

**UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION**  
**Washington, D.C.**

**In the Matter of**

**CERTAIN PHOTOVOLTAIC  
CONNECTORS AND COMPONENTS  
THEREOF**

**Investigation No. 337-TA-1365**

**NOTICE OF A COMMISSION DETERMINATION NOT TO REVIEW AN INITIAL  
DETERMINATION TERMINATING THE INVESTIGATION  
WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN PATENT CLAIMS**

**AGENCY:** U.S. International Trade Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the U.S. International Trade Commission has determined not to review an initial determination (“ID”) (Order No. 15) issued by the presiding administrative law judge (“ALJ”) terminating this investigation with respect to certain asserted patent claims based on withdrawal of the complaint as to those claims.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Paul Lall, Office of the General Counsel, U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 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](mailto: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 by Shoals Technologies Group, LLC (“Shoals Technologies”). 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 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, CA; 2) Hikam Electrónica de México, S.A. de C.V. of Mexicali, Mexico; 3) Hikam Tecnología de Sinaloa of 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; 7) Voltage, LLC

of Chapel Hill, North Carolina; and 8) Ningbo Voltage Smart Production Co. (“Ningbo Voltage”) of Ningbo, China. *Id.* The Office of Unfair Import Investigations was also named as a party in this investigation. *Id.* On July 18, 2023, the presiding ALJ granted Shoals Technologies’ motion for leave to amend the complaint and NOI to add allegations of infringement against respondents Voltage, LLC and Ningbo Voltage related to claims 1, 2-3, 6, 8, 11-18, 21, 23, and 24 of U.S. Patent No. 11,689,153 (“the ’153 patent”). *See* Order No. 5 (Jul. 18, 2023), *unreviewed by* Comm’n Notice (Aug. 15, 2023).

On February 6, 2024, Shoals Technologies filed an unopposed motion to terminate the investigation as to certain claims (“Motion”) based on withdrawal of the complaint as to those claims.

On February 9, 2024, the presiding ALJ issued the subject ID (Order No. 15) granting Shoals Technologies’ Motion pursuant to Commission Rule 210.21(a) (19 CFR 210.21(a)). The ID finds that the Motion states that termination of the withdrawn claims “will streamline the investigation for all parties, thus conserving public and private resources” and that “there are no agreements, written or oral, express or implied between the parties concerning the subject matter of the investigation, other than stipulations regarding discovery.” ID at 2. The ID further finds no extraordinary circumstances weighing against the requested partial termination. *Id.*

No party filed a petition for review of the subject ID.

The Commission has determined not to review the subject ID. The following claims are hereby terminated from this investigation: 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.

The Commission vote for this determination took place on March 11, 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.



Lisa R. Barton  
Secretary to the Commission

Issued: March 11, 2024