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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

PTOL-90A  (Rev. 04/07)

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# Transmittal of Communication to Third Party Requester
## *Inter Partes* Reexamination

REEXAMINATION CONTROL NUMBER *95/001,409*.

PATENT NUMBER *7,680,256*.

TECHNOLOGY CENTER *3900*.

ART UNIT *3992*.

Enclosed is a copy of the latest communication from the United States Patent and Trademark Office in the above-identified reexamination proceeding. 37 CFR 1.903.

Prior to the filing of a Notice of Appeal, each time the patent owner responds to this communication, the third party requester of the *inter partes* reexamination may once file written comments within a period of 30 days from the date of service of the patent owner's response. This 30-day time period is statutory (35 U.S.C. 314(b)(2)), and, as such, it <u>cannot</u> be extended. See also 37 CFR 1.947.

If an *ex parte* reexamination has been merged with the *inter partes* reexamination, no responsive submission by any *ex parte* third party requester is permitted.

**All correspondence** relating to this inter partes reexamination proceeding should be directed to the **Central Reexamination Unit** at the mail, FAX, or hand-carry addresses given at the end of the communication enclosed with this transmittal.

PTOL-2070 (Rev.07-04)

| ORDER GRANTING/DENYING REQUEST FOR INTER PARTES REEXAMINATION | Control No. 95/001,409 | Patent Under Reexamination 7680256 |
|---|---|---|
| | Examiner OVIDIO ESCALANTE | Art Unit 3992 |

*-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address. --*

The request for *inter partes* reexamination has been considered. Identification of the claims, the references relied on, and the rationale supporting the determination are attached.

Attachment(s):  ☒ PTO-892   ☐ PTO/SB/08   ☒Other: <u>Decision</u>

1. ☒ The request for *inter partes* reexamination is GRANTED.

   ☒ An Office action is attached with this order.

   ☐ An Office action will follow in due course.

2. ☐ The request for *inter partes* reexamination is DENIED.

This decision is not appealable. 35 U.S.C. 312(c). Requester may seek review of a denial by petition to the Director of the USPTO within ONE MONTH from the mailing date hereof. 37 CFR 1.927. EXTENSIONS OF TIME ONLY UNDER 37 CFR 1.183. In due course, a refund under 37 CFR 1.26(c) will be made to requester.

**All correspondence** relating to this *inter partes* reexamination proceeding should be directed to the **Central Reexamination Unit** at the mail, FAX, or hand-carry addresses given at the end of this Order.

## DECISION GRANTING *INTER PARTES* REEXAMINATION

1.    A substantial new question of patentability affecting claims 1-13 of United States Patent

Number 7,680,256 is raised by the request for *inter partes* reexamination.


### *References Cited in the Request*

2.    The Request identifies the following printed publications as providing teachings relevant

to the claims of the '256 patent.


1.    Singh et al., CINEMA: Columbia InterNet Extensible Multimedia Architecture,
      *Columbia University Technical Report CUCS-011-02*, New York, NY, May 2002
      ("**CINEMA**")

2.    **Ram** et al. U.S. Patent 6,625,258

3.    Jonathan Michael Lennox, *Services for Internet Telephony*, PhD Thesis Columbia
      University, 2004 ("**Lennox**")

4.    **Hakusui** U.S. Patent 7,248,577

5.    Hariri et al. U.S. Patent 7,379,543, (hereinafter **Hariri '543**)

6.    Hariri U.S. Patent 7,092,498, (hereinafter **Hariri '498**)

7.    Archer et al. U.S. Patent 6,683,870

8.    H. Schulzrinne et al., The Session Initiation Protocol: Providing Advanced
      Telephony Services Across the Intent, Bell Labs Technical Journal Oct.-Dec.
      1998 ("**Schulzrinne**")

9.    Schulzrinne U.S. Patent 7,610,384, (hereinafter **Schulzrinne '384**)

10.   **Leung** U.S. Patent 6,005,870

11.   AT&T's Personal Reach™ Service: Features and Benefits ("**Personal Reach**")

12.   **Homan** U.S. Patent 6,233,317

13.     **Singh** U.S. Patent 7,257,201

14.     **Straub** U.S. Patent 7,194,079

15.     **Wood** et al. U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0111990[1]

16.     **Burg** et al. U.S. Patent 6,587,458

17.     Hanson et al. U.S. Patent Application No. 2005/0069097 (hereinafter **Hanson '097**)

18.     Hanson et al. U.S. Patent Application No. 2005/0074109 (hereinafter **Hanson '109**)

19.     HTML 4.01 Specification, W3C Recommendation, (hereinafter **HTML 4.01 Specification**).

### *Issues Raised in the Request*

3.     Requester asserts that the cited references raise SNQs in the following manner:

**Issue 1**        CINEMA is asserted as rendering claims 1-7 and 9-10 anticipated.

CINEMA in view of Schulzrinne is asserted as rendering claims 1, 4 and 9-10 obvious.

CINEMA in view of Schulzrinne '384 is asserted as rendering claims 1, 3, 4 and 10 obvious.

CINEMA in view of Wood is asserted as rendering claims 1, 3 and 4 obvious.

CINEMA in view of HTML 4.01 Specification is asserted as rendering claims 1 and 8 obvious.

CINEMA in view Burg, Hanson '097 and Hanson '109 is asserted as rendering claims 1-3, 5-7, 9 and 10 obvious.

CINEMA in view of Singh is asserted as rendering claims 2, 3, 4, 6 and 9 obvious.

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[1] The Examiner notes that Wood et al. was listed as U.S. Application 09/510,423 in the Request. However, the Requester submitted U.S. Patent Pub 2002/0111990 which is the publication of application 09/510,423. The Examiner treats this publication as the Woods' prior art reference.

CINEMA in view of Homan is asserted as rendering claims 3 and 6 obvious.

CINEMA in view of Ram is asserted as rendering claim 3 obvious.

CINEMA in view of Lennox is asserted as rendering claim 3 obvious.

CINEMA in view of Hariri is asserted as rendering claim 4 obvious.

CINEMA in view of Leung and Personal Reach is asserted as rendering claims 4 and 10 obvious.

CINEMA in view of Singh, Homan and HTML 4.01 Specification is asserted as rendering claim 5 obvious.

CINEMA in view of Hakusui is asserted as rendering claims 7 and 9 obvious.

CINEMA in view of Ram and HTML 4.01 Specification is asserted as rendering claim 7 obvious.

CINEMA in view of Lennox and HTML 4.01 Specification is asserted as rendering claim 7 obvious.

CINEMA in view of Archer is asserted as rendering claim 10 obvious.

CINEMA in view of Straub is asserted as rendering claim 11 obvious.

**Issue 2**      Ram is asserted as rendering claims 1, 4, 5 and 10-13 anticipated.

Ram in view of Singh is asserted as rendering claim 6 obvious.

Ram in view of Homan is asserted as rendering claim 6 obvious.

RAM in view of CINEMA is asserted as rendering claim 11 obvious.

RAM in view of CINEMA and Straub is asserted as rendering claims 12 and 13 obvious.

**Issue 3**      Lennox is asserted as rendering claims 1, 4, 5, 9 and 10 anticipated.

Lennox in view of Singh is asserted as rendering claim 6 obvious.

Lennox in view of Homan is asserted as rendering claim 6 obvious.

**Issue 4**       Hariri is asserted as rendering claims 1-3, 5-7 and 9-13 anticipated.

                  Hariri in view of Hakusui is asserted as rending claim 7 is obvious.

                  Hariri in view of CINEMA and Straub is asserted as rendering claims 12 and 13
                  obvious.

**Issue 5**       Hakusui is asserted as rendering claims 1 and 4 obvious.

                  Hakusui in view of CINEMA and Singh is asserted as rendering claim 8 obvious.


**Issue 6**       Archer is asserted as rendering claims 1-2 and 4 anticipated.

**Issue 7**       Leung in view of Personal Reach is asserted as rendering claim 1 obvious.


### *Prosecution History*

4.      During the prosecution of the application of the instant patent, the applicant argued (with

respect to claims 34-35) that the specification clearly discloses a web-enabled control panel that

allows a user to activate or deactivate (i.e. - turn on or off) <u>select</u> contact numbers contained in a

comprehensive contact number list that the user wants called if a call is received on the user's

primary contact number. Figure 5 of Applicants' specification clearly illustrates contact number

enablement fields 106 in Applicants' web-enabled control panel, which comprise check boxes in

its illustrative form, that allow users to activate and deactivate select contact numbers contained

in the user entered list of contact numbers that they want called if a call comes into the primary

contact number.

        The Applicant contended that this claimed feature is not disclosed in Hanson 1. Hanson 1

merely discloses activating and deactivating the entire "Locate Me" service. Hanson does not

disclose a web-enabled control panel that allows users to selectively activate and deactivate

respective contact numbers contained in the list of contact numbers that the user wants

simultaneously ring in response to an incoming call designating a primary contact number.

Selective activation and deactivation of these numbers allows the user to enable certain numbers

to be simultaneously ring while disabling other numbers. This feature allows the user to

temporarily disable the numbers without requiring them to delete the numbers from the list of

contact numbers.

With respect to dependent claim 37, the applicant contended the claim includes the

feature the call including a SIP message header containing a call origination field and a call

destination field that is sent to the call processing server. The call destination field of the SIP

message header includes the primary contact number. The call processing server uses the

primary_ contact number from the SIP message header to obtain the plurality of contact

numbers. None of the references relied upon in the Office Action disclose the call processing

server using a primary contact number contained in a SIP message header to obtain a plurality of

contact numbers.


### Substantial New Question of Patentability Statement

The Request maintains that a SNQoP is raised with respect to a showing of a "web

browser...control panel" that allows a user to "activate and deactivate select contact numbers" or

"temporarily activate and deactivate" one ore more contact numbers. The Examiner will address

this statement with respect to the below issues.

## ISSUE 1 - CINEMA

As noted in the Request, CINEMA discloses a web-based user interface to configure and

manage the system.... Both the per-user information and system configuration tables can be

manipulated from the web interface." (page 16). User information is generally stored in the

Primary User Table, including the primary user contact number and user contact numbers. (pages

9-11). Data in the Primary User Table "can be updated from the web page or by the SIP phones

using SIP registration." (page 9).

The web-based user interface permits a user to designate a plurality of contact numbers

correlated to a primary contact number assigned to said user. The web browser based control

panel permits a user to activate and deactivate select contact numbers contained in his contact

numbers.

For example, CINEMA lets a user set call preferences and policy via a web interface to

fork a call to one or several different locations, either sequentially or simultaneously,

> "Bob's preferences and policy are then executed. These may, for example, demand that a
> calling user be authenticated, refuse or redirect calls, or apply preferences about where
> Bob wants to be reached. If the server determines that Bob's current policy allows Alice's
> call to reach him, it contacts Bob's list of registered locations. Bob's current SIP phones
> ring, he picks up the handset and starts talking to Alice ....If there are multiple contacts
> found for the user, then all of the contact locations are used. The preference values (q-
> value) of the contacts are used to order the contact locations. The more preferred value is
> tried first, and if it fails or times out, the next preferred location is used. If multiple
> contacts have the same or similar q values, then the server forks the call request to all
> those locations in proxy mode."

(page 20).

An additional implementation of a web-based control panel is described at 38 & Fig. 20.

(email/voicemail application). Fig. 7 on page 17 (example of one portion of a web-based control

panel).

The teaching of "a web-enabled control panel that allows users to selectively activate and deactivate respective contact numbers contained in the list of contact numbers that the user wants simultaneously ring in response to an incoming call designating a primary contact number" was not considered or discussed on the record during the prosecution of the application which became the '256 patent. **Therefore, it is agreed that CINEMA raises a SNQ over at least claims 1-11 of the instant '256 Patent.**

Several other SNQs were raised. These SNQs all rely upon CINEMA as the primary reference and thus raise a SNQ for at least the reasons noted above with respect to CINEMA

In addition, the examiner notes that several SNQs were also raised with respect to art that was considered during the prosecution of the '256 Patent.

These arts include U.S. Patent Pub. 2005/0069097 to Hanson, U.S. Patent Pub. 2005/0074109 to Hanson and U.S. Patent 6,587,458 to Burg.

The Examiner notes that on November 2, 2002, Public Law 107-273 was enacted. Title III, Subtitle A, Section 13105, part (a) of the Act revised the reexamination statute by adding the following new last sentence to 35 U.S.C. 303(a) and 312(a):

> "The existence of a substantial new question of patentability is not precluded by the fact that a patent or printed publication was previously cited by or to the Office or considered by the Office."

For any reexamination ordered on or after November 2, 2002, the effective date of the statutory revision, reliance on previously cited/considered art, i.e., "old art," does not necessarily preclude the existence of a substantial new question of patentability (SNQ) that is based

exclusively on that old art. Rather, determinations on whether a SNQ exists in such an instance

shall be based upon a fact-specific inquiry done on a case-by-case basis.

These references however are considered in new light since they are not used in the same

combination presented during prosecution of the application which became the '256 patent.

## ISSUE 2 - RAM.

The Request notes Ram's Virtual Assistant System (VAS) includes or supports a web

browser control panel embodied in one or more information pages accessible through the

Internet. Those pages provide the ability to edit and manage a user's individual personal

information, e.g., activating and deactivating contact numbers and routing policies. See col. 13,

line 30- col. 14, line 9. For example:

> "Typically, the reach list includes a plurality of entries and associated dates/times for the
> entries .... Associated with the reach list is the schedule, which activates and alters the
> reach list. Because the reach list and the schedule is easily accessible by either telephone
> or the Internet, the subscriber may alter the information as he or she desires to update the
> reach lists. In a particular example of operation of the VAS, the subscriber
> establishes/alters his or her personal information. The personal information includes the
> name of the subscriber, the home address of the subscriber, the home phone number of
> the subscriber, the subscriber's VAS personal number, the subscriber's work phone
> number, the subscriber's mobile phone number, the subscriber's pager number, the
> subscriber's email address and the subscriber's personal IP address. The subscriber may
> alter any of this information from a personal information page provided by the VAS."

Col. 14, lines 20-50; Abstract.

The teaching of "a web-enabled control panel that allows users to selectively activate and

deactivate respective contact numbers contained in the list of contact numbers that the user wants

simultaneously ring in response to an incoming call designating a primary contact number" was

not considered or discussed on the record during the prosecution of the application which

became the '256 patent. Therefore, it is agreed that RAM raises a SNQ over at least claims 1,4-6

and 10-13 of the instant '256 Patent.

In addition, several other SNQs were raised. These SNQs relied upon RAM as the

primary reference and thus raises a SNQ for at least the reasons noted above.

## ISSUE 3 - LENNOX

The Request notes Lennox discloses a lookup application that looks up multiple contact

information in a "one number" find me/follow me system. Lenox's contact database can be

populated by referring to an external URL that contains that information. pages 24-25 and at

page 71, 1st paragraph.

Lennox discusses populating its contact database via a web browser interface, including

populating (i.e., turning on or off) select contacts in Lennox's comprehensive contact list.

("Location Lookup: Locations can also be looked up through external means, through the use of

location lookups. The node, described by the tag lookup, specifies a source for the list of

locations. Two types of sources are defined. The registration source indicates that the

destination's list of registered locations should be added to the location set. Alternately, a list of

locations can be specified by a URL, indicating an external source to query for locations.").

The teaching of "a web-enabled control panel that allows users to selectively activate and

deactivate respective contact numbers contained in the list of contact numbers that the user wants

simultaneously ring in response to an incoming call designating a primary contact number" was

not considered or discussed on the record during the prosecution of the application which became the '256 patent. Therefore, it is agreed that Lennox raises a SNQ over at least claims 1,4-6,9 and 10 of the instant '256 Patent.

In addition, several other SNQs were raised. These SNQs relied upon Lennox as the primary reference and raises an SNQ for at least the reasons noted above.

## ISSUE 4 - HARIRI

The Request notes Hariri discloses a universal point of contact system that associates a plurality of contact numbers with a primary contact number assigned to a user. See col. 2, lines 22-55, col. 3, lines 54-65 & Figs. 2, 4, and 7. Hariri discloses a web browser based control panel that allows the user to edit his or her profile for Hariri's one number system. See col. 5, line 64+. Hariri also describes the use of a web-enable control panel to enter or modify the information held in Hariri's point of contact database(s). See col. 5, lines 22-36.

The teaching of "a web-enabled control panel that allows users to selectively activate and deactivate respective contact numbers contained in the list of contact numbers that the user wants simultaneously ring in response to an incoming call designating a primary contact number" was not considered or discussed on the record during the prosecution of the application which became the '256 patent. Therefore, it is agreed that Hariri raises a SNQ over at least claims 1-13 of the instant '256 Patent.

In addition, several other SNQs were raised. These SNQs relied upon Hariri as the primary reference and raises an SNQ for at least the reasons noted above.

### ISSUE 5 - Hakusui

The Request notes Hakusui describes a virtual PBX, running SIP, in order to provide a

"central number service" (among other things). A central number service is described as a service

in which "a subscriber is associated with a central telephone number, and the central telephone

number in turn is associated with one or more extension telephone numbers (e.g., home phone

number, work phone number, cell phone number, alternate phone number, secretary or

answering service phone number, etc.)." (col. 5, lines 31-39). The Hakusui user's "central

telephone number" is the "primary contact number" of the '256 Patent and Hakusui's "extension

telephone numbers" are the "contact numbers" of the '256 Patent. In Hakusui, the user's central

telephone number is correlated to a plurality of extension telephone numbers, "e.g., home phone

number, work phone number, cell phone number, alternate phone number, secretary or

answering service phone number, etc."

Hakusui's system is configured using a web-browser control panel. "In exemplary

embodiments of the invention, the personal feature server includes a web-based interface that is

configurable through the network interface 420. Thus, when the modem 400 is connected to the

network 460, it is easy for the user to manage and configure the personal feature server using a

traditional web browser." (col. 7, lines 28-33). Hakusui describes all functions of the system

being configurable by web-browser control panels, and exemplary web-browser control panels

are presented in Figures 3, 4, and 5.

As shown in Figure 3, Hakusui's web-browser control panel permits "a user to designate a

plurality of contact numbers correlated to a primary contact number assigned to said user." In

Hakusui's Figure 3, above, the primary contact number is 1-(978) 500-1000 and the correlated

contact numbers are 1-(978) 500-1001, 1-(978) 500-1002, 1-(978) 500-1003, and 1-(978) 500-

1004. Hakusui's web- includes "means for allowing said user to activate and deactivate select

contact numbers contained in said plurality of contact numbers," by, e.g., the drop-down scroll

panel indicated by the downward-facing arrow next to each contact number on the right,

permitting the user to switch between a contact number (e.g. "1-(978) 500-1004") and no contact

number (indicated by "none" in the fifth box). Hakusui explains: If the user will be temporarily

in a different location, then the user can easily reconfigure his or her personal feature server to

forward or simultaneously ring to the expected location. If the user's cell phone number changes,

the user can easily reconfigure his or her personal feature server to forward calls to the new cell

phone. If the user is expecting a telephone call from a particular person, the user can reconfigure

his or her personal feature server to interrupt when the telephone call is received. (col. 9, lines

30-39).

The teaching of "a web-enabled control panel that allows users to selectively activate and

deactivate respective contact numbers contained in the list of contact numbers that the user wants

simultaneously ring in response to an incoming call designating a primary contact number" was

not considered or discussed on the record during the prosecution of the application which

became the '256 patent. Therefore, it is agreed that Hakusui raises a SNQ over at least claims 1-

13 of the instant '256 Patent.

In addition, several other SNQs were raised. These SNQs relied upon Hakusui as the

primary reference and raises an SNQ for at least the reasons noted above.

## ISSUE 6 - Archer

Archer discloses systems and methods for communicating over a network (including

the PSTN or an Internet-based network) to simultaneously transmit a call notification to a

plurality of communication devices, such as telephones, pagers, computers, and voice mail

systems. In particular, the system and method of Archer are disclosed to be used to improve

preexisting "find-me" services (illustrated in Fig. 1, in which a caller dials a single number of a

called party to reach multiple numbers of that called party) by using Internet Protocol (IP) based

voice traffic. See, e.g. col. 2, lines 9-18, 26-35, 52-60.

Archer discloses the use of a database comprising "information required by the system,"

including a plurality of contact numbers ("find-me" numbers) for each subscriber which, as

commonly known in prior art "find-me" systems, are correlated to a single primary contact

number for the subscriber. See col. 7, lines 22-43; col. 9, lines 7-9; Fig. 2.

Archer teaches that its database containing a plurality of contact numbers correlated to a

primary contact number assigned to the user may be accessed by the user at any time, including

by logging on to the Internet. See col. 7, lines 44-50. Archer further teaches that the user, using a

computer to log on to the Internet (i.e., the "web"), can change or add telephone numbers where

he can be reached. The claimed "web browser control panel" and the web based interface shown

in Figure 5 of the '256 Patent simply reflect an example of many well known means (interfaces)

by which a web designer may design the user's ability to access the internet and make changes in

a user-accessible database, including changing (activating or deactivating) the plurality of

contact numbers.

The teaching of "a web-enabled control panel that allows users to selectively activate and

deactivate respective contact numbers contained in the list of contact numbers that the user wants

simultaneously ring in response to an incoming call designating a primary contact number" was

not considered or discussed on the record during the prosecution of the application which

became the '256 patent. Therefore, it is agreed that Archer raises a SNQ over at least claims 1, 2

and 4 of the instant '256 Patent.

In addition, several other SNQs were raised. These SNQs relied upon Archer as the

primary reference and raises an SNQ for at least the reasons noted above.

### ISSUE 7 - Leung and AT&T's Personal Reach

The Request notes Leung discloses providing a single telephone number for a subscriber,

such that the subscriber could be contacted by calling that single number at any one or more of

the subscriber's work number, cellular or mobile number, pager number, home number, or email

address, (col. 2, lines 10-43). In particular, Leung teaches that its invention may be used with the

AT&T Personal Reach TM Service or related personal telecommunications routing services,

(col. 3, line 65 - col. 4, line 3).

The AT&T Personal Reach Service Web Access feature allowed a subscriber to

administer his account, hear voice messages, and read fax messages from his computer, as well

as have voice and fax messages emailed to his email address. The Web Access feature gives

subscribers of Personal Reach Service the ability to administer their accounts and messages on

their PCs by using the Internet. After logging in, subscribers can change their phone numbers,

make changes to their availability, update their speed dial lists, or perform other administrative

tasks they can currently do via the telephone interface. In addition they can hear their voice

messages, and read their fax messages over the Internet without using any other devices such as

phones or fax machines. They can even email their voice or fax messages to any email address

just by entering the address on the screen.

The teaching of "a web-enabled control panel that allows users to selectively activate and

deactivate respective contact numbers contained in the list of contact numbers that the user wants

simultaneously ring in response to an incoming call designating a primary contact number" was

not considered or discussed on the record during the prosecution of the application which

became the '256 patent. Therefore, it is agreed that Leung and AT&T Personal Reach raises a

SNQ over at least claims 1, 4 and 10 of the instant '256 Patent.

In addition, several other SNQs were raised. These SNQs relied upon Leung and AT&T's

Personal Reach as the primary reference and raises an SNQ for at least the reasons noted above.

### *Scope of Reexamination*

5.      Claims 1-13 will be reexamined as requested in the request.

### *Conclusion*

6.      Extensions of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) will not be permitted in *inter partes*

reexamination proceedings because the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 apply only to "an applicant"

and not to the patent owner in a reexamination proceeding. Additionally, 35 U.S.C. 314(c)

requires that inter partes reexamination proceedings "will be conducted with special dispatch"

(37 CFR 1.937). Patent owner extensions of time in inter partes reexamination proceedings are

provided for in 37 CFR 1.956. Extensions of time are not available for third party requester

comments, because a comment period of 30 days from service of patent owner's response is set

by statute. 35 U.S.C. 314(b)(3).

7.    The Patent Owner is reminded of the continuing responsibility under 37 CFR 1.985(a) to

apprise the Office of any litigation activity, or other prior or concurrent proceeding, involving the

US Patent 7,680,256 throughout the course of this reexamination proceeding. The Third Party

Requester is also reminded of the ability to similarly apprise the Office of any such activity or

proceeding through the course of this reexamination proceeding. See MPEP § 2686 and

2686.04.

All correspondence relating to this *inter partes* reexamination proceeding should be
directed:

**By EFS:**        **Registered users may submit via the electronic filing system EFS-Web, at**
                   **https://sportal.uspto.gov/authenticate/authenticateuserlocalepf.html.**

**By Mail to:**    **Mail Stop *Inter Partes* Reexam**

                   Attn: Central Reexamination Unit
                   Commissioner for Patents
                   United States Patent & Trademark Office
                   P.O. Box 1450
                   Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

By FAX to:     (571) 273-9900
                   Central Reexamination Unit

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                   Alexandria, VA 22314

For EFS-Web transmissions, 37 CFR 1.8(a)(1)(i) (C) and (ii) states that correspondence
(except for a request for reexamination and a corrected or replacement request for
reexamination) will be considered timely filed if (a) it is transmitted via the Office's electronic

filing system in accordance with 37 CFR 1.6(a)(4), and (b) includes a certificate of transmission for each piece of correspondence stating the data of transmission, which is prior to the expiration of the set period of time in the Office action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner, or as to the status of this proceeding, should be directed to the Central Reexamination Unit at telephone number (571) 272-7705.

/Ovidio Escalante/

Ovidio Escalante
Primary Examiner
Central Reexamination Unit - Art Unit 3992
(571) 272-7537

Conferee:                                    Conferee: