IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

SCR NETWORKS LLC,

Plaintiff,

TP-LINK TECHNOLOGIES CO., LTD., TP-LINK CORPORATION LTD., TP-LINK INTERNATIONAL LTD., AND TP-LINK USA CORPORATION

Defendants.

Civil Action No.

ORIGINAL COMPLAINT

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

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COMPLAINT FOR PATENT INFRINGEMENT

Plaintiff SCR Networks LLC ("SCR" or "Plaintiff") hereby asserts the following claims for patent infringement against Defendants TP-Link Technologies Co., Ltd., TP-Link Corporation Ltd., TP-Link International Ltd., and TP-Link USA Corporation (collectively, "TP-Link" or "Defendants"), and alleges as follows:

SUMMARY

- 1. SCR owns United States Patent No. 7,266,085 (the "'085 Patent" or the "Asserted Patent").
- 2. Defendants infringe the Asserted Patent by implementing, without authorization, SCR's proprietary technologies in a number of their products including, *inter alia*, their DecoX60, Deco X20, Archer AX11000, Archer AX6000, Archer AX3000, and Archer AX1500 products (the "Accused Products").
- 3. By this action, SCR seeks to obtain compensation for the harm it has suffered as a result of Defendants' infringement of the Asserted Patent.

NATURE OF THE ACTION

- 4. This is a civil action for patent infringement arising under the patent laws of the United States, 35 U.S.C. § 1 *et seq*.
- 5. Defendants have infringed and continue to infringe, and at least as early as the filing and/or service of this Complaint, have induced and continue to induce infringement of, and have contributed to and continue to contribute to infringement of, at least one or more claims of SCR's Asserted Patent at least by making, using, selling, and/or offering to sell their products and services in the United States, including in this District.
 - 6. SCR is the legal owner by assignment of the Asserted Patent, which was duly and

legally issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office ("USPTO"). SCR seeks monetary damages for Defendants' infringement of the Asserted Patent.

THE PARTIES

- 7. SCR is a Delaware limited liability company having an address of 251 Little Falls Drive, Wilmington, Delaware 19808. SCR is the owner of intellectual property rights at issue in this action.
- 8. On information and belief, Defendant TP-Link Technologies Co., Ltd. ("TP-Link Technologies") is a multi-national private limited company organized under the laws of the People's Republic of China ("PRC" or "China") with its principal place of business at South Building 5 Keyuan Road, Central Zone Science & Technology Park, Nanshan, Shenzhen, PRC, 518057.
- 9. On information and belief, Defendant TP-Link Corporation. Ltd ("TP-Link Corporation") is a private limited company organized under the laws of Hong Kong with its principal place of business at Suite 901, New East Ocean Centre, Tsim Sha Tsui, Hong Kong, China. On information and belief, TP-Link Corporation is a related entity of TP-Link Technology.
- 10. On information and belief, defendant TP-Link International Ltd. ("TP-Link International") is a private limited company organized under the laws of Hong Kong with its principal place of business located at Room 901-902,9/F, New East Ocean Centre, 9 Science Museum Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kwun Tong, KL, Hong Kong, China, 518057. TP-Link International and TP-Link Corporation are believed to share the same corporate office in Hong Kong. On information and belief, TP-Link International is a related entity of TP-Link Technologies and TP-Link Corporation.
 - 11. On information and belief, Defendant TP-Link USA Corporation is a California

corporation and has a principal place of business at 145 South State College Blvd., Suite 400, Brea, CA 92821. TP-Link USA Corporation is a subsidiary of TP-Link Technologies Co. Ltd.

12. On information and belief, TP-Link USA Corporation, under the control and direction of the other TP-Link Defendants, including TP-Link Technologies Co. Ltd., directly and/or indirectly distributes, markets, offers to sell, and/or sells the Accused Products in the United States and/or imports the Accused Products into the United States, including in the Central District of California, and otherwise directs infringing activities to this District in connection with the Accused Products. See, e.g., https://www.tp-link.com/us/about-us/privacy/ (disclosing TP-Link USA Corporation as the U.S. entity contact for the Accused Products).

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 13. As this is a civil action for patent infringement arising under the patent laws of the United States, 35 U.S.C. § 1 *et seq.*, this Court has subject matter jurisdiction over the matters asserted herein under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a).
- 14. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants, in part because Defendants do continuous and systematic business in this District, including by providing infringing products and services to the residents of the Central District of California that Defendants knew would be used within this District, and by soliciting business from the residents of the Central District of California. For example, Defendants are subject to personal jurisdiction in this Court because, *inter alia*, Defendants have a regular place of business in this District, and directly and through agents regularly do, solicit, and transact business in the Central District of California.
- 15. In particular, the Defendants have committed and continue to commit acts of infringement in violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271, and have sold, made, caused to be made, used, marketed, distributed, offered for sale, sold, and/or imported infringing products in the State of

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California, and engaged in infringing conduct within and directed at or from this District. For example, Defendants have purposefully and voluntarily placed the Accused Products into the stream of commerce with the expectation that the Accused Products will be used in this District. The Accused Products have been and continue to be distributed to and used in this District. Defendants' acts cause and have caused injury to SCR, including within this District.

- 16. Venue is proper in this Judicial District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391 because, among other things, the foreign Defendants are not residents of the United States, and thus may be sued in any judicial district, including this one, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(c)(3). See also In re HTC Corporation, 889 F.3d 1349, 1357 (Fed. Cir. 2018) ("The Court's recent decision in TC *Heartland* does not alter" the alien-venue rule.).
- This Court also has personal jurisdiction over and venue is also proper because TP-17. Link USA Corporation because it is incorporated in the State of California, it is registered to do business in the State of California, and it has a regular and established place of business in the State of California (and in this District).
- 18. On information and belief, Defendants each have significant ties to, and presence in, the State of California and the Central District of California, making venue in this Judicial District both proper and convenient for this action.

THE '085 PATENT

- 19. The '085 Patent is entitled "Access and Routing Protocol for Ad Hoc Network Using Synchronous Collision Resolution and Note State Dissemination," and was issued on September 4, 2007. A true and correct copy of the '085 Patent is attached as Exhibit A.
- 20. The '085 Patent was filed on March 21, 2002, as U.S. Patent Application No. 10/104,336.

- 21. SCR is the owner of all rights, title, and interest in and to the '085 Patent, with the full and exclusive right to bring suit to enforce the '085 Patent, including the right to recover for past infringement.
 - 22. The '085 Patent is valid and enforceable under the United States patent laws.
- 23. The '085 Patent recognized several problems with existing ad hoc mobile networks. In fact, the '085 Patent described these problems at great length. Exhibit A at 1:30-12:60. Specifically, a protocol for use with ad hoc networks that integrated medium access control and routing such that they provided quality of service while conserving energy of individual mobile nodes and while allowing maximum use of wireless channels minimizing collisions of concurrent communications was described as lacking in the prior art. Exhibit A at 12:61-67.
- 24. The '085 Patent described solutions to these problems that include, among other things, inferring connectivity links between nodes based on node states, building routing tables based on route metrics of said connectivity links, and routing packets based on said routing tables. Exhibit A at 52:50-54.

COUNT I: INFRINGEMENT OF THE '085 PATENT

- 25. SCR incorporates by reference and re-alleges paragraphs 1-22 of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 26. Defendants have infringed and is infringing, either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents, the '085 Patent in violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271 *et seq.*, directly and/or indirectly, by making, using, offering for sale, or selling in the United States, and/or importing into the United States without authority or license, the Accused Products.
- 27. As just one non-limiting example, set forth below (with claim language in bold and italics) is exemplary evidence of infringement of Claim 21 of the '085 Patent in connection with

the Accused Products. This description is based on publicly available information. SCR reserves the right to modify this description, including, for example, on the basis of information about the Accused Products that it obtains during discovery.

21(preamble): A method of operating an Ad Hoc wireless network, which comprises:

Defendants make, use, sell, and/or offer to sell a device or system that practices the method in accordance with the preamble.

For instance, Defendants provide WiFi 6 enabled devices including but not limited to the DecoX60 (herein used as an exemplary infringing product). This device complies with IEEE standard 802.11ax (WiFi 6) when operated in a wireless Ad Hoc network system. Exhibit B, Figures 1-2.

21(a): disseminating node state information among nodes wherein disseminating node state information comprises applying set of rules for selecting node states to be included in a node state packet;— Defendants make, use, sell, and/or offer to sell a device or system that practices the method of disseminating node state information among nodes wherein disseminating node state information comprises applying set of rules for selecting node states to be included in a node state packet.

For instance, the DecoX60 when operated as a node in a wireless Ad Hoc network in compliance with IEEE standard 802.11ax, performs this step of disseminating node state information among other nodes so that routing between a destination node and a source node can be established. Exhibit B, Figures 3-14.

21(b): transmitting the selected node states in a node state packet;—Defendants make, use, sell, and/or offer to sell a device or system that practices the method of transmitting the selected node states in a node state packet.

For instance, the DecoX60, while operating in a wireless Ad Hoc network in compliance with IEEE standard 802.11ax in a multi node network transmits the selected node states in a node state packet to establish a route. Exhibit B, Figures 15-18.

21(c): inferring connectivity links between the nodes based on the node state information;—Defendants make, use, sell, and/or offer to sell a device or system that practices the method of assigning route metrics to the connectivity links using node state information.

For instance, the DecoX60, while operating in a multi node wireless Ad Hoc network in compliance with IEEE standard 802.11ax, assigns route metrics to the connectivity links using node state information provided in the node state packet when acting as a source node. Exhibit B, Figures 19-22.

21(d): building routing tables based on route metrics.—Defendants make, use, sell, and/or offer to sell a device or system that practices the method of inferring connectivity links between the nodes based on the node state information.

For instance, the DecoX60, while operating in a multi node wireless Ad Hoc network in compliance with IEEE standard 802.11ax, acting as a source node builds routing tables based on route metrics. Routing tables consists of the source, destination and intermediate nodes showing optimal route for data packet transfer and consists of both forward and backward routes. Exhibit B, Figures 23-27.

- 28. Additionally, Defendants have been and/or currently are active inducers of infringement of the '085 Patent under 35 U.S.C. § 271(b) and contributory infringer of the '085 Patent under 35 U.S.C. § 271(c).
- 29. At least as early as of the date of the filing of the Complaint, Defendants have had actual knowledge of the '085 Patent.

- 30. Defendants have provided the Accused Products to their customers and, on information and belief, instructions to use the Accused Products in an infringing manner while being on notice of (or willfully blind to) the '085 Patent and Defendants' infringement. Therefore, on information and belief, Defendants knew or should have known of the '085 Patent and of its own infringing acts, or deliberately took steps to avoid learning of those facts.
- 31. Defendants knowingly and intentionally encourage and aid at least its end-user customers to directly infringe the '085 Patent.
- 32. Defendants' end-user customers directly infringe at least one or more claims of the '085 Patent by using the Accused Products in their intended manner to infringe. Defendants induces such infringement by providing the Accused Products and instructions to enable and facilitate infringement, knowing of, or being willfully blind to the existence of, the '085 Patent. On information and belief, Defendants specifically intend that their actions will result in infringement of one or more claims of the '085 Patent, or subjectively believe that their actions will result in infringement of the '085 Patent, but took deliberate actions to avoid learning of those facts, as set forth above.
- 33. Additionally, Defendants contributorily infringe at least one or more claims of the '085 Patent by providing the Accused Products and/or software components thereof, that embody a material part of the claimed inventions of the '085 Patent, that are known by Defendants to be specially made or adapted for use in an infringing manner and are not staple articles with substantial non-infringing uses. The Accused Products are specially designed to infringe at least one or more claims of the '085 Patent, and their accused components have no substantial non-infringing uses. In particular, on information and belief, the software modules and code that implement and perform the infringing functionalities identified above are specially made and

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adapted to carry out said functionality and do not have any substantial non-infringing uses.

- 34. At least as early as the filing and/or service of this Complaint, Defendants' infringement of the '085 Patent was and continues to be willful and deliberate, entitling SCR to enhanced damages.
- 35. Additional allegations regarding Defendants' knowledge of the '085 Patent and willful infringement will likely have evidentiary support after a reasonable opportunity for discovery.
- 36. Defendants' infringement of the '085 Patent is exceptional and entitles SCR to attorneys' fees and costs incurred in prosecuting this action under 35 U.S.C. § 285.
- 37. SCR is in compliance with any applicable marking and/or notice provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 287 with respect to the '085 Patent.
- 38. SCR is entitled to recover from Defendants all damages that SCR has sustained as a result of Defendants' infringement of the '085 Patent, including, without limitation, a reasonable royalty.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, SCR respectfully requests:

- A. That Judgment be entered that Defendants have infringed at least one or more claims of the '085 Patent, directly and/or indirectly, literally and/or under the doctrine of equivalents;
- B. An award of damages sufficient to compensate SCR for Defendants' infringement under 35 U.S.C. § 284, including an enhancement of damages on account of Defendants' willful infringement;
 - C. That the case be found exceptional under 35 U.S.C. § 285 and that SCR be

| 1 | awarded its reasonable attorneys' fees; |
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| 2 | D. Costs and expenses in this action; |
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| 4 | E. An award of prejudgment and post-judgment interest; and |
| 5 | F. Such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper. |
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| | DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL |
| 8 | Pursuant to Rule 38(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, SCR respectfully |
| 9 | demands a trial by jury on all issues triable by jury. |
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| 13 | Dated: May 10, 2022 Respectfully submitted, |
| 14 | /s/ Steven W. Ritcheson, Esq. |
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