

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

FUTURE LINK SYSTEMS, LLC,

Plaintiff,

v.

ACER INC.; ACER AMERICA CORP.;

Defendants.

Case No. 6:21-cv-01344

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

**COMPLAINT FOR PATENT INFRINGEMENT
AGAINST ACER INC. AND ACER AMERICA CORP.**

This is an action for patent infringement arising under the Patent Laws of the United States of America, 35 U.S.C. § 1 *et seq.*, in which Plaintiff Future Link Systems, LLC (“Plaintiff” or “Future Link”) makes the following allegations against Defendants Acer Inc. and Acer America Corp. (collectively, “Defendants” or “Acer”):

INTRODUCTION

1. This complaint arises from Acer’s unlawful infringement of the following United States patent owned by Plaintiff, which generally relate to integrated circuits and power-saving features therefor: United States Patent Nos. 7,685,439 (“’439 Patent”) and 8,099,614 (“’614 Patent”) (collectively, the “Asserted Patents”).

PARTIES

2. Plaintiff Future Link Systems, LLC is a Delaware limited liability company organized and existing under the law of the State of Delaware, with its principal place of business at 3945 Freedom Circle, Suite 900, Santa Clara, California 95054. Future Link is the sole owner by assignment of all right, title, and interest in each Asserted Patent.

3. Defendant Acer Inc. is a company organized and existing under the laws of Taiwan with its principal place of business at 1F, 88, Sec. 1, Xintai 5th Road, Xizhi, New Taipei City 221, Taiwan.

4. Defendant Acer America Corporation is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the California, with its principal place of business at 1730 North First Street, Suite 400, San Jose, CA 95112.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

5. This action arises under the patent laws of the United States, Title 35 of the United States Code. This Court has original subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a).

6. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Acer in this action because Acer has committed acts within this District giving rise to this action and has established minimum contacts with this forum such that the exercise of jurisdiction over Acer would not offend traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice. Acer, directly and through subsidiaries or intermediaries, has committed and continues to commit acts of infringement in this District by, among other things, importing, offering to sell, and selling products that infringe the Asserted Patents.

7. Venue is proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391 and 1400(b). Additionally, upon information and belief, Defendants have transacted business in this District and have committed acts of direct and indirect infringement in this District by, among other things, making, using, offering to sell, selling, and importing products that infringe the Asserted Patents. On information and belief, Acer, directly or indirectly owns and/or operates a regular and established place of business within the Western District of Texas located at 1394 Eberhardt Road, Temple,

Texas, 96504.¹ Venue is also proper as to a foreign defendant in any district. 28 U.S.C. § 1391(c)(3); *In re HTC Corp.*, 889 F.3d 1349 (Fed. Cir. 2018). Defendant Acer Inc. is a foreign corporation organized under the laws of Taiwan, with a principal place of business in Taiwan.

COUNT I

INFRINGEMENT OF U.S. PATENT NO. 7,685,439

8. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

9. Plaintiff owns by assignment all rights, title, and interest in U.S. Patent No. 7,685,439 (the “’439 Patent”), entitled “Method for Effecting the Controlled Shutdown of Data Processing Units.” The ’439 Patent was duly and legally issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office on March 23, 2010. A true and correct copy of the ’439 Patent is attached as Exhibit 1.

10. On information and belief, Acer makes, uses, offers for sale, sells, and/or imports certain products (“Accused Products”), such as System-on-Chip, laptop, and tablet devices, that directly infringe, literally and/or under the doctrine of equivalents, at least Claim 1 of the ’439 Patent.

11. Acer also knowingly and intentionally induces infringement of at least Claim 1 of the ’439 Patent in violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271(b). Through at least the filing and service of this Complaint, Acer has knowledge of the ’439 Patent and the infringing nature of the Accused Products. Despite this knowledge of the ’439 Patent, Acer continues to actively encourage and instruct its customers and end users (for example, through user manuals and online instruction

¹ See, e.g., https://www.dnb.com/business-directory/company-profiles/acer_america_corporation.5f8d9d3b820c909931a31ca1fcfb8403.html.

materials on its website) to use the Accused Products in ways that directly infringe the '439 Patent. Acer does so knowing and intending that its customers and end users will commit these infringing acts. Acer also continues to make, use, offer for sale, sell, and/or import the Accused Products, despite its knowledge of the '439 Patent, thereby specifically intending for and inducing its customers to infringe the '439 Patent through the customers' normal and customary use of the Accused Products.

12. Acer has also infringed, and continues to infringe, at least Claim 1 of the '439 Patent by selling, offering for sale, or importing into the United States, the Accused Products, knowing that the Accused Products constitute a material part of the inventions claimed in the '439 Patent, are especially made or adapted to infringe the '439 Patent, and are not staple articles or commodities of commerce suitable for non-infringing use. Acer has been, and currently is, contributorily infringing the '439 Patent in violation of 35 U.S.C. §§ 271(c) and (f).

13. The Accused Products satisfy all claim limitations of one or more claims of the '439 Patent. A claim chart comparing independent claim 1 of the '439 Patent to representative Accused Products (including but not limited to the Acer Spin 513 Chromebook) is attached as Exhibit 2, which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

14. By making, using, offering for sale, selling and/or importing into the United States the Accused Products, Acer has injured Plaintiff and is liable for infringement of the '439 Patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 271.

15. As a result of Acer's infringement of the '439 Patent, Plaintiff is entitled to monetary damages in an amount adequate to compensate for Acer's infringement, but in no event less than a reasonable royalty for the use made of the invention by Acer, together with interest and costs as fixed by the Court.

16. Acer also has knowledge of the '439 Patent at least due to the filing of this Complaint, and based on that knowledge, it willfully infringes the '439 Patent.

17. Acer's infringing activities have injured and will continue to injure Plaintiff, unless and until this Court enters an injunction prohibiting further infringement of the '439 Patent, and, specifically, enjoining further manufacture, use, sale, importation, and/or offers for sale that come within the scope of the patent claims.

COUNT II

INFRINGEMENT OF U.S. PATENT NO. 8,099,614

18. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

19. Plaintiff owns by assignment all rights, title, and interest in U.S. Patent No. 8,099,614 (the "'614 Patent"), entitled "Power Management for Buses in CMOS Circuits." The '614 Patent was duly and legally issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office on January 17, 2012. A true and correct copy of the '614 Patent is attached as Exhibit 3.

20. On information and belief, Acer makes, uses, offers for sale, sells, and/or imports certain products ("Accused Products"), such as System-on-Chip, laptop, and tablet devices, that directly infringe, literally and/or under the doctrine of equivalents, at least Claim 1 of the '614 Patent.

21. Acer also knowingly and intentionally induces infringement of at least Claim 1 of the '614 Patent in violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271(b). Through at least the filing and service of this Complaint, Acer has knowledge of the '614 Patent and the infringing nature of the Accused Products. Despite this knowledge of the '614 Patent, Acer continues to actively encourage and instruct its customers and end users (for example, through user manuals and online instruction

materials on its website) to use the Accused Products in ways that directly infringe the '614 Patent. Acer does so knowing and intending that its customers and end users will commit these infringing acts. Acer also continues to make, use, offer for sale, sell, and/or import the Accused Products, despite its knowledge of the '614 Patent, thereby specifically intending for and inducing its customers to infringe the '614 Patent through the customers' normal and customary use of the Accused Products.

22. Acer has also infringed, and continues to infringe, at least Claim 1 of the '614 Patent by selling, offering for sale, or importing into the United States, the Accused Products, knowing that the Accused Products constitute a material part of the inventions claimed in the '614 Patent, are especially made or adapted to infringe the '614 Patent, and are not staple articles or commodities of commerce suitable for non-infringing use. Acer has been, and currently is, contributorily infringing the '614 Patent in violation of 35 U.S.C. §§ 271(c) and (f).

23. The Accused Products satisfy all claim limitations of one or more claims of the '614 Patent. A claim chart comparing independent claim 1 of the '614 Patent to representative Accused Products (including but not limited to the Acer Spin 513 Chromebook) is attached as Exhibit 4, which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

24. By making, using, offering for sale, selling and/or importing into the United States the Accused Products, Acer has injured Plaintiff and is liable for infringement of the '614 Patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 271.

25. As a result of Acer's infringement of the '614 Patent, Plaintiff is entitled to monetary damages in an amount adequate to compensate for Acer's infringement, but in no event less than a reasonable royalty for the use made of the invention by Acer, together with interest and costs as fixed by the Court.

26. Acer also has knowledge of its infringement of the '614 Patent at least due the filing of the Complaint, and based on that knowledge, it willfully infringes the '614 Patent.

27. Acer's infringing activities have injured and will continue to injure Plaintiff, unless and until this Court enters an injunction prohibiting further infringement of the '614 Patent, and, specifically, enjoining further manufacture, use, sale, importation, and/or offers for sale that come within the scope of the patent claims.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that this Court enter:

a. A judgment in favor of Plaintiff that Acer has infringed, either literally and/or under the doctrine of equivalents, the '439 and '614 Patents;

b. A judgment and order requiring Acer to pay Plaintiff its damages, costs, expenses, and pre-judgment and post-judgment interest for Acer's infringement of the '439 and '614 Patents; and

c. A judgment and order requiring Acer to provide an accounting and to pay supplemental damages to Plaintiff, including without limitation, pre-judgment and post-judgment interest;

d. A judgment and order finding that this is an exceptional case within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 285 and awarding to Plaintiff its reasonable attorneys' fees against Acer;

e. An award of enhanced damages to Plaintiff as a result of Acer's willful infringement; and

f. Any and all other relief as the Court may deem appropriate and just under the circumstances.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff, under Rule 38 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, requests a trial by jury of any issues so triable by right.

Dated: December 22, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Reza Mirzaie
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