

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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BEFORE THE OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE  
FOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED  
STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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PATENT QUALITY ASSURANCE, LLC,  
INTEL CORPORATION,  
Petitioners,

v.

VLSI TECHNOLOGY LLC,  
Patent Owner.

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IPR2021-01229<sup>1</sup>  
Patent 7,523,373 B2

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Before KATHERINE K. VIDAL, *Under Secretary of Commerce for  
Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and  
Trademark Office.*

ORDER  
Staying the Proceeding

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<sup>1</sup> Intel Corporation (“Intel”), which filed a petition in IPR2022-00479, has been joined as a party to this proceeding. Paper 30.

On January 26, 2022, the Patent Trial and Appeal Board (“Board”) issued a Decision instituting an *inter partes* review (“IPR”) of claims 1–16 (“challenged claims”) of U.S. Patent No. 7,523,373 B2 (“the ’373 patent”), based on a Petition filed by Patent Quality Assurance, LLC (“PQA”). Paper 10 (“Institution Decision”). VLSI Technology LLC (“VLSI” or “Patent Owner”) subsequently filed a rehearing request and a request for Precedential Opinion Panel (“POP”) review. *See* Paper 13 (“Req. Reh’g”); Ex. 3001. On June 6, 2022, the Board joined Intel as a Petitioner in this case. Paper 30.

I initiated Director review of the Board’s Institution Decision on June 7, 2022. Paper 31. My Order initiating Director review did not stay the *inter partes* review, which has been underway, with an oral hearing held on October 26, 2022. *Id.* at 3; Paper 92. Concurrent with my Order initiating Director review, the POP dismissed the rehearing and POP review requests. Paper 32. I also ordered the parties to provide briefing to assist me with my review, and to respond to interrogatories and to exchange information to assist me in evaluating questions of first impression. Paper 35, 7–11. My review of the Board’s Institution Decision remains pending.

Due to the importance of the issues to the Office in fulfilling its mission, the underlying proceeding before the Board is stayed while I complete my review.

For the foregoing reasons, it is hereby:

ORDERED that the underlying proceeding is stayed pending my decision on Director review.

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Patent 7,523,373 B2

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