

the preliminary phase of the investigations need not file an additional notice of appearance during this final phase. The Secretary will maintain a public service list containing the names and addresses of all persons, or their representatives, who are parties to the investigations.

Please note the Secretary's Office will accept only electronic filings during this time. Filings must be made through the Commission's Electronic Document Information System (EDIS, <https://edis.usitc.gov>). No in-person paper-based filings or paper copies of any electronic filings will be accepted until further notice.

Limited disclosure of business proprietary information (BPI) under an administrative protective order (APO) and BPI service list.—Pursuant to § 207.7(a) of the Commission's rules, the Secretary will make BPI gathered in the final phase of these investigations available to authorized applicants under the APO issued in the investigations, provided that the application is made no later than 21 days prior to the hearing date specified in this notice. Authorized applicants must represent interested parties, as defined by 19 U.S.C. 1677(9), who are parties to the investigations. A party granted access to BPI in the preliminary phase of the investigations need not reapply for such access. A separate service list will be maintained by the Secretary for those parties authorized to receive BPI under the APO.

Staff report.—The prehearing staff report in the final phase of these investigations will be placed in the nonpublic record on March 11, 2025, and a public version will be issued thereafter, pursuant to § 207.22 of the Commission's rules.

Hearing.—The Commission will hold a hearing in connection with the final phase of these investigations beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 25, 2025. Requests to appear at the hearing should be filed in writing with the Secretary to the Commission on or before Wednesday, March 19, 2025. Any requests to appear as a witness via videoconference must be included with your request to appear. Requests to appear via videoconference must include a statement explaining why the witness cannot appear in person; the Chairman, or other person designated to conduct the investigation, may in their discretion for good cause shown, grant such a request. Requests to appear as remote witness due to illness or a positive COVID-19 test result may be submitted by 3pm the business day prior to the hearing. Further information about participation in the hearing will

be posted on the Commission's website at <https://www.usitc.gov/calendarpad/calendar.html>.

A nonparty who has testimony that may aid the Commission's deliberations may request permission to present a short statement at the hearing. All parties and nonparties desiring to appear at the hearing and make oral presentations should attend a prehearing conference, if deemed necessary, to be held at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, March 21, 2025. Parties shall file and serve written testimony and presentation slides in connection with their presentation at the hearing by no later than noon on March 24, 2025. Oral testimony and written materials to be submitted at the public hearing are governed by sections 201.6(b)(2), 201.13(f), and 207.24 of the Commission's rules. Parties must submit any request to present a portion of their hearing testimony *in camera* no later than 7 business days prior to the date of the hearing.

Written submissions.—Each party who is an interested party shall submit a prehearing brief to the Commission. Prehearing briefs must conform with the provisions of § 207.23 of the Commission's rules; the deadline for filing is March 18, 2025. Parties shall also file written testimony in connection with their presentation at the hearing, and posthearing briefs, which must conform with the provisions of section 207.25 of the Commission's rules. The deadline for filing posthearing briefs is April 1, 2025. In addition, any person who has not entered an appearance as a party to the investigations may submit a written statement of information pertinent to the subject of the investigations, including statements of support or opposition to the petition, on or before April 1, 2025. On April 16, 2025, the Commission will make available to parties all information on which they have not had an opportunity to comment. Parties may submit final comments on this information on or before April 18, 2025, but such final comments must not contain new factual information and must otherwise comply with § 207.30 of the Commission's rules. All written submissions must conform with the provisions of § 201.8 of the Commission's rules; any submissions that contain BPI must also conform with the requirements of §§ 201.6, 207.3, and 207.7 of the Commission's rules. The Commission's *Handbook on Filing Procedures*, available on the Commission's website at https://www.usitc.gov/documents/handbook_on_filing_procedures.pdf, elaborates upon the Commission's procedures with respect to filings.

Additional written submissions to the Commission, including requests pursuant to § 201.12 of the Commission's rules, shall not be accepted unless good cause is shown for accepting such submissions, or unless the submission is pursuant to a specific request by a Commissioner or Commission staff.

In accordance with §§ 201.16(c) and 207.3 of the Commission's rules, each document filed by a party to the investigations must be served on all other parties to the investigations (as identified by either the public or BPI service list), and a certificate of service must be timely filed. The Secretary will not accept a document for filing without a certificate of service.

Authority: These investigations are being conducted under authority of title VII of the Tariff Act of 1930; this notice is published pursuant to § 207.21 of the Commission's rules.

By order of the Commission.

Issued: November 13, 2024.

Lisa Barton,

Secretary to the Commission.

[FR Doc. 2024-26884 Filed 11-18-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7020-02-P

INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigation No. 337-TA-1365]

Certain Photovoltaic Connectors and Components Thereof; Notice of a Commission Determination To Review in Part a Final Initial Determination; Request for Written Submissions on the Issues Under Review and on Remedy, the Public Interest, and Bonding; Extension of Target Date

AGENCY: U.S. International Trade Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the U.S. International Trade Commission has determined to review in part a final initial determination ("FID") issued by the presiding administrative law judge ("ALJ"). The Commission requests written submissions from the parties on the issues under review and submissions from the parties, interested government agencies, and other interested persons on the issues of remedy, the public interest, and bonding, under the schedule set forth below.

DATES: The Commission has determined to extend the target date for this investigation to January 15, 2025.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul Lall, Office of the General Counsel, U.S.

International Trade Commission, 500 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20436, telephone (202) 205–2043. Copies of non-confidential documents filed in connection with this investigation may be viewed on the Commission’s electronic docket (EDIS) at <https://edis.usitc.gov>. For help accessing EDIS, please email EDIS3Help@usitc.gov. General information concerning the Commission may also be obtained by accessing its internet server at <https://www.usitc.gov>. Hearing-impaired persons are advised that information on this matter can be obtained by contacting the Commission’s TDD terminal, telephone (202) 205–1810.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On June 9, 2023, the Commission instituted this investigation based on a complaint filed on behalf of Shoals Technologies Group, LLC (“Shoals Technologies”) of Portland, Tennessee. 88 FR 37905–06 (June 9, 2023). The complaint alleges violations of section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, 19 U.S.C. 1337 (“section 337”), based upon the importation into the United States, the sale for importation, or sale within the United States after importation of certain photovoltaic connectors and components thereof by reason of infringement of certain claims of U.S. Patent Nos. 10,553,739 (“the ’739 patent”) and 10,992,254 (“the ’254 patent”). The Commission’s notice of investigation (“NOI”) named the following eight respondents: (1) Hikam America, Inc. of Chula Vista, California; (2) Hikam Electrónica de México, S.A. de C.V. of Mexicali, Mexico; (3) Hikam Tecnologia de Sinaloa de Guasave, Mexico; (4) Hewtech Philippines Corp. of Laguna, Philippines; (5) Hewtech Philippines Electronics Corp. of Pampanga, Philippines; (6) Hewtech (Shenzhen) Electronics Co., Ltd. of Shenzhen, China (collectively the “Hikam Respondents”); (7) Voltage, LLC (“Voltage”) of Chapel Hill, North Carolina; and (8) Ningbo Voltage Smart Production Co. (“Ningbo Voltage”) of Ningbo, China (collectively “Respondents”). *Id.* The Office of Unfair Import Investigations (“OUII”) was also named as a party in this investigation. *Id.* at 37906.

On August 15, 2023, the Commission amended the complaint and NOI to add allegations of infringement against Voltage related to certain claims of U.S. Patent No. 11,689,153 (“the ’153 patent”). *See* Order No. 5 (Jul. 18, 2023), *unreviewed by* 88 FR 56882–83 (Aug. 21, 2023).

The presiding ALJ held a *Markman* hearing on December 13, 2023, and on February 20, 2024, issued an order

addressing claim construction for the ’739, ’254, and ’153 patents. *See* Order No. 16 (Feb. 20, 2024) (“*Markman* Order”). On February 28, 2024, Shoals filed a motion for reconsideration of the *Markman* Order’s construction of the term “engaged with” in claims 1 and 10 of the ’739 patent. On March 4 and 5, 2024, Respondents and OUII filed oppositions to the motion, respectively.

On March 11, 2024, the Commission terminated the following claims from the investigation based on Shoals’ withdrawal of the complaint as to those claims: claims 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, and 15–18 of the ’739 patent, claims 2–4, 8–12, 14, and 15 of the ’254 patent, and claims 2, 3, 6, and 15–17 of the ’153 patent. *See* Order No. 15 (Feb. 9, 2024), *unreviewed by* Comm’n Notice (March 11, 2024).

On March 25, 2024, the Commission terminated the ’254 patent from this investigation based on Shoals’ withdrawal of the complaint as to that patent. *See* Order No. 19 (Feb. 28, 2024), *unreviewed by* Comm’n Notice (March 26, 2024).

On April 19, 2024, the Commission determined not to review the ALJ’s grant of summary determination that Shoals has not satisfied the technical prong of the domestic industry requirement for the ’739 Patent and, thus, found no violation as to the ’739 patent. Order No. 20 (March 6, 2024), *unreviewed by* Comm’n Notice (Apr. 19, 2024). In Order No. 20, the ALJ also denied Shoals’ motion for reconsideration of the *Markman* Order. *Id.* Only the ’739 patent was asserted against the Hikam Respondents. *See* Comm’n Notice (Apr. 19, 2024); Am. Compl. at 66. Accordingly, the Hikam Respondent were effectively terminated from the investigation as of the termination of the ’739 patent. On June 18, 2024, Shoals filed a notice of appeal with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit appealing the Commission’s finding of no violation as to the ’739 patent. *See* Case No. 24–1991, Notice of Docketing (Fed. Cir. June 24, 2024).

On April 26, 2024, the Commission terminated this investigation with respect to asserted claim 8 of the ’153 patent based on Shoals’ withdrawal of the complaint as to that claim. *See* Order No. 29 (April 2, 2024), *unreviewed by* Comm’n Notice (Apr. 26, 2024).

The ALJ held an evidentiary hearing on March 18–22, 2024. As of the hearing, Shoals asserted claims 1, 11–14, 18, 21, 23, and 24 of the ’153 patent against the accused Voltage Trunk Bus, and Voltage sought adjudication of the Voltage Alternative Design [“AD”] Trunk Bus with respect to and claims 21

and 24 of the ’153 patent. Shoals also asserted that its domestic industry product practices claims 1 and 21 of the ’153 patent for purposes of the domestic industry requirement.

On August 30, 2024, the presiding ALJ issued the FID, finding that there has been a violation of section 337 in the importation into the United States, the sale for importation, and/or the sale in the United States after importation of certain photovoltaic connectors and components thereof with respect to certain claims of the ’153 patent. Specifically, the FID finds as to the ’153 patent that: (1) the Voltage Trunk Bus and Voltage AD Trunk Bus have been imported into the United States, sold for importation, and/or sold within the United States after importation; (2) the Voltage Trunk Bus satisfies claims 1, 11–14, and 18; (3) the Voltage Trunk Bus does not satisfy claims 21, 23, and 24; (4) the Voltage AD Trunk Bus does not satisfy claims 1, 11–14, 18, 21, 23, and 24; (5) Shoals has satisfied the technical prong of the domestic industry requirement; (6) Shoals has satisfied the economic prong of the domestic industry requirement; and (7) Voltage has not shown that claims 1, 11–14, 18, 21, 23, and 24 are invalid.

On September 13, 2024, the presiding ALJ issued a Recommended Determination on Remedy and Bonding (“RD”). The RD recommends that the Commission issue a limited exclusion order in the event it finds a violation of section 337 and impose a bond of 100 percent during the period of Presidential Review.

On October 15 and 16, 2024, Shoals and Voltage, respectively, filed a statement on the public interest pursuant to Commission Rule 210.50(a)(4), 19 CFR 210.50(a)(4). On October 2 and October 15, 2024, American Wire Group of Miami, Fla. and Strata Clean Energy of Durham, N.C. respectively filed statements on the public interest in response to the Commission’s **Federal Register** notice. *See* 89 FR 76869–70 (Sept. 19, 2024).

On September 16, 2024, Shoals filed a petition for review of the FID. In its petition, Shoals Technologies argued that the ALJ should not have considered respondents’ redesign product, the Voltage AD Trunk Bus, as being within the scope of the investigation.

On the same day, Respondents also filed a petition for review of several of the FID’s findings, including: (1) the FID’s construction of the term “aperture, recited in the asserted claims of the ’153 patent” as defined by the “Modified Cable Test”; (2) the FID’s finding that the asserted claims of the ’153 patent are not invalid for lack of written

description and/or indefiniteness; (3) the FID's finding that Shoals has a domestic industry with respect to an article protected by the '153 patent; and (4) the ALJ's determination to exclude the testimony of their invalidity expert.

Also on the same day, OUII filed a petition for review of the FID, seeking review of several of the FID's findings, including: (1) the FID's construction of the three "aperture" terms recited in the asserted claims of the '153 patent; (2) the FID's finding that Shoals' asserted domestic industry products satisfy the technical prong of the domestic industry requirement; and (3) the ALJ's determination to exclude the testimony of Respondents' invalidity expert.

On September 24, 2024, Shoals, Voltage and OUII each filed responses to the respective petitions for review. On October 4, 2024, Voltage filed a notice of supplemental authority and on October 7, 2024, Shoals filed a response.

Having reviewed the record of the investigation, including the FID, the parties' petitions for review and related submissions, the Commission has determined to review the FID's: (1) construction of the "aperture" terms recited in the asserted claims of the '153 Patent; (2) finding that the accused products infringe the asserted claims of the '153 patent; (3) finding that the asserted claims of the '153 patent are not invalid under 35 U.S.C. 112 for lack of written description and/or indefiniteness; and (4) finding that Shoals' domestic industry products satisfy the domestic industry requirement of section 337, including the FID's findings concerning the technical prong and the economic prong.

In connection with the final disposition of this investigation, the statute authorizes issuance of, *inter alia*, (1) an exclusion order that could result in the exclusion of the subject articles from entry into the United States; and/or (2) cease and desist orders that could result in the respondents being required to cease and desist from engaging in unfair acts in the importation and sale of such articles. Accordingly, the Commission is interested in receiving written submissions that address the form of remedy, if any, that should be ordered. If a party seeks exclusion of an article from entry into the United States for purposes other than entry for consumption, the party should so indicate and provide information establishing that activities involving other types of entry either are adversely affecting it or likely to do so. For background, see *Certain Devices for Connecting Computers via Telephone Lines*, Inv. No. 337-TA-360, USITC

Pub. No. 2843, Comm'n Op. at 7-10 (Dec. 1994). In connection with these findings, the Commission requests responses from the parties to the following questions:

(1) Please identify whether and where in the record Shoals presented arguments with supporting evidence that the accused products infringe any asserted claim of the '153 patent under OUII's proposed construction of the "aperture" terms.

(2) Please identify whether and where in the record Shoals presented arguments with supporting evidence that its domestic industry products satisfy the technical prong of the domestic industry requirement of section 337 under OUII's proposed construction of the "aperture" terms.

The parties are invited to brief only the discrete issues requested above. The parties are not to brief other issues on review, which are adequately presented in the parties' existing filings.

The statute requires the Commission to consider the effects of that remedy upon the public interest. The public interest factors the Commission will consider include the effect that an exclusion order and cease and desist orders would have on: (1) the public health and welfare, (2) competitive conditions in the U.S. economy, (3) U.S. production of articles that are like or directly competitive with those that are subject to investigation, and (4) U.S. consumers. The Commission is therefore interested in receiving written submissions that address the aforementioned public interest factors in the context of this investigation.

If the Commission orders some form of remedy, the U.S. Trade Representative, as delegated by the President, has 60 days to approve, disapprove, or take no action on the Commission's determination. See Presidential Memorandum of July 21, 2005, 70 FR 43251 (July 26, 2005). During this period, the subject articles would be entitled to enter the United States under bond, in an amount determined by the Commission and prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury. The Commission is therefore interested in receiving submissions concerning the amount of the bond that should be imposed if a remedy is ordered.

Written Submissions: The parties are requested to file written submissions on the questions identified in this notice. Parties to the investigation, interested government agencies, and any other interested parties are encouraged to file written submissions on the issues of remedy, the public interest, and bonding. Such submissions should

address the recommended determination by the ALJ on remedy and bonding.

In its initial submission, Complainant is also requested to identify the remedy sought and Complainant and OUII are requested to submit proposed remedial orders for the Commission's consideration. Complainant is further requested to state the dates that the Asserted Patents expire, to provide the HTSUS subheadings under which the accused products are imported, and to supply the identification information for all known importers of the products at issue in this investigation. The initial written submissions must be filed no later than close of business on November 27, 2024. Reply submissions must be filed no later than the close of business on December 5, 2024. No further submissions on these issues will be permitted unless otherwise ordered by the Commission. Opening submissions are limited to 50 pages. Reply submissions are limited to 25 pages. No further submissions on any of these issues will be permitted unless otherwise ordered by the Commission.

Persons filing written submissions must file the original document electronically on or before the deadlines stated above. The Commission's paper filing requirements in 19 CFR 210.4(f) are currently waived. 85 FR 15798 (Mar. 19, 2020). Submissions should refer to the investigation number ("Inv. No. 337-TA-1365") in a prominent place on the cover page and/or the first page. (See Handbook for Electronic Filing Procedures, https://www.usitc.gov/documents/handbook_on_filing_procedures.pdf). Persons with questions regarding filing should contact the Secretary, (202) 205-2000.

Any person desiring to submit a document to the Commission in confidence must request confidential treatment by marking each document with a header indicating that the document contains confidential information. This marking will be deemed to satisfy the request procedure set forth in Rules 201.6(b) and 210.5(e)(2) (19 CFR 201.6(b) & 210.5(e)(2)). Documents for which confidential treatment by the Commission is properly sought will be treated accordingly. Any non-party wishing to submit comments containing confidential information must serve those comments on the parties to the investigation pursuant to the applicable Administrative Protective Order. A redacted non-confidential version of the document must also be filed with the Commission and served on any parties to the investigation within two business days of any confidential filing. All

information, including confidential business information and documents for which confidential treatment is properly sought, submitted to the Commission for purposes of this investigation may be disclosed to and used: (i) by the Commission, its employees and Offices, and contract personnel (a) for developing or maintaining the records of this or a related proceeding, or (b) in internal investigations, audits, reviews, and evaluations relating to the programs, personnel, and operations of the Commission including under 5 U.S.C. appendix 3; or (ii) by U.S. Government employees and contract personnel, solely for cybersecurity purposes. All contract personnel will sign appropriate nondisclosure agreements. All nonconfidential written submissions will be available for public inspection on EDIS.

The Commission has determined to extend the target date for this investigation to January 15, 2025.

The Commission's vote on this determination took place on November 13, 2024.

The authority for the Commission's determination is contained in section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1337), and in part 210 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (19 CFR part 210).

By order of the Commission.

Issued: November 13, 2024.

Lisa Barton,

Secretary to the Commission.

[FR Doc. 2024-26885 Filed 11-18-24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

[OMB 1140-0071]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed eCollection Activities; Proposed eComments Requested; Revision of a Previously Approved Collection; Notification to Fire Safety Authority of Storage of Explosive Materials

AGENCY: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Department of Justice.

ACTION: 60-Day notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Justice (DOJ), The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), will be

submitting the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Comments are encouraged and will be accepted for 60 days until January 21, 2025.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have additional comments especially on the estimated public burden or associated response time, suggestions, or need a copy of the proposed information collection instrument with instructions or additional information, contact: John Basile, EIPB, either by mail at Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives; 99 New York Ave. NE; Washington, DC 20226, by email at EIPB@atf.gov/john.basile@atf.gov, or telephone at (202) 648-7120.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Written comments and suggestions from the public and affected agencies concerning the proposed collection of information are encouraged. Your comments should address one or more of the following four points:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Bureau of Justice Statistics, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Evaluate whether and if so how the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected can be enhanced; and
- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, *e.g.*, permitting electronic submission of responses.

Abstract: The information collection is necessary for the safety of emergency response personnel responding to fires at sites where explosives are stored. Information Collection (IC) OMB 1140-0071 is being revised to update the overall public burden, which includes

the monetized value of the hour burden per response, an increase of respondents from 975 to 10,000, and increased postage cost from 49 cents to 73 cents. Together, these changes resulted in an increase in annual burden hours from 488 to 5,000, an annual monetized value of the hour burden increase to \$223,950, and an annual increase in postage costs from \$359 to \$1,825.

Overview of This Information Collection

1. *Type of Information Collection:* Revision of a previously approved collection.

2. *The Title of the Form/Collection:* Notification to Fire Safety Authority of Storage of Explosive Materials.

3. *The agency form number, if any, and the applicable component of the Department sponsoring the collection:* Form number: None.

Component: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, U.S. Department of Justice.

4. *Affected public who will be asked or required to respond, as well as the obligation to respond:* Affected Public: State, local and tribal governments, farms, individuals or households, Private Sector-for or not for profit institutions. The obligation to respond is mandatory per 27 CFR 555.201, 18 U.S.C. 842 (j), and 18 U.S.C. 846.

5. *An estimate of the total number of respondents and the amount of time estimated for an average respondent to respond:* An estimated 10,000 respondents will respond to this collection once annually, and it will take each respondent approximately 30 minutes to complete their responses.

6. *An estimate of the total annual burden (in hours) associated with the collection:* The estimated annual public burden associated with this collection is 5,000, which is equal to 10,000 (total respondents) * 1 (# of response per respondent) * 0.5 (30 minutes).

7. *An estimate of the total annual cost burden associated with the collection, if applicable:* The total annual monetized value of the time burden associated with this collection is \$223,950 (10,000 total responses * \$22.395 cost per response). Over the three-year renewal period for this ICR, the monetized value of the time burden (due to annual notices) would be \$671,850.