

FILED

June 24, 2021

CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
WACO DIVISION**

BY: J. Galindo-Beaver
DEPUTY

[Plaintiff],

v.

[Defendant].

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CIVIL ACTION NO.
JUDGE ALBRIGHT

ORDER GOVERNING PROCEEDINGS – PATENT CASE

This Order shall govern proceedings in this case. The following deadlines are hereby set:

1. This case is SET for a Rule 16 Case Management Conference in accordance with the Court's Standing Order Regarding Notice of Readiness in Patent Cases.
2. (Not later than 7 days before the CMC). Plaintiff shall serve preliminary infringement contentions in the form of a chart setting forth where in the accused product(s) each element of the asserted claim(s) are found. Plaintiff shall also identify the priority date (*i.e.* the earliest date of invention) for each asserted claim and produce: (1) all documents evidencing conception and reduction to practice for each claimed invention, and (2) a copy of the file history for each patent in suit.
3. (Two weeks after the CMC). The Parties shall submit an agreed Scheduling Order. If the parties cannot agree, the parties shall submit a separate Joint Motion for entry of each Order briefly setting forth their respective positions on items where they cannot agree. Absent agreement of the parties, the Plaintiff shall be responsible for the timely submission of this and other joint filings.
4. (Seven weeks after the CMC). Defendant shall serve preliminary invalidity contentions in the form of (1) a chart setting forth where in the prior art references each element of the asserted claim(s) are found, (2) an identification of any limitations the Defendant contends are indefinite or lack written description under section 112, and (3) an identification of any claims the Defendant contends are directed to ineligible subject matter under section 101. Defendant shall also produce (1) all prior art referenced in the invalidity contentions, (2) technical documents, including software where applicable, sufficient to show the operation of the accused product(s).¹

¹ To the extent it may promote early resolution, the Court encourages the parties to exchange license and sales information, but any such exchange is optional during the pre-Markman phase of the case.

DISCOVERY

Except with regard to venue, jurisdictional, and claim construction-related discovery, all other discovery is stayed until after the *Markman* hearing. Notwithstanding this general stay of discovery, the Court will permit limited discovery by agreement of the parties, or upon request, where exceptional circumstances warrant. For example, if discovery outside the United States is contemplated, the Court will be inclined to allow such discovery to commence before the *Markman* hearing.

Following the *Markman* hearing, the following discovery limits will apply to this case. The Court will consider reasonable requests to adjust these limits should circumstances warrant.

1. Interrogatories: 30 per side²
2. Requests for Admission: 45 per side
3. Requests for Production: 75 per side
4. Fact Depositions: 70 hours per side (for both party and non-party witnesses combined)
5. Expert Depositions: 7 hours per report³

Electronically Stored Information. As a preliminary matter, the Court will not require general search and production of email or other electronically stored information (ESI), absent a showing of good cause. If a party believes targeted email/ESI discovery is necessary, it shall propose a procedure identifying custodians and search terms it believes the opposing party should search. The opposing party can oppose, or propose an alternate plan. If the parties cannot agree, they shall contact chambers to schedule a call with the Court to discuss their respective positions.

DISCOVERY DISPUTES

A party may not file a Motion to Compel discovery unless: (1) lead counsel have met and conferred in good faith to try to resolve the dispute, and (2) the party has contacted the Court's law clerk (with opposing counsel) to arrange a telephone conference with the Court to summarize the dispute and the parties respective positions. After the parties have met and conferred, they should submit a chart that summarizes the issue(s) in dispute along with the parties' respective positions and specific relief requested. After hearing from the parties, the Court will determine if further briefing is required. The prevailing party in all discovery hearings shall submit a proposed order to the Court that briefly summarizes the nature of the

² A "side" shall mean the plaintiff (or related plaintiffs suing together) on the one hand, and the defendant (or related defendants sued together) on the other hand. In the event that the Court consolidates related cases for pretrial purposes, with regard to calculating limits imposed by this Order, a "side" shall be interpreted as if the cases were proceeding individually. For example, in consolidated cases the plaintiff may serve up to 30 interrogatories on each defendant, and each defendant may serve up to 30 interrogatories on the plaintiff.

³ For example, if a single technical expert submits reports on both infringement and invalidity, he or she may be deposed for up to 14 hours in total.

dispute along with the parties' understanding of the Court's ruling per the Court's Standing Order on Discovery Hearings.

PROTECTIVE ORDER

Pending entry of the final Protective Order, the Court issues the following interim Protective Order to govern the disclosure of confidential information in this matter:

If any document or information produced in this matter is deemed confidential by the producing party and if the Court has not entered a protective order, until a protective order is issued by the Court, the document shall be marked "confidential" or with some other confidential designation (such as "Confidential – Outside Attorneys Eyes Only") by the disclosing party and disclosure of the confidential document or information shall be limited to each party's outside attorney(s) of record and the employees of such outside attorney(s).

If a party is not represented by an outside attorney, disclosure of the confidential document or information shall be limited to one designated "in house" attorney, whose identity and job functions shall be disclosed to the producing party 5 days prior to any such disclosure, in order to permit any motion for protective order or other relief regarding such disclosure. The person(s) to whom disclosure of a confidential document or information is made under this local rule shall keep it confidential and use it only for purposes of litigating the case.

CLAIM CONSTRUCTION ISSUES

Terms for Construction. Based on the Court's experience, the Court believes that it should have presumed limits on the number of claim terms to be construed. The "presumed limit" is the maximum number of terms that each side may request the Court to construe without further leave of Court. If the Court grants leave for the additional terms to be construed, depending on the complexity and number of terms, the Court may split the *Markman* hearing into multiple hearings.

The presumed limits based on the number of patents-in-suit are as follows:

Limits for Number of Claim Terms to be Construed

1-2 Patents	3-5 Patents	More than 5 Patents
8 terms	10 terms	12 terms

When the parties submit their joint claim construction statement, in addition to the term and the parties' proposed constructions, the parties should indicate which party or side proposed that term, or if that was a joint proposal.

Claim Construction Briefing. The Court will require non-simultaneous claim construction briefing with the following default page limits; however, where exceptional circumstances

warrant, the Court will consider reasonable requests to adjust these limits.⁴ These page limits shall also apply collectively for coordinated and consolidated cases; however, the Court will consider reasonable requests to adjust page limits in consolidated cases where circumstances warrant. In addition, the Court is very familiar with the law of claim construction and encourages the parties to forego lengthy recitations of the underlying legal authorities and instead focus on the substantive issues unique to each case.

Unless otherwise agreed to by the parties, the default order of terms in the parties' briefs shall be based on 1) the patent number (lowest to highest), the claim number (lowest to highest), and order of appearance within the lowest number patent and claim. An example order may be as follows:

1. 10,000,000 Patent, Claim 1, Term 1
2. 10,000,000 Patent, Claim 1, Term 2 (where Term 2 appears later in the claim than does Term 1)
3. 10,000,000 Patent, Claim 2, Term 3 (where Term 3 appears later in the claim than does Terms 2 and 3)
4. 10,000,001 Patent, Claim 1, Term 4
5. 10,000,001 Patent, Claim 3, Term 5
6. 10,000,002 Patent, Claim 2, Term 6

To the extent that the same or similar terms appear in multiple claims, those same or similar terms should be ordered according to the lowest patent number, lowest claim number, and order of appearance within the patent and claim.

Page Limits for *Markman* Briefs

Brief	1-2 Patents	3-5 Patents	More than 5 Patents
Opening (Defendant)	20 pages	30 pages	30 pages, plus 5 additional pages for each patent over 5 up to a maximum of 45 pages
Response (Plaintiff)	20 pages	30 pages	30 pages, plus 5 additional pages for each patent over 5 up to a maximum of 45 pages
Reply (Defendant)	10 pages	15 pages	15 pages, plus 2 additional pages for each patent over 5 up to a maximum of 21 pages

⁴ This OGP version shall apply retroactively to the Markman briefing in patent cases that are, as of the date of this order, at least thirty (30) days before the filing of the opening Markman brief.

Sur-Reply (Plaintiff)	10 pages	15 pages	15 pages, plus 2 additional pages for each patent over 5 up to a maximum of 21 pages
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Technology Tutorials and Conduct of the *Markman* Hearing

Technology tutorials are optional, especially in cases where a technical advisor has been appointed. If the parties choose to submit one, the tutorial should be in electronic form, with voiceovers, and submitted at least 10 days before the *Markman* hearing. In general, tutorials should be: (1) directed to the underlying technology (rather than argument related to infringement or validity), and (2) limited to 15 minutes per side. The tutorial will not be part of the record and the Parties may not rely on or cite to the tutorial in other aspects of the litigation.

The Court generally sets aside one half day for the *Markman* hearing; however, the Court is open to reserving more or less time, depending on the complexity of the case and input from the parties. As a general rule, the party opposing the Court's preliminary construction shall go first. If both parties are unwilling to accept the Court's preliminary construction, the Plaintiff shall typically go first.

GENERAL ISSUES

1. The Court will entertain reasonable requests to streamline the case schedule and discovery and encourages the parties to contact the Court's law clerk (with opposing counsel) to arrange a call with the Court when such interaction might help streamline the case.
2. To the extent the parties need to email the Court, the parties should use the following email address: TXWDml_LawClerks_JudgeAlbright@txwd.uscourts.gov.
3. The Court is generally willing to extend the response to the Complaint up to 45 days if agreed by the parties. However, longer extensions are disfavored and will require good cause.
4. Speaking objections during depositions are improper. Objections during depositions shall be stated concisely and in a nonargumentative and nonsuggestive manner. Examples of permissible objections include: "Objection, leading," "Objection, compound," "Objection, vague." Other than to evaluate privilege issues, counsel should not confer with a witness while a question is pending. Counsel may confer with witnesses during breaks in a deposition without waiving any otherwise applicable privilege.
5. Plaintiff must file a notice informing the Court when an IPR is filed, the expected time for an institution decision, and the expected time for a final written decision, within two weeks of the filing of the IPR.

6. With regard to any Motion to Transfer, the following page limits and briefing schedule shall apply:
 - a. Opening – 15 pages
 - b. Response – 15 pages, due 14 days after the Opening brief
 - c. Reply – 5 pages, due 7 days after the Response brief
7. After the trial date is set, the Court will not move the trial date except in extreme situations. To the extent a party believes that the circumstances warrant continuing the trial date, the parties are directed to contact the Court to request a telephonic hearing.
8. The Court does not have a limit on the number of motions for summary judgment (MSJs); however, absent leave of Court, the cumulative page limit for Opening Briefs for all MSJs is 40 pages per side.
9. There may be instances where the submission of substantive briefs via audio file will be of help to the Court. If a party is contemplating submitting a brief via audio file it should contact the Court for guidance on whether it would be helpful to the Court. However, the Court has determined that audio recordings of *Markman* briefs are of limited value and those need not be submitted. The recordings shall be made in a neutral fashion, shall be verbatim transcriptions without additional colloquy (except that citations and legal authority sections need not be included), and each such file shall be served on opposing counsel. The Court does not have a preference for the manner of recording and has found automated software recordings, as well as attorney recordings, to be more than satisfactory. Audio files shall be submitted via USB drive, Box (not another cloud storage)⁵, or email to the law clerk (with a cc to opposing counsel) and should be submitted in mp3 format.
10. For *Markman* briefs,⁶ summary judgment motions, and *Daubert* motions, each party shall deliver to Chambers one (1) paper copy of its Opening, Response, and Reply briefs, omitting attachments, at least 10 days before the hearing. Each party shall also provide an electronic copy of the briefs, exhibits, and the optional technology tutorial via cloud storage⁷ or USB drive. For *Markman* briefs, the parties should also include a (1) paper copy of all patents-in-suit and the Joint Claim Construction Statement. To the extent the Court appoints a technical adviser, each party shall deliver the same to the technical adviser, also 10 days before the hearing.

⁵ The parties should contact the law clerk to request a Box link so that the party can directly upload the files to the Court's Box account.

⁶ But if the Court appoints a technical adviser for claim construction, the parties do not need to provide a copy of the *Markman* briefs to the Court.

⁷ The parties should contact the law clerk to request a Box link so that the party can directly upload the files to the Court's Box account. The filenames for any exhibits should be a description of the exhibit, e.g., "U.S. Patent No. 10,000,000" or "Prosecution history for 10,000,000 (January 20, 2020, Office Action)."

11. Unless the Court indicates otherwise, the following Zoom information shall be used for all non-private hearings. The public is allowed to attend non-private hearings.

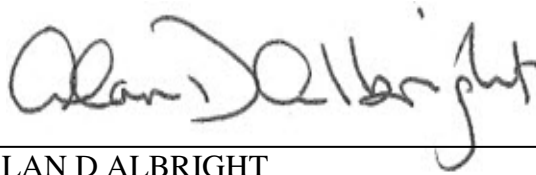
<https://txwd-uscourts.zoomgov.com/j/16057076711?pwd=WHljN0h3Yk03K3JLUTZ2a0tTMitPZz09>

Meeting ID: 160 5707 6711

Password: 873559

One tap mobile: +16692545252,,16057076711#,,1#,873559#

SIGNED this 24th day of June, 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Alan D Albright". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Alan" is written in a larger, more prominent script, followed by "D" and "Albright".

ALAN D ALBRIGHT
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

APPENDIX A – DEFAULT SCHEDULE

Deadline	Item
7 days before CMC	Plaintiff serves preliminary ⁸ infringement contentions in the form of a chart setting forth where in the accused product(s) each element of the asserted claim(s) are found. Plaintiff shall also identify the earliest priority date (<i>i.e.</i> the earliest date of invention) for each asserted claim and produce: (1) all documents evidencing conception and reduction to practice for each claimed invention, and (2) a copy of the file history for each patent in suit.
2 weeks after CMC	The Parties shall submit an agreed Scheduling Order. If the parties cannot agree, the parties shall submit a separate Joint Motion for entry of each Order briefly setting forth their respective positions on items where they cannot agree. Absent agreement of the parties, the Plaintiff shall be responsible for the timely submission of this and other Joint filings.
7 weeks after CMC	Defendant serves preliminary invalidity contentions in the form of (1) a chart setting forth where in the prior art references each element of the asserted claim(s) are found, (2) an identification of any limitations the Defendant contends are indefinite or lack written description under section 112, and (3) an identification of any claims the Defendant contends are directed to ineligible subject matter under section 101. Defendant shall also produce (1) all prior art referenced in the invalidity contentions, and (2) technical documents, including software where applicable, sufficient to show the operation of the accused product(s).
9 weeks after CMC	Parties exchange claim terms for construction.
11 weeks after CMC	Parties exchange proposed claim constructions.
12 weeks after CMC	Parties disclose extrinsic evidence. The parties shall disclose any extrinsic evidence, including the identity of any expert witness they may rely upon with respect to claim construction

⁸ The parties may amend preliminary infringement contentions and preliminary invalidity contentions without leave of court so long as counsel certifies that it undertook reasonable efforts to prepare its preliminary contentions and the amendment is based on material identified after those preliminary contentions were served, and should do so seasonably upon identifying any such material. Any amendment to add patent claims requires leave of court so that the Court can address any scheduling issues.

	or indefiniteness. With respect to any expert identified, the parties shall identify the scope of the topics for the witness's expected testimony. ⁹ With respect to items of extrinsic evidence, the parties shall identify each such item by production number or produce a copy of any such item if not previously produced.
13 weeks after CMC	Deadline to meet and confer to narrow terms in dispute and exchange revised list of terms/constructions.
14 weeks after CMC	Defendant files Opening claim construction brief, including any arguments that any claim terms are not indefinite.
17 weeks after CMC	Plaintiff files Responsive claim construction brief.
19 weeks after CMC	Defendant files Reply claim construction brief.
21 weeks after CMC	Plaintiff files a Sur-Reply claim construction brief.
3 business days after submission of sur-reply	Parties submit Joint Claim Construction Statement. <i>See General Issues Note #9 regarding providing copies of the briefing to the Court and the technical adviser (if appointed).</i>
22 weeks after CMC (but at least 10 days before <i>Markman</i> hearing)	Parties submit optional technical tutorials to the Court and technical adviser (if appointed). ¹⁰
23 weeks after CMC (or as soon as practicable)	<i>Markman</i> Hearing at 9:00 a.m. This date is a placeholder and the Court may adjust this date as the Markman hearing approaches.
1 business day after <i>Markman</i> hearing	Fact Discovery opens; deadline to serve Initial Disclosures per Rule 26(a).
6 weeks after <i>Markman</i> hearing	Deadline to add parties.
8 weeks after <i>Markman</i> hearing	Deadline to serve Final Infringement and Invalidity Contentions. After this date, leave of Court is required for any amendment to Infringement or Invalidity contentions. This deadline does not relieve the Parties of their obligation to

⁹ Any party may utilize a rebuttal expert in response to a brief where expert testimony is relied upon by the other party.

¹⁰ The parties should contact the law clerk to request a Box link so that the party can directly upload the file to the Court's Box account.

	seasonably amend if new information is identified after initial contentions.
16 weeks after <i>Markman</i> hearing	Deadline to amend pleadings. A motion is not required unless the amendment adds patents or patent claims. (Note: This includes amendments in response to a 12(c) motion.)
26 weeks after <i>Markman</i>	Deadline for the first of two meet and confers to discuss significantly narrowing the number of claims asserted and prior art references at issue. Unless the parties agree to the narrowing, they are ordered to contact the Court's Law Clerk to arrange a teleconference with the Court to resolve the disputed issues.
30 weeks after <i>Markman</i> hearing	Close of Fact Discovery.
31 weeks after <i>Markman</i> hearing	Opening Expert Reports.
35 weeks after <i>Markman</i> hearing	Rebuttal Expert Reports.
38 weeks after <i>Markman</i> hearing	Close of Expert Discovery.
39 weeks after <i>Markman</i> hearing	Deadline for the second of two meet and confers to discuss narrowing the number of claims asserted and prior art references at issue to triable limits. To the extent it helps the parties determine these limits, the parties are encouraged to contact the Court's Law Clerk for an estimate of the amount of trial time anticipated per side. The parties shall file a Joint Report within 5 business days regarding the results of the meet and confer.
40 weeks after <i>Markman</i> hearing	Dispositive motion deadline and <i>Daubert</i> motion deadline. See General Issues Note #9 regarding providing copies of the briefing to the Court and the technical adviser (if appointed).
42 weeks after <i>Markman</i> hearing	Serve Pretrial Disclosures (jury instructions, exhibits lists, witness lists, discovery and deposition designations).
44 weeks after <i>Markman</i> hearing	Serve objections to pretrial disclosures/rebuttal disclosures.

45 weeks after <i>Markman</i> hearing	Serve objections to rebuttal disclosures and File Motions <i>in limine</i> .
46 weeks after <i>Markman</i> hearing	File Joint Pretrial Order and Pretrial Submissions (jury instructions, exhibits lists, witness lists, discovery and deposition designations); file oppositions to motions <i>in limine</i>
47 weeks after <i>Markman</i> hearing	File Notice of Request for Daily Transcript or Real Time Reporting. If a daily transcript or real time reporting of court proceedings is requested for trial, the party or parties making said request shall file a notice with the Court and e-mail the Court Reporter, Kristie Davis at kmdaviscsr@yahoo.com Deadline to meet and confer regarding remaining objections and disputes on motions <i>in limine</i> .
3 business days before Final Pretrial Conference.	File joint notice identifying remaining objections to pretrial disclosures and disputes on motions <i>in limine</i> .
49 weeks after <i>Markman</i> hearing (or as soon as practicable)	Final Pretrial Conference. The Court expects to set this date at the conclusion of the <i>Markman</i> Hearing.
52 weeks after <i>Markman</i> hearing (or as soon as practicable) ¹¹	Jury Selection/Trial. The Court expects to set these dates at the conclusion of the <i>Markman</i> Hearing.

¹¹ If the actual trial date materially differs from the Court's default schedule, the Court will consider reasonable amendments to the case schedule post-*Markman* that are consistent with the Court's default deadlines in light of the actual trial date.