

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
TYLER DIVISION**

GROUPCHATTER, LLC	§	
Plaintiff,	§	
	§	
v.	§	CIVIL ACTION NO. 6:15-cv-00975
	§	
GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY,	§	
GE ENERGY MANAGEMENT	§	
SERVICES, INC., and	§	
GE GRID SOLUTIONS, LLC	§	
Defendants.	§	

PLAINTIFF’S ORIGINAL COMPLAINT AND JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff GroupChatter, LLC files this Original Complaint against Defendants General Electric Company, GE Energy Management Services, Inc. and GE Grid Solutions, LLC (collectively, “GE”) for infringement of: U.S. Patent Nos. 7,969,959; 8,199,740; 8,588,207; and 9,014,659.

THE PARTIES

1. Plaintiff GroupChatter, LLC (“GroupChatter”) is a Texas limited liability company with its headquarters and principal place of business at 1400 Preston Road., Suite 475, Plano, Texas 75093.

2. Defendant General Electric Company is a New York corporation with its principal place of business at 3135 Easton Turnpike, Fairfield, CT, 06828-0001. General Electric Company may be served through its registered agent CT Corporation, 1999 Bryan St., Ste. 900, Dallas, TX 75201-3136.

3. Defendant GE Energy Management Services, Inc., is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business at 4200 Wildwood Pkwy Bldg 2018, Atlanta, GA 30339. GE

Energy Management Services, Inc., may be served through its registered agent CT Corporation, 1999 Bryan St., Ste. 900, Dallas, TX 75201-3136.

4. Defendant GE Grid Solutions, LLC is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business at 4200 Wildwood Pkwy Bldg 2018 N6-04A-03, Atlanta, GA 30339. GE Grid Solutions, LLC may be served through its registered agent CT Corporation, 1999 Bryan St., Ste. 900, Dallas, TX 75201-3136.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

5. GroupChatter brings this action for patent infringement under the patent laws of the United States, namely 35 U.S.C. §§ 271, 281, and 284-285, among others. This Court has subject-matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1338(a), and 1367.

6. Venue is proper in this judicial district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(c) and 1400(b). Defendant does business in this judicial district, has committed acts of infringement in this judicial district, has purposely transacted business in this judicial district involving the accused products and/or, has regular and established places of business in this judicial district.

7. Defendants are subject to this Court's specific and general personal jurisdiction pursuant to due process and/or the Texas Long-Arm Statute, due at least to its substantial business in this State and judicial district, including: (A) at least part of its infringing activities alleged herein; and (B) regularly doing or soliciting business, engaging in other persistent conduct, and/or deriving substantial revenue from goods sold and services provided to Texas residents.

COUNT I (INFRINGEMENT OF U.S. PATENT NO. 7,969,959)

8. GroupChatter incorporates paragraphs 1 through 5 herein by reference.

9. GroupChatter is the owner, by assignment, of U.S. Patent No. 7,969,959 (the

“’959 Patent”), titled “METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR EFFICIENT AND DETERMINISTIC GROUP ALERTING.”

10. A true and correct copy of the ’959 Patent is attached as Exhibit A.

11. As the owner of the ’959 Patent, GroupChatter holds all substantial rights in and under the ’959 Patent, including the right to grant sublicenses, exclude others, and to enforce, sue, and recover damages for past and future infringement.

12. The United States Patent Office granted the ’959 Patent on June 28, 2011.

13. The ’959 Patent is valid, enforceable and was duly issued in full compliance with Title 35 of the United States Code.

14. Defendant has no consent or authorization to practice the ’959 Patent.

15. GE is practicing one or more claims of the ’959 Patent, including at least claims 1 and 30, by making, using, offering for sale, selling, and/or importing components and systems for alerting groups of recipients over a wireless network.

16. GE has directly infringed and continues to infringe the ’959 Patent by practicing, without limitation, the methods of claims 1 and 30 by deploying, testing, and operating a wide area Grid IQ Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) network that enables remote configuration, operation, and monitoring of utility meters (the “Grid IQ AMI System”).

17. The Grid IQ AMI System consists of subsystems and components including RF Mesh components, Smart Metering Operations Suite, Grid IQ Connect, Grid IQ Network Communications Platform, access points, subscriber units, and endpoints.

18. The Grid IQ AMI System operates with endpoints (e.g., electric meters) that have communication modules.

19. Grid IQ AMI System endpoints are identified by device ID, endpoint ID, serial

number and/or network address.

20. Grid IQ endpoints are organized in groups.

21. The Grid IQ AMI System relies on one or more wireless networks to communicate with the endpoints, where the wireless networks include power line communication (PLC) system components, mesh network components, cellular network components, access points, subscriber units, and other endpoints.

22. During operation of the Grid IQ AMI System, GE processes endpoint addresses, endpoint group addresses, outgoing communications, and incoming acknowledgment responses.

23. Actions may be performed on one or more groups of Grid IQ AMI System endpoints.

24. GroupChatter has been damaged as a result of Defendant's infringing conduct described in Count 1. GE is liable to GroupChatter in an amount that adequately compensates it for GE's infringement, which, by law, can be no less than a reasonable royalty, together with interest and costs as fixed by this Court under 35 U.S.C. § 284.

**COUNT 2
(INFRINGEMENT OF U.S. PATENT NO. 8,199,740)**

25. GroupChatter incorporates paragraphs 1 through 22 herein by reference.

26. GroupChatter is the owner, by assignment, of U.S. Patent No. 8,199,740 (the "'740 Patent"), titled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR EFFICIENT AND DETERMINISTIC GROUP ALERTING."

27. A true and correct copy of the '740 Patent is attached as Exhibit B.

28. As the owner of the '740 Patent, GroupChatter holds all substantial rights in and under the '740 Patent, including the right to grant sublicenses, exclude others, and to enforce, sue, and recover damages for past and future infringement.

29. The United States Patent Office granted the '740 Patent on June 12, 2012.

30. The '740 Patent is valid, enforceable and was duly issued in full compliance with Title 35 of the United States Code.

31. GE is practicing one or more claims of the '740 Patent, including at least claims 1 and 11, by making, using, offering for sale, selling, and/or importing components and systems for alerting groups of recipients over a wireless network.

32. GE has directly infringed and continues to infringe the '740 Patent by practicing one or more claims of the '740 Patent, including at least claims 1 and 11, by deploying, testing, and operating the Grid IQ AMI System and its subsystems that provide a deterministic group messaging system through which GE alerts groups of recipient endpoints over a wireless network.

33. Grid IQ AMI System endpoints are capable of transmitting and receiving data wirelessly.

34. GE stores and processes endpoint and group addresses for multiple endpoints.

35. GE provides endpoints with data by broadcasting outgoing communications to the endpoints and processes incoming acknowledgments when it operates the Grid IQ AMI System and related subsystems.

36. The Grid IQ AMI System and related subsystems are a deterministic group messaging system for providing acknowledged group messaging.

37. GroupChatter has been damaged as a result of Defendant's infringing conduct described in Count 2. GE is liable to GroupChatter in an amount that adequately compensates it for their infringement, which amount, by law, can be no less than a reasonable royalty, together with interest and costs as fixed by this Court under 35 U.S.C. § 284.

**COUNT 3
(INFRINGEMENT OF U.S. PATENT NO. 8,588,207)**

38. GroupChatter incorporates paragraphs 1 through 35 herein by reference.

39. GroupChatter is the owner, by assignment, of U.S. Patent No. 8,588,207 (the “’207 Patent”), titled “METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR EFFICIENT AND DETERMINISTIC GROUP ALERTING.”

40. A true and correct copy of the ’207 Patent is attached as Exhibit C.

41. As the owner of the ’207 Patent, GroupChatter holds all substantial rights in and under the ’207 Patent, including the right to grant sublicenses, exclude others, and to enforce, sue, and recover damages for past and future infringement.

42. The United States Patent Office granted the ’207 Patent on November 19, 2013.

43. The ’207 Patent is valid, enforceable and was duly issued in full compliance with Title 35 of the United States Code.

44. GE is practicing one or more claims of the ’207 Patent, including at least claims 1 and 8, by making, using, offering for sale, selling, and/or importing the Grid IQ AMI System and its subsystems that provide a deterministic group messaging system through which GE alerts groups of recipients over a wireless network.

45. GE has directly infringed and continues to infringe the ’207 Patent by deploying, testing, and operating the Grid IQ AMI System that provides acknowledged group messaging with endpoints (e.g., utility meters) in the Grid IQ AMI System.

46. GE processes endpoint and group identifiers, provides the endpoints with related data, wirelessly transmits outgoing communications to the endpoints, and processes incoming acknowledgments when it operates the Grid IQ AMI System and related subsystems.

47. The Grid IQ AMI System and related subsystems are a deterministic group

messaging system and provide acknowledged group messaging.

48. GroupChatter has been damaged as a result of Defendant's infringing conduct described in Count 3. GE is liable to GroupChatter in an amount that adequately compensates it for their infringement, which, by law, can be no less than a reasonable royalty, together with interest and costs as fixed by this Court under 35 U.S.C. § 284.

**COUNT 4
(INFRINGEMENT OF U.S. PATENT NO. 9,014,659)**

49. GroupChatter incorporates paragraphs 1 through 46 herein by reference.

50. GroupChatter is the owner, by assignment, of U.S. Patent No. 9,014,659 (the "'659 Patent"), titled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR EFFICIENT AND DETERMINISTIC GROUP ALERTING."

51. A true and correct copy of the '659 Patent is attached as Exhibit D.

52. As the owner of the '659 Patent, GroupChatter holds all substantial rights in and under the '659 Patent, including the right to grant sublicenses, exclude others, and to enforce, sue, and recover damages for past and future infringement.

53. The United States Patent Office granted the '659 Patent on April 21, 2015.

54. The '659 Patent is valid, enforceable and was duly issued in full compliance with Title 35 of the United States Code.

55. GE is practicing one or more claims of the '659 Patent, including at least claims 1 and 10, by making, using, offering for sale, selling, and/or importing the Grid IQ AMI System and its subsystems that provide a deterministic group messaging system through which GE alerts groups of recipients over a wireless network.

56. GE has directly infringed and continues to infringe the '659 Patent by deploying, testing, and operating the Grid IQ AMI System that provides acknowledged group messaging

with endpoints in the Grid IQ AMI System.

57. In operation, the Grid IQ AMI System provides acknowledged group messaging.

58. The Grid IQ AMI System stores an identifier for a plurality of endpoints.

59. The Grid IQ AMI System provides for grouping of endpoints and assignment of a group identifier to a group of endpoints.

60. The Grid IQ AMI System wirelessly transmits data to endpoints.

61. The Grid IQ AMI System processes incoming acknowledgments from endpoints within a group.

62. The Grid IQ AMI System and related subsystems monitor for responses from endpoints to group message transmissions.

63. The Grid IQ AMI System and related subsystems are a deterministic group messaging system for providing acknowledged group messaging.

64. GroupChatter has been damaged as a result of GE's infringing conduct described in Count 4. GE is liable to GroupChatter in an amount that adequately compensates it for their infringement, which compensation, by law, can be no less than a reasonable royalty, together with interest and costs as fixed by this Court under 35 U.S.C. § 284.

NOTICE OF REQUIREMENT OF LITIGATION HOLD

65. GE is hereby notified it is legally obligated to locate, preserve, and maintain all records, notes, drawings, documents, data, communications, materials, electronic recordings, audio/video/photographic recordings, and digital files, including edited and unedited or "raw" source material, and other information and tangible things that GE knows, or reasonably should know, may be relevant to actual or potential claims, counterclaims, defenses, and/or damages by any party or potential party in this lawsuit, whether created or residing in hard copy form or in the form of electronically stored information (hereafter collectively referred to as "Potential

Evidence”).

66. As used above, the phrase “electronically stored information” includes without limitation: computer files (and file fragments), e-mail (both sent and received, whether internally or externally), information concerning e-mail (including but not limited to logs of e-mail history and usage, header information, and deleted but recoverable e-mails), text files (including drafts, revisions, and active or deleted word processing documents), instant messages, audio recordings and files, video footage and files, audio files, photographic footage and files, spreadsheets, databases, calendars, telephone logs, contact manager information, internet usage files, and all other information created, received, or maintained on any and all electronic and/or digital forms, sources and media, including, without limitation, any and all hard disks, removable media, peripheral computer or electronic storage devices, laptop computers, mobile phones, personal data assistant devices, Blackberry devices, iPhones, video cameras and still cameras, and any and all other locations where electronic data is stored. These sources may also include any personal electronic, digital, and storage devices of any and all of GE’s agents, resellers, or employees if GE’s electronically stored information resides there.

67. GE is hereby further notified and forewarned that any alteration, destruction, negligent loss, or unavailability, by act or omission, of any Potential Evidence may result in damages or a legal presumption by the Court and/or jury that the Potential Evidence is not favorable to GE’s claims and/or defenses. To avoid such a result, GE’s preservation duties include, but are not limited to, the requirement that GE immediately notify its agents and employees to halt and/or supervise the auto-delete functions of GE’s electronic systems and refrain from deleting Potential Evidence, either manually or through a policy of periodic deletion.

69. GroupChatter prays for the following relief:
- a. That GE be summoned to appear and answer;
 - b. That the Court enter an order declaring that GE has infringed the '959 Patent, the '740 Patent, the '207 Patent, and the '659 Patent.
 - c. That the Court grant GroupChatter judgment against GE for all actual, consequential, special, punitive, increased, and/or statutory damages, including, if necessary, an accounting of all damages; pre and post-judgment interest as allowed by law; and reasonable attorney's fees, costs, and expenses incurred in this action; and
 - d. That GroupChatter be granted such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper under the circumstances.

Dated: November 11, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

TAYLOR DUNHAM AND RODRIGUEZ LLP

301 Congress Ave., Suite 1050

Austin, Texas 78701

512.473.2257 Telephone

512.478.4409 Facsimile

By: 

Cabrach J. Connor

State Bar No. 24036390

Email: cc Connor@taylordunham.com

David E. Dunham

State Bar No. 06227700

Email: ddunham@taylordunham.com

Jennifer Tatum Lee

Texas Bar No. 24046950

Email: jtatum@taylordunham.com

Texas Bar No. 24046950

Email: jtatum@taylordunham.com