purchase orders (“Production POs”) for the future supply of production parts  
20 conditioned upon the issuance of corresponding Releases as defined in the GTC. The GTC does  
21 not obligate TESLA to issue any POs and does not require TESLA to order a single part or service  
22 from HOERBIGER, much less obligate TESLA to treat HOERBIGER as its exclusive supplier for  
23 parts. Nor does the GTC require that because TESLA chooses to issue some POs, it must issue  
24 more. In addition, the GTC provides that TESLA can cancel a PO at any time, with liability  
25 expressly limited to the discrete categories set forth in the GTC.

26 3. Following the parties’ execution of the GTC and in accordance with its terms, TESLA  
27 issued several Discrete POs to HOERBIGER relating to engineering, design and testing

1 (collectively referred to as “ED&T”), development of prototypes, and other discrete projects in  
2 connection with the initial development phase of the actuation system for the Falcon Wing doors.

3 4. TESLA did not issue any Production POs because the parties never entered the  
4 production phase. To move from the development phase to the production phase, vendors must go  
5 through an extensive qualifying process to ensure that the prototypes are production-ready. The  
6 parties never entered the production phase because, although HOERBIGER had represented it  
7 could produce a production-ready hydraulic actuation system, HOERBIGER failed to deliver a  
8 product that met TESLA’S specifications or that fulfilled HOERBIGER’S promises. On numerous  
9 occasions, TESLA notified HOERBIGER of the multitude of defects with its product. While  
10 HOERBIGER insisted it could fix the problems, HOERBIGER failed to do so.

11 5. Instead, HOERBIGER provided a product that never came close to being ready for  
12 production. For example, the system was prone to overheating, which caused it to shut down—  
13 making the doors inoperable—when TESLA stress-tested a prototype vehicle. The doors also did  
14 not open with the speed or symmetry that TESLA required, including when a prototype vehicle  
15 was parked at an incline or when the system was exposed to extreme temperatures.  
16 HOERBIGER’S doors also “sagged” beyond TESLA’S specified tolerance levels. Furthermore,  
17 the product persistently leaked oil, both internally and externally, which, as HOERBIGER  
18 acknowledged, was entirely unacceptable, negatively impacting performance as well as leaving  
19 unsightly markings and stains inside the vehicle. In sum, HOERBIGER’S prototype never came  
20 close to fulfilling the promises made by HOERBIGER. Ultimately, the deficiencies in  
21 HOERBIGER’S product made it an unworkable engineering solution for the Falcon Wing doors of  
22 the Model X.

23 6. Accordingly, after enduring HOERBIGER’S defects and false assurances, paying for a  
24 year of fruitless development work, and having incurred significant costs as a result of  
25 HOERBIGER’S failed promises, TESLA decided to pursue an alternative supplier and engineering  
26 design for the actuation system of the Model X Falcon Wing doors. TESLA notified  
27 HOERBIGER of this decision and paid HOERBIGER all sums due and owing to it.

28

1 7. Since TESLA terminated this relationship, HOERBIGER has made a series of  
2 unreasonable demands, including that TESLA was obligated to work with HOERBIGER for the  
3 life of the Model X program and that TESLA owes HOERBIGER types of damages that are  
4 specifically barred by the parties' agreement.

5 8. TESLA brings this action in order to obtain a judicial declaration that TESLA is not in  
6 breach of any contractual obligation to HOERBIGER and that TESLA owes nothing to  
7 HOERBIGER. TESLA also brings claims, in the alternative, for promissory estoppel, negligent  
8 misrepresentation, and negligence to recover for HOERBIGER'S false representations, on which  
9 TESLA relied to its detriment.

10 **THE PARTIES**

11 9. Plaintiff Tesla Motors, Inc. ("TESLA") is a Delaware corporation headquartered at 3500  
12 Deer Creek Road in Palo Alto, California. At all relevant times, TESLA was qualified to do  
13 business in California.

14 10. Defendant Hoerbiger Automotive Comfort Systems, LLC is located in Auburn, Alabama  
15 and is organized and existing under the laws of the State of Alabama.

16 11. Defendant Hoerbiger America Holding, Inc. is located in Deerfield Beach, Florida and is  
17 organized and existing under the laws of the State of Florida. Hoerbiger America Holding, Inc. is  
18 the parent company of Hoerbiger Automotive Comfort Systems, LLC. Defendants Hoerbiger  
19 Automotive Comfort Systems, LLC and Hoerbiger America Holding, Inc. are collectively referred  
20 to herein as "HOERBIGER."

21 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

22 12. This is an action for declaratory relief, promissory estoppel, negligent misrepresentation,  
23 and negligence. This Court has jurisdiction over Tesla's claim for declaratory relief pursuant to 28  
24 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202. This Court also has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action  
25 pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332 because the Parties are citizens of different states and the amount in  
26 controversy, the value of the right to be protected, and/or the extent of the injury to be prevented in  
27 this action exceeds \$75,000.

1 13. HOERBIGER has established minimum contacts with this forum such that the exercise  
2 of personal jurisdiction over HOERBIGER will not offend traditional notions of fair play and  
3 substantial justice. In particular, HOERBIGER has committed such purposeful acts and/or  
4 transactions in the State of California that it reasonably knew and/or expected that it could be sued  
5 in a California court as a consequence of such activity. Moreover, HOERBIGER has purposefully  
6 availed itself of the benefits and protections of the State of California by entering into and  
7 executing agreements with TESLA relating to business ultimately to be conducted within the state.  
8 Furthermore, under the GTC, HOERBIGER irrevocably submitted to exclusive jurisdiction in the  
9 federal courts sitting in the Northern District of California and the state courts sitting in Santa Clara  
10 County, California for all disputes arising under or relating to the GTC. (**Exhibit A** at §§ 19.1,  
11 19.2, and 22.15.)

12 14. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2) because a substantial  
13 portion of the events giving rise to the claims raised in this lawsuit occurred in this judicial district.  
14 Moreover, under the GTC, HOERBIGER expressly agreed that the federal courts in the Northern  
15 District of California and the state courts in Santa Clara County shall be the exclusive venues for  
16 any dispute arising under or relating to the GTC, and irrevocably waived any and all objections it  
17 might have to venue in either such court. (**Exhibit A** at §§ 19.1, 19.2, and 22.15.)

18 15. Assignment to the San Jose Division of this District is proper pursuant to Local Rule 3-  
19 2(c) because a substantial part of the events giving rise to the claims raised in this lawsuit occurred  
20 in Santa Clara County.

#### 21 **FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

#### 22 **TESLA CONTEMPLATES USING HYDRAULIC PARTS ON THE FALCON WING** 23 **DOORS OF ITS MODEL X VEHICLE**

24 16. TESLA is an American automotive and energy storage company headquartered in Palo  
25 Alto, California. TESLA designs, manufactures, and sells electric cars, electric vehicle powertrain  
26 components, and battery products. TESLA is best known for revolutionizing the automobile  
27 industry by introducing electric vehicles that feature cutting-edge technology and designs.

28 17. In or around 2011, TESLA set out to expand its line of electric cars by developing the

1 Model X, a state-of-the-art full-size crossover SUV. The prototype was unveiled at TESLA'S  
2 Design Studio in Los Angeles on February 9, 2012. Among many other groundbreaking design  
3 features, the Model X can be recognized by its signature Falcon Wing doors, which open vertically  
4 over the vehicle, rather than outwardly like traditional car doors.

5 18. The early design of the Model X Falcon Wing doors contemplated the use of hydraulic  
6 parts. The need for design and production services pertaining to these hydraulic parts led TESLA  
7 to several suppliers in the field of hydraulic systems, one of which was HOERBIGER.

8  
9 **HOERBIGER ASSURES TESLA OF ITS EXPERTISE AND AGREES TO BEAR  
FINANCIAL RISK IN ORDER TO WIN THE COVETED MODEL X BUSINESS**

10 19. To obtain bids from potential suppliers, TESLA issued a Request For Quotation ("RFQ")  
11 regarding the use of hydraulic parts in the Falcon Wing doors of the Model X. TESLA'S RFQ  
12 presented an important opportunity for a hydraulics company like HOERBIGER. TESLA is a  
13 well-regarded and high-profile company selling premium vehicles that have frequently won awards  
14 and been featured in the press. The Model X, for example, was featured in countless articles,  
15 automobile discussion groups, and both high-tech and clean-tech blogs alike, years before the  
16 vehicle was even available to the general public for purchase. Some in the industry have identified  
17 it as "one of the most eagerly awaited vehicles in recent memory." As a result, TESLA'S RFQ  
18 provided HOERBIGER a unique opportunity to be part of an exciting and high-profile project that  
19 was poised to generate headlines and positive press. Indeed, HOERBIGER described the  
20 opportunity as potentially being one of the company's "North American Milestones."

21 20. The RFQ also presented HOERBIGER with a lucrative opportunity because of the  
22 potential high-volume nature of the project. TESLA'S early product forecasts anticipated  
23 significant future demand for the Model X, for which TESLA has tens of thousands of outstanding  
24 reservations. Furthermore, the Model X, unlike many other cars that use hydraulic parts, would  
25 have required eight actuation systems per vehicle (two primary and two secondary hydraulic  
26 actuators per door). Accordingly, this was a high-value opportunity due to the substantial demand  
27 for the Model X and the vehicle's unique engineering specifications.

1 21. HOERBIGER and other bidders fiercely competed for the opportunity to supply the  
2 actuation system for the Model X Falcon Wing doors – a competition that HOERBIGER conceded  
3 was a “very demanding five month concept competition phase.” Each bidder engaged in lengthy  
4 negotiations with TESLA over several months in their respective attempts to win the opportunity to  
5 do business relating to the Model X vehicle.

6 22. TESLA entered into preliminary discussions with HOERBIGER in large part due to  
7 HOERBIGER’S claims regarding its experience in the field of hydraulics. During the parties’  
8 discussions, HOERBIGER boasted of its expertise concerning hydraulic systems and parts as well  
9 as its vast experience designing and manufacturing hydraulic systems for numerous automakers.

10 23. These representations were important to TESLA because securing a supplier that  
11 could satisfy TESLA’S specifications and deliver a high quality product of the kind for which  
12 TESLA was known was critical to the success of the project. The value TESLA placed on  
13 HOERBIGER’S claimed expertise and ability to deliver high quality work was communicated to  
14 HOERBIGER during the parties’ discussions. Accordingly, HOERBIGER had full knowledge of  
15 these matters.

16 24. During the initial discussions and throughout the term of the parties’ relationship,  
17 HOERBIGER assured TESLA that HOERBIGER could meet TESLA’S specifications and provide  
18 a functional and production-ready hydraulic actuation system for use in the Model X Falcon Wing  
19 doors. Indeed, HOERBIGER was adamant that it could and would deliver a system that would  
20 perform according to TESLA’S control and durability requirements.

21 25. During their negotiations regarding the business terms of their potential arrangement, the  
22 parties discussed (among many other terms) allocation of financial risk between the parties. It was  
23 critical to TESLA that it would not be held financially responsible for its supplier’s costs, losses, or  
24 expenditures in the event it decided to pursue a different engineering solution or a different  
25 supplier for the actuation parts in the Model X Falcon Wing doors. This was a necessary condition  
26 for TESLA and one which HOERBIGER expressly accepted (as reflected in Section 20 of the GTC)  
27 in order to be considered for this high-profile and high-volume opportunity.

28

1 26. HOERBIGER was well aware of the existence—and implications—of the risk allocation  
2 to which it was agreeing. Indeed, during one exchange between the parties, HOERBIGER  
3 requested that TESLA delete Section 20 of the GTC limiting TESLA’S liability (discussed *infra*).  
4 But because of the importance of this provision to TESLA, TESLA insisted that the provision  
5 “must remain” in the document. Despite HOERBIGER’S initial request that this provision be  
6 stricken, HOERBIGER acceded to this term and executed the GTC containing Section 20 limiting  
7 TESLA’S liability.

8 27. Ultimately, TESLA chose to move forward with HOERBIGER in connection with the  
9 development of actuation parts in the Model X’s Falcon Wing doors. TESLA made this decision  
10 because of HOERBIGER’S claimed expertise in hydraulics, representations made in the  
11 competitive bidding process, its efficient packaging proposal, its proposed cost structure, and its  
12 agreement that it (and *not* TESLA) would bear the financial risk associated with the possibility that  
13 TESLA might ultimately choose not to purchase parts from HOERBIGER.

14 **THE PARTIES ENTER INTO THE GTC**

15 28. On February 14, 2014, after months of negotiations, the parties entered into the GTC  
16 (**Exhibit A.**) As set forth above, the GTC provides the legal framework for the parties’ business  
17 relationship and the legally binding terms and conditions that apply if POs were to be issued or a  
18 dispute were to arise regarding the parties’ relationship. The GTC authorizes TESLA to issue two  
19 types of POs: Discrete POs for parts or services that are required in connection with the  
20 *development* of a product, including for single ad hoc orders for prototype parts, and Production  
21 POs for the supply of production-ready parts. Under the express terms of the GTC, each PO issued  
22 by TESLA and accepted by HOERBIGER, together with the GTC, forms a separate, distinct, and  
23 standalone “Contract” for the parts and/or services described in the PO. (**Exhibit A** at §1.4.) Each  
24 PO incorporates, and is subject to, the GTC. (*Id.*)

25 29. The GTC also expressly provides which documents can—and cannot—be included  
26 within the scope of each Contract. (**Exhibit A** at §1.4.) Specifically, the GTC limits this scope to  
27 (i) the terms of the GTC itself, (ii) the applicable Discrete or Production PO, (iii) documents and  
28



1 attachments specifically referenced in the relevant purchase order, and (iv) any “other additional  
2 written agreements” that are signed by both parties (collectively referred to in the GTC as the  
3 “Contract Documents”) (*Id.* at §§1.4 and 22.) The GTC does not allow any other documents or  
4 representations to be included within the scope of a Contract. To be sure, the GTC has an  
5 integration clause that specifically excludes oral communications and unsigned documents from  
6 being incorporated into any of the Contracts. (*Id.* at §21.10.)

7 **A. Discrete Purchase Orders**

8 30. As to the development phase of the project, the GTC authorizes TESLA to issue Discrete  
9 POs to HOERBIGER for “Goods or Services including development [of] parts and/or development  
10 services.” (**Exhibit A** at §1.2(a)(ii).) Discrete POs are purchase orders for parts or services that  
11 are required in connection with the *development* of a product, including for single ad hoc orders for  
12 prototype parts. Each Discrete PO incorporates, and is subject to, the GTC and constitutes an  
13 individual stand-alone Contract. (*Id.* at §1.4.) TESLA has the right to cancel a Discrete PO at any  
14 time. (*Id.* at §1.5(a).) Upon such cancellation, HOERBIGER must stop all work under the  
15 applicable PO. (*Id.*)

16 **B. Production Purchase Orders**

17 31. The GTC also authorizes TESLA, if it so chooses, to issue Production POs for parts to be  
18 used in vehicle *production*. As with Discrete POs, each Production PO would incorporate and be  
19 subject to the GTC and constitute an individual stand-alone Contract. (**Exhibit A** at §1.4.) Before  
20 issuing a Production PO, TESLA requires its suppliers to successfully demonstrate that its  
21 proposed part complies with TESLA’S industry-standard Production Part Approval Process  
22 (“PPAP”) as required under the GTC. During this process, TESLA’S engineers perform a full and  
23 final review of the proposed part to ensure that it meets all of TESLA’S technical requirements.  
24 Once the product is approved, TESLA may then issue a Production PO. Production POs typically  
25 identify the part ID and TESLA’S non-binding forecasted need for that part over a specified period.  
26 They do not, however, typically contain the applicable pricing terms.

27 32. In the GTC, the parties agreed that Production POs are not binding agreements to order  
28

1 or purchase parts. The GTC states: “Quantities referenced in any Production PO represent  
2 TESLA’S estimate of its anticipated needs for such Products during the timeframe referenced in  
3 such Production PO and are provided for Seller’s *planning purposes only*.” (**Exhibit A** at §1.1(b)  
4 (emphasis added).) TESLA is only obligated to purchase parts under a Production PO if and to the  
5 extent TESLA issues a corresponding Release (also referred to as “call off schedule”), which  
6 specifies quantities and delivery dates, against a particular Production PO. (*Id.* §§1.2(b), 1.2(c),  
7 1.5(b), 1.5(c).) TESLA has the right to cancel a Discrete PO at any time. (*Id.* at §1.5(a).)

8 33. As set forth below, because HOERBIGER never came close to providing a production-  
9 ready hydraulic actuation system, TESLA never issued any Production POs or corresponding  
10 Releases to HOERBIGER.

11 **C. No Obligation To Order Parts Or Services**

12 34. The GTC does not obligate TESLA to issue any POs or purchase a single part or service.  
13 (**Exhibit A** at §1.5.)

14 35. Furthermore, TESLA can cancel a PO at any time for any reason, with liability expressly  
15 limited to the discrete categories set forth in the GTC. (**Exhibit A** at §12.4(a).)

16 **D. Hoerbiger’s Exclusive Remedies Under The GTC**

17 36. Section 12.4 of the GTC sets forth the only types of damages that are recoverable by  
18 HOERBIGER in the event a Contract is breached. (**Exhibit A** at §12.4(a).) Those damages are  
19 expressly limited to: (1) the purchase price for all conforming “Products” received by TESLA; (2)  
20 amounts owed for “Transition Support”; (3) certain raw materials and components that were  
21 purchased in order to meet the requirements of the relevant Release; and (4) any amounts owed  
22 pursuant to a Production Pricing Agreement. (*Id.* at §§12.4(a)(i)-(iv).) These damages, however,  
23 are not available to a supplier as a matter of right. Nor are they available if TESLA decides to  
24 order parts from a different supplier or if it simply declines to order any parts in the first place.  
25 They are only available in the event TESLA defaults or otherwise breaches a Contract.

26 37. Section 12.4 of the GTC further provides that the payment of these amounts “complete[ly]  
27 and final[ly] satisf[ies] . . . any and all liabilities relating to the Contract.” (*Id.*) Pursuant to the  
28

1 GTC, these cost categories are the *only* damages that HOERBIGER could recover in the event of a  
2 breach by TESLA.

3 **E. Express Limitations On Tesla's Liability**

4 38. In addition to identifying the *only* cost categories that would be recoverable in the event  
5 of a contractual breach, the GTC also sets out, in clear and unambiguous terms, certain types of  
6 damages for which TESLA may not be held liable under any circumstances. Section 20, entitled  
7 "Tesla Limitation of Liability," expressly precludes HOERBIGER from recovering any  
8 consequential damages, anticipated profits, or incidental damages, as well as all other costs,  
9 expenses, and losses:

10 In no event will Tesla be liable for anticipated profits, interest, penalties or incidental,  
11 consequential, punitive, multiple, or exemplary damages or liabilities in connection with the  
12 Contract, whether for breach of contract, late payment, property damage, personal injury,  
13 illness, or death or otherwise. In addition and without limiting any of the foregoing, Tesla  
14 will have no obligation for and will not be required to pay Seller, directly or on account of  
15 claims by Seller's subcontractors, for loss of anticipated profit, failure to realize anticipated  
16 production volumes, revenues or savings, unabsorbed overhead, interest on claims, product  
17 development and engineering costs, tooling, facilities and equipment rearrangement costs or  
18 rental, unamortized capital or depreciation costs, or general administrative burden charges  
19 from termination of the Contract . . . .

20 (Exhibit A at §20 (emphasis added).)

21 **THE PARTIES' PERFORMANCE UNDER THE GTC**

22 **A. Tesla Issues Nine Discrete POs**

23 39. Between February 2014 and May 2015, TESLA issued nine Discrete POs to  
24 HOERBIGER for parts and services in connection with the development of hydraulic parts for the  
25 Model X Falcon Wing doors, including tooling expenses, engineering, design and testing  
26 ("ED&T"), and various prototypes and builds. Each Discrete PO constituted a separate Contract  
27 between the parties, which incorporated the GTC and other applicable Contract Documents.

28 40. HOERBIGER issued more than two dozen invoices in connection with the nine Discrete  
POs, totaling approximately \$3 million. TESLA has paid HOERBIGER all amounts invoiced.

**B. Hoerbiger Delivers Defective Prototypes**

41. Between March 2014 and May 2015, pursuant to the nine Discrete POs, HOERBIGER  
provided TESLA with several iterations of the proposed hydraulic actuation system. During this

1 process, TESLA discovered several fundamental problems with the proposed system. For example,  
2 the system was prone to overheating, which caused it to shut down—making the doors  
3 inoperable—when stress-tested by TESLA. The doors also did not open with the speed or  
4 symmetry that TESLA required, including when a prototype vehicle was parked at an incline or  
5 when the system was exposed to extreme temperatures. HOERBIGER’S doors also “sagged”  
6 beyond TESLA’S specified tolerance levels. Furthermore, the product persistently leaked oil,  
7 which, as HOERBIGER acknowledged, was entirely unacceptable, negatively impacting  
8 functionality and aesthetics.

9 42. Serious questions also arose regarding the system’s impact on the Model X assembly  
10 process and overall cost of the system. For example, the unanticipated complexity in integrating  
11 the system into the vehicle, which was caused by HOERBIGER’S defective workmanship and its  
12 failure to properly apprise TESLA of the logistics concerning installation of the actuator,  
13 significantly increased the vehicle’s assembly time. It also caused the prospective cost of the  
14 system to increase to levels far greater than what HOERBIGER had led TESLA to expect.

15 43. TESLA repeatedly advised HOERBIGER of these issues and attempted to work with  
16 HOERBIGER to fix them. In response, HOERBIGER assured TESLA that it could and would fix  
17 the problems and provide a product that would meet TESLA’S specifications and that was  
18 production-ready, but failed to do so. TESLA relied on HOERBIGER and believed HOERBIGER  
19 could deliver on its promises.

20 44. Although the product delivered by HOERBIGER during the development process was  
21 defective, TESLA nevertheless paid HOERBIGER millions of dollars because HOERBIGER  
22 continued to assure TESLA it would resolve the issues. TESLA relied on these assurances and  
23 continued to work with HOERBIGER during what ultimately proved to be more than a year of  
24 wasted development efforts.

### 25 C. The Production Pricing Agreement

26 45. In March 2014, the parties prepared a Production Pricing Agreement (“PPA”), a  
27 precursor to a Production PO that TESLA might later choose to issue. As noted above, Production  
28

1 POs generally do not contain product pricing. Accordingly, a PPA is typically issued in  
2 conjunction with, and generally prior to TESLA'S issuance of, a Production PO.

3 46. The PPA, which was not signed by both parties, did not impose any obligations upon  
4 TESLA. Instead, it confirmed the target prices the parties negotiated during the bidding process so  
5 TESLA could be assured that the part under development would be correctly priced in the event it  
6 were to qualify for production and TESLA were to issue a Production PO and corresponding  
7 Release as contemplated under the GTC.

8 47. TESLA and HOERBIGER understood that the PPA in and of itself would not be an  
9 agreement to order or manufacture products. Indeed, the PPA, consistent with the GTC, reinforces  
10 that TESLA was not obligated to order any parts from HOERBIGER. The PPA specifically states:  
11 *"Supplier acknowledges that the production volume shown in this agreement is provided for*  
12 *planning purposes only and is not a volume guarantee . . ."* (emphasis added.) The PPA makes  
13 clear that "quantities" and "delivery dates" would only become "binding" if they were "specified in  
14 the individual call off schedules issued by TESLA" (i.e., "Releases" as that term is used in the  
15 GTC). Moreover, the PPA expressly disclaims any and all potential liability premised on TESLA'S  
16 decision *not* to order parts: *"Tesla shall have no liability for failure to order the forecasted*  
17 *volumes."* (emphasis added.)

18 48. As a result of HOERBIGER'S failures described above, TESLA determined not to enter  
19 into the production phase with any HOERBIGER product and thus did not issue any Production  
20 POs or Releases to HOERBIGER.

21  
22 **TESLA DECIDES TO USE ELECTROMECHANICAL,**  
**RATHER THAN HYDRAULIC, PARTS**

23 49. By May 2015, it became clear that HOERBIGER could not deliver a product consistent  
24 with TESLA'S specifications and requirements as HOERBIGER repeatedly promised.

25 50. Accordingly, after paying HOERBIGER for fruitless development work, TESLA made  
26 the decision to pursue a more traditional engineering solution in connection with the Falcon Wing  
27 doors. TESLA understood that changing the technical specifications of the actuation system for  
28

1 the Falcon Wing doors would likely create further cost beyond what HOERBIGER'S failures had  
2 already caused. But TESLA concluded this change was necessary, since after a year of wasted  
3 efforts, it no longer believed that HOERBIGER could deliver a hydraulic system that it promised  
4 and which would satisfy TESLA'S requirements. Accordingly, TESLA notified HOERBIGER of  
5 its decision to use electromechanical parts, instead of hydraulic ones, and thus revised the  
6 engineering design of the Falcon Wing doors.

7 51. Since TESLA terminated this relationship, HOERBIGER has made a series of  
8 unreasonable demands, including that TESLA was obligated to work with HOERBIGER for the  
9 life of the Model X program and that TESLA owes HOERBIGER types of damages that are  
10 specifically barred by the parties' agreement.

11  
12 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**  
**(For Declaratory Relief)**

13 52. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1 through 50, inclusive, by reference as though set forth  
14 in full.

15 53. The Declaratory Judgment Act, 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201-2202, authorizes this Court to issue a  
16 declaratory judgment.

17 54. There is a justiciable and actual controversy between TESLA and HOERBIGER with  
18 respect to the parties' rights and obligations under the documents described herein that is ripe for  
19 adjudication by the Court.

20 55. Despite TESLA'S performance in full of its obligations to HOERBIGER, a dispute has  
21 arisen as to whether TESLA was contractually obligated to purchase production parts from  
22 HOERBIGER and whether HOERBIGER is entitled to recover for TESLA'S decision not to  
23 purchase such parts.

24 56. TESLA paid HOERBIGER in full all amounts invoiced under the Discrete POs and thus  
25 owes HOERBIGER nothing for any parts or services provided during the development phase.  
26 TESLA likewise owes HOERBIGER nothing for any parts or services under the production phase.  
27 Because HOERBIGER never came close to providing a production-ready hydraulic actuation  
28

1 system, the parties never even entered into the production phase. Per the express terms of the GTC  
2 and as reflected in the PPA, TESLA has no obligation to purchase any parts or services from  
3 HOERBIGER whatsoever, whether such parts or services relate to the development or production  
4 phase of a project. Accordingly, TESLA committed no contractual breach.

5 57. Moreover, even if there had been a breach, Section 12.4 of the GTC sets forth the *only*  
6 cost categories that HOERBIGER could seek. TESLA does not owe any amount under any of  
7 these categories.

8 58. The parties endeavored to resolve their disputes through the dispute resolution procedures  
9 set forth in the GTC, but were unsuccessful. Because HOERBIGER has not relented in its claims,  
10 the parties remain at an impasse necessitating the intervention of the Court to clarify the parties'  
11 rights and obligations.

12 59. Based on the facts and circumstances alleged herein, TESLA is entitled to a judicial  
13 declaration that (1) TESLA is not in breach of any contractual obligation to HOERBIGER, and (2)  
14 TESLA owes HOERBIGER nothing.

15 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**  
16 **(For Promissory Estoppel)**

17 60. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1 through 58, inclusive, by reference as though set forth  
18 in full.

19 61. In the alternative, TESLA alleges that HOERBIGER promised that it would be able to  
20 provide a production-ready part that complied with TESLA'S specifications and requirements.

21 62. As explained above, HOERBIGER did not do this. Instead, HOERBIGER provided  
22 TESLA with defective prototypes that that did not come close to being production-ready.

23 63. Despite these deficiencies, for a year HOERBIGER represented and reassured TESLA  
24 that it would be able to address and fix these problems, but failed to do so.

25 64. As set forth above, TESLA relied on these promises.

26 65. TESLA'S reliance was reasonable, justifiable, and foreseeable.

27 66. As alleged above, HOERBIGER breached these promises.

28 67. As a direct and proximate cause of HOERBIGER'S false promises, TESLA incurred

1 millions of dollars in damages, including, but not limited to (i) costs of re-tooling the entire vehicle  
2 in order to support a different engineering solution, (ii) costs that were sunk into testing the Model  
3 X vehicle that embodied the HOERBIGER hydraulic part, (iii) premium payments that TESLA  
4 needed to pay a new supplier to provide alternative electromechanical parts within TESLA'S  
5 timeline for production, and (iv) costs associated with the business disruption within TESLA'S  
6 sourcing, engineering, and business teams caused by HOERBIGER'S inability to fulfill its  
7 promises.

8 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**  
9 **(For Negligent Misrepresentation)**

10 68. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1 through 66, inclusive, by reference as though set forth  
11 in full.

12 69. In the alternative, TESLA alleges that HOERBIGER, orally and in writing, represented to  
13 TESLA that it would be able to provide a production-ready part that complied with TESLA'S  
14 specifications and requirements.

15 70. As set forth above, HOERBIGER had no reasonable basis for believing these  
16 representations were true when it made them to TESLA. Indeed, HOERBIGER made these  
17 representations recklessly, carelessly, and negligently, in order to be selected as a supplier for  
18 TESLA.

19 71. As set forth above, TESLA reasonably, justifiably, and reasonably relied on these false  
20 representations.

21 72. As a direct and proximate cause of HOERBIGER'S negligent misrepresentations,  
22 TESLA incurred millions of dollars in damages, including, but not limited to (i) costs of re-tooling  
23 the entire vehicle in order to support a different engineering solution, (ii) costs that were sunk into  
24 testing the Model X vehicle that embodied the HOERBIGER hydraulic part, (iii) premium  
25 payments that TESLA needed to pay a new supplier to provide alternative electromechanical parts  
26 within TESLA'S timeline for production, and (iv) costs associated with the business disruption  
27 within TESLA'S sourcing, engineering, and business teams caused by HOERBIGER'S inability to  
28 fulfill its promises.



**FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**  
**(For Negligence)**

1  
2  
3 73. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1 through 71, inclusive, by reference as though set forth  
4 in full.

5 74. In the alternative, TESLA alleges that at all times relevant herein, HOERBIGER owed a  
6 duty of care to TESLA by virtue of holding itself out as a capable supplier and an expert in the  
7 field of hydraulics and because of its promises that it would be able to provide a production-ready  
8 part that complied with TESLA'S specifications and requirements.

9 75. As set forth above, in failing to provide products consistent with these promises while  
10 falsely reassuring TESLA that it would be able to address the problems with its proposed part,  
11 HOERBIGER breached the duty of care it owed to TESLA.

12 76. As a direct and proximate cause of HOERBIGER'S negligence, TESLA incurred  
13 millions of dollars in damages, including, but not limited to (i) costs of re-tooling the entire vehicle  
14 in order to support a different engineering solution, (ii) costs that were sunk into testing the Model  
15 X vehicle that embodied the HOERBIGER hydraulic part, (iii) premium payments that TESLA  
16 needed to pay a new supplier to provide alternative electromechanical parts within TESLA'S  
17 timeline for production, and (iv) costs associated with the business disruption within TESLA'S  
18 sourcing, engineering, and business teams caused by HOERBIGER'S inability to fulfill its  
19 promises.

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

20 WHEREFORE, TESLA prays that a judgment be entered against HOERBIGER as follows:

- 21 1. For a judicial declaration that: (i) TESLA is not in breach of any contractual  
22 obligation to HOERBIGER, and (ii) TESLA owes HOERBIGER nothing;  
23  
24 2. For compensatory, special, and general damages in favor of TESLA in an amount to  
25 be determined at trial;  
26 3. For punitive damages in an amount to be determined at trial;  
27 4. For pre-judgment interest on any recovery by TESLA;  
28 5. For costs of suit incurred herein; and

