

November 10, 2020

Scott C. Weidenfeller
Vice Chief Administrative Patent Judge
Patent Trial and Appeal Board
US Patent and Trademark Office
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Re: Request for Comments on Discretion to Institute Trials Before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board. Docket No. PTO-C-2020-0055.

Dear Judge Weidenfeller,

As the Founder and CEO of Vista Engineering and Consulting LLC in Birmingham, Alabama, I am submitting comments on the above-captioned Request for Comments published in 85 Fed. Reg. 66502 (October 20, 2020), (“RFC”). We strongly support Director Iancu’s proposal to promulgate new regulations to help strengthen intellectual property in America. Our company has 6 employees, and we develop and produce products for Manufacturing and telecom. The Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program has helped fund our company. We currently have 5 patent assets and more pending and patents play a significant role in our current and future growth. Without strong patents, we cannot thrive and support the American economy.

The American Invents Act (AIA) has hurt our ability to monetize our intellectual property. Proposed new regulations by the USPTO will help mitigate some of the devastation that the AIA and other US Supreme Court decisions have wreaked upon us by hurting our ability to either license our technology or compete without large company “efficient infringers.”

We strongly support the Small Business Technology Council’s (SBTC’s) position on the proposed regulations. Please see their letter dated November 10, 2020 (attached).

Please feel free to contact me with any questions at rthompson@vistaeng.com

Sincerely,

Raymond Thompson PhD, PE
CEO

Fellow National Academy of Forensic Engineering
Fellow American Society for Metals and Materials
Fellow American Welding Society