

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

LONGHORN HD LLC.,)	Case No.
)	
Plaintiff,)	<u>JURY TRIAL DEMANDED</u>
)	
v.)	
)	
ATOS SE.,)	
)	
Defendant.)	
)	

PLAINTIFF’S ORIGINAL COMPLAINT FOR PATENT INFRINGEMENT

Plaintiff Longhorn HD LLC. (“LHD” or “Plaintiff”), for its Complaint against Defendant Atos SE (“Atos” or “Defendant”), alleges as follows:

THE PARTIES

1. LHD is a limited liability company organized and existing under the laws of the State of Texas, with its principal place of business located at 203 East Travis Street, Marshall, Texas 75670.

2. Upon information and belief, Defendant Atos is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of France, with its principal place of business located at 40 East Main Street, Suite 610, Bezons, 95877 France, and may be served pursuant to the provisions of the Hague Convention. Atos is a leading manufacturer and seller of computers and server equipment in the world and in the United States. Upon information and belief, Atos does business in Texas and in this Judicial District, directly or through intermediaries.

JURISDICTION

3. This is an action for patent infringement arising under the patent laws of the United States, 35 U.S.C. §§ 1, *et seq.* This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a).

4. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant. Defendant regularly conducts business and has committed acts of patent infringement and/or has induced acts of patent infringement by others in this Judicial District and/or has contributed to patent infringement by others in this Judicial District, the State of Texas, and elsewhere in the United States.

5. Venue is proper in this Judicial District as to Atos pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391 because, among other things, Atos is not a resident in the United States, and thus may be sued in any judicial district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(c)(3).

6. Defendant is subject to this Court's 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 past infringing activities, (b) regularly doing or soliciting business in Texas, and/or (c) engaging in persistent conduct and/or deriving substantial revenue from goods and services provided to customers in Texas.

PATENTS-IN-SUIT

7. On May 11, 2004, the United States Patent and Trademark Office duly and legally issued U.S. Patent No. 6,734,597 (the "597 Patent") entitled "Thermomechanical In-Plane Microactuator." A true and correct copy of the '597 Patent is available at: <http://pdfpiw.uspto.gov/.piw?Docid=06734597>.

8. On April 15, 2003, the United States Patent and Trademark Office duly and legally issued U.S. Patent No. 6,549,400 (the "'400 Patent") entitled "Method and System for Quickly

Connecting a 1U Personal Computer.” A true and correct copy of the ’400 Patent is available at: <http://pdfpiw.uspto.gov/.piw?Docid=06549400>.

9. On August 30, 2005, the United States Patent and Trademark Office duly and legally issued U.S. Patent No. 6,938,104 (the “’104 Patent”) entitled “Removable Hard Drive Assembly, Computer with a Removable Hard Disk Drive, Method of Initializing and Operating a Removable Hard Drive.” A true and correct copy of the ’104 Patent is available at: <http://pdfpiw.uspto.gov/.piw?Docid=06938104>.

10. LHD is the sole and exclusive owner of all right, title, and interest in the ’597 Patent, the ’400 Patent, and the ’104 Patent (collectively, the “Patents-in-Suit”), and holds the exclusive right to take all actions necessary to enforce its rights to the Patents-in-Suit, including the filing of this patent infringement lawsuit. LHD also has the right to recover all damages for past, present, and future infringement of the Patents-in-Suit and to seek injunctive relief as appropriate under the law.

11. LHD has at all times complied with the marking provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 287 with respect to the Patents-in-Suit. On information and belief, prior assignees and licensees have also complied with the marking provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 287.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

12. The Patents-in-Suit generally cover systems and methods for use in computer and server storage and structure.

13. The ’597 Patent generally relates to technology for utilizing miniature piezoelectric elements to move shuttles in a direction perpendicular to the piezoelectric element. The technology described in the ’597 Patent was developed by inventors Larry L. Howell and Scott Lyon at Brigham Young University. For example, this technology is implemented at least in hard

disk drives as technology referred to as “micro-actuators” and/or “dual-stage actuators.”

14. Third-parties Western Digital (“WD”) and Hitachi Global Storage Technologies (“HGST”) supply Hard Disk Drives (“HDDs”) that implement the infringing micro-actuator technologies. These hard drives include WD Blue, Black, Red, Purple, and Gold drives, as well as HGST Ultrastar, Travelstar, Deskstar, Endurastar, and Cinemastar drives. Upon information and belief, Atos makes, uses, sells, and/or imports computers and servers, such as the BullSequana S, BullSequana M, BullSequana X, and Escala Servers, which include or utilize one or more WD and/or HGST HDDs.

15. The ’400 Patent generally relates to novel structures for connecting 1U computers. The technology described in the ’400 Patent was developed by David T. Medin, Scott Kayser, Robert D. Hinds, and Curtis R. Nelson at Crystal Group Inc. Upon information and belief, Crystal Group Inc. made ruggedized servers for military and maritime use. For example, the technology is implemented by infringing servers that utilize blind mateable configurations. Upon information and belief, Atos makes, uses, sells, and/or imports infringing servers, such as the BullSsequana X550 Blade Servers. Upon information and belief, these infringing Atos server products further include management modules that provide remote management capabilities.

16. The ’104 Patent generally relates to hot-swappable ATA hard disk drives. The technology described in the ’104 Patent was developed by Itzik Levy at Arco Computer Products, Inc. For example, the technology is implemented by infringing servers that utilize hot-swappable hard disk drives and solid state drives. Upon information and belief, Atos makes, uses, sells, and/or imports infringing servers, such as the BullSequana S, BullSequana M, BullSequana X, and Escala Servers. Upon information and belief, these infringing Atos server products further include hot-

swappable hard drive modules that are configured with Redundant Array of Multiple Disks (“RAID”).

17. Atos has infringed and is continuing to infringe one or more of the Patents-in-Suit by making, using, selling, offering to sell, and/or importing, and by actively inducing others to make, use, sell, offer to sell, and/or import, products including computers, and servers that utilize hard disk drives (“HDDs”), solid state drives (“SSDs”), and associated software that infringes the Patents-in-Suit. Atos has also infringed and is continuing to infringe one or more of the Patents-in-Suit by making, using, selling, offering to sell, and/or importing, and by actively inducing others to make, use, sell, offer to sell, and/or import, products including servers that utilize 1U mateable servers and/or hot-swappable drive technology and associated software that infringes the Patents-in-Suit.

COUNT I
(Infringement of the '597 Patent)

18. Paragraphs 1 through 17 are incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

19. LHD has not licensed or otherwise authorized Defendant to make, use, offer for sale, sell, or import any products that embody the inventions of the '597 Patent.

20. Defendant has and continues to directly infringe the '597 Patent, either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents, without authority, and in violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271, by making, using, offering to sell, selling, and/or importing into the United States products that satisfy each and every limitation of one or more claims of the '597 Patent. Such products include Servers, such as the BullSequana S, BullSequana M, BullSequana X, and Escala Servers as well as other Atos storage solutions that utilize HDDs that include microactuators, such as dual stage actuators (DSA). On information and belief, such Atos products include at least BullSequana S, BullSequana M, BullSequana X, and Escala Servers and/or other Atos products that include one

or more HGST and/or WD hard drives.

21. For example, Defendant has and continues to directly and/or indirectly infringe at least Claim 44 of the '597 Patent by making, using, offering to sell, selling, and/or importing into the United States products that include hard disk drives that include microactuators, such as HGST Ultrastar drives, which include Dual-Stage Actuators.

22. HGST Ultrastar drives which, upon information and belief, are included in one or more of Defendant's computers and/or servers, include one or more Dual-Stage Actuators that, when utilized, employ a method for actuating a micromechanism, the micromechanism comprises an expansion member having a first end coupled to a base member and a second end coupled to a drivable shuttle. For example, The Dual Stage Actuator includes a substantially straight expansion member comprising a first and a second end. The Dual Stage Actuator further includes a base member attached to the first end of the substantially straight expansion member. When utilized, the Dual Stage Actuator elongates the expansion member in the elongation direction. The Dual Stage Actuator further elastically buckles the expansion member against the shuttle. The Dual Stage Actuator further applies a biasing force resulting from buckling of the expansion member to the shuttle, a portion of the biasing force urging the shuttle in a direction substantially different from the elongation direction.¹

23. Defendant has and continues to indirectly infringe one or more claims of the '597 Patent by knowingly and intentionally inducing others, including Defendant's customers and end-users, to directly infringe, either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents, by making, using, offering to sell, selling and/or importing into the United States products that include infringing technology, such as laptops, desktops, and servers, that utilize hard drives that include

¹ See, e.g., https://documents.westerndigital.com/content/dam/doc-library/en_us/assets/public/western-digital/collateral/tech-brief/tech-brief-western-digital-micro-actuator.pdf

microactuators.

24. Defendant, with knowledge that these products, or the use thereof, infringe the '597 Patent at least as of the date of this Complaint, knowingly and intentionally induced, and continues to knowingly and intentionally induce, direct infringement of the '597 Patent by providing these products to end users for use in an infringing manner.

25. Defendant induced infringement by others, including end users, with the intent to cause infringing acts by others or, in the alternative, with the belief that there was a high probability that others, including end users, infringe the '597 Patent, but while remaining willfully blind to the infringement.

26. LHD has suffered damages as a result of Defendant's direct and indirect infringement of the '597 Patent in an amount to be proved at trial.

27. LHD has suffered, and will continue to suffer, irreparable harm as a result of Defendant's infringement of the '597 Patent for which there is no adequate remedy at law, unless Defendant's infringement is enjoined by this Court.

COUNT II
(Infringement of the '400 Patent)

28. Paragraphs 1 through 17 are incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

29. LHD has not licensed or otherwise authorized Defendant to make, use, offer for sale, sell, or import any products that embody the inventions of the '400 Patent.

30. Defendant has and continues to directly infringe the '400 Patent, either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents, without authority and in violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271, by making, using, offering to sell, selling, and/or importing into the United States products that satisfy each and every limitation of one or more claims of the '400 Patent. Such products include servers, such as "blade" servers and other industrial personal computers that have, among other things, a blind

mateable PC connector which mates to a blind mateable connector assembly coupled to a rack. On information and belief, infringing products include at least the BullSequana X550 Blade Servers.

31. For example, Defendant has and continues to directly infringe at least Claim 1 of the '400 Patent by making, using, offering to sell, selling, and/or importing into the United States products that include a system of 1U industrial computers. The infringing systems include one or more 1U industrial personal computers such as, for example, compute nodes and/or switch nodes. Further, the nodes are 1U industrial personal computers having a blind mateable PC connector thereon which mates to a blind mateable connector assembly coupled to the rack.

32. Defendant has and continues to indirectly infringe one or more claims of the '400 Patent by knowingly and intentionally inducing others, including Atos customers and end-users, to directly infringe, either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents, by making, using, offering to sell, selling and/or importing into the United States products that include infringing technology, such as blind mateable servers and enclosures.

33. Defendant has knowledge that these products, or the use thereof, infringe the '400 Patent at least as of the date of this Complaint, knowingly and intentionally induced, and continues to knowingly and intentionally induce, direct infringement of the '400 Patent by providing these products to end users for use in an infringing manner.

34. Defendant induced infringement by others, including end users, with the intent to cause infringing acts by others or, in the alternative, with the belief that there was a high probability that others, including end users, infringe the '400 Patent, but while remaining willfully blind to the infringement.

35. LHD has suffered damages as a result of Defendant's direct and indirect infringement of the '400 Patent in an amount to be proved at trial.

36. LHD has suffered, and will continue to suffer, irreparable harm as a result of Defendant's infringement of the '400 Patent for which there is no adequate remedy at law, unless Defendant's infringement is enjoined by this Court.

COUNT III
(Infringement of the '104 Patent)

37. Paragraphs 1 through 17 are incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

38. LHD has not licensed or otherwise authorized Defendant to make, use, offer for sale, sell, or import any products that embody the inventions of the '104 Patent.

39. Defendant has and continues to directly infringe the '104 Patent, either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents, without authority and in violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271, by making, using, offering to sell, selling, and/or importing into the United States products that satisfy each and every limitation of one or more claims of the '104 Patent. Such products include servers that include hot-swappable ATA hard drive assemblies. On information and belief, infringing products include at least the BullSequana S, BullSequana M, BullSequana X, and Escala Servers.

40. For example, Defendant has and continues to directly infringe at least Claim 13 of the '104 Patent by making, using, offering to sell, selling, and/or importing into the United States products that include servers with hot-swappable hard drive assemblies. The infringing systems, such as the BullSequana S, BullSequana M, BullSequana X, and Escala Servers, are computer devices that include computer systems formed with at least one standard drive bay and including a power supply and a drive controller conforming to the ATA standard, such as, for example, a serial ATA ("SATA") controller. The infringing servers also include a drive assembly fixedly mounted in said drive bay and connected to said power supply and to said drive controller, with

said drive assembly having an opening formed therein. The infringing systems further include at least one removable cartridge having a hard drive device and being dimensioned for insertion into said opening formed in said drive assembly. For example, upon information and belief, the BullSequana S, BullSequana M, BullSequana X, and Escala Servers include hot swap bays and support the SATA standard (*e.g.* SAS). The infringing systems further include a printed circuit board electronically connected between said hard drive device and said drive controller of the system host, said printed circuit board being programmed to modify an identification of the hard drive device and to said system host that said hard drive is a removable drive. For example, upon information and belief, the infringing servers, such as the BullSequana S, BullSequana M, BullSequana X, and Escala Servers, include a printed circuit board that includes a PCIE slot for a dedicated RAID controller.

41. Defendant has and continues to indirectly infringe one or more claims of the '104 Patent by knowingly and intentionally inducing others, including Atos customers and end-users, to directly infringe, either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents, by making, using, offering to sell, selling and/or importing into the United States products that include infringing technology such as servers with hot-swappable hard drives.

42. Defendant, with knowledge that these products, or the use thereof, infringe the '104 Patent at least as the date of this Complaint, knowingly and intentionally induced, and continues to knowingly and intentionally induce, direct infringement of the '104 Patent by providing these products to end users for use in an infringing manner.

43. Defendant induced infringement by others, including end users, with the intent to cause infringing acts by others or, in the alternative, with the belief that there was a high probability that others, including end users, infringe the '104 Patent, but while remaining willfully blind to the

infringement.

44. LHD has suffered damages as a result of Defendant's direct and indirect infringement of the '104 Patent in an amount to be proved at trial.

45. LHD has suffered, and will continue to suffer, irreparable harm as a result of Defendant's infringement of the '104 Patent for which there is no adequate remedy at law, unless Defendant's infringement is enjoined by this Court.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff hereby demands a jury for all issues so triable.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, LHD prays for relief against Defendant as follows:

- a. Entry of judgment declaring that Defendant has directly and/or indirectly infringed one or more claims of each of the Patents-in-Suit;
- b. An order pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 283 permanently enjoining Defendant, its officers, agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with it, from further acts of infringement one or more of the asserted patents;
- c. An order awarding damages sufficient to compensate LHD for Defendant's infringement of the Patents-in-Suit, but in no event less than a reasonable royalty, together with interest and costs;
- d. Entry of judgment declaring that this case is exceptional and awarding LHD its costs and reasonable attorney fees under 35 U.S.C. § 285; and
- e. Such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Dated: March 31, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Vincent J. Rubino, III
Alfred R. Fabricant
NY Bar No. 2219392
Email: ffabricant@fabricantllp.com
Peter Lambrianakos
NY Bar No. 2894392
Email: plambrianakos@fabricantllp.com
Vincent J. Rubino, III
NY Bar No. 4557435
Email: vrubino@fabricantllp.com
FABRICANT LLP
411 Theodore Fremd Road, Suite 206 South
Rye, New York 10580 Telephone: (212)
257-5797
Facsimile: (212) 257-5796

John Andrew Rubino
NY Bar No. 5020797
Email: jarubino@rubinoip.com
830 Morris Turnpike
RUBINO IP
Short Hills, New Jersey 07078
Telephone: (973) 535-0920
Facsimile (973) 535-0921

Justin Kurt Truelove
Texas Bar No. 24013653
Email: kurt@truelovelawfirm.com
TRUELOVE LAW FIRM, PLLC
100 West Houston Street
Marshall, Texas 75670
Telephone: (903) 938-8321
Facsimile: (903) 215-8510

**ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF,
LONGHORN HD LLC.**