

**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 TO EXTEND  
THE DATE FOR DETERMINING WHETHER TO REVIEW  
A FINAL INITIAL DETERMINATION**

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the U.S. International Trade Commission has determined to extend to November 13, 2024, the date for the Commission’s decision on whether to review a final initial determination (“FID”) issued by the presiding administrative law judge (“ALJ”).

**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 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 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 (“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 determined not to review an ID (Order No. 5) granting Shoals Technologies’ motion to amend the complaint and NOI to add allegations of infringement against respondents Voltage and Ningbo 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* Comm’n Notice (Aug. 16, 2023); *see also* 88 FR 56882-83 (Aug. 21, 2023).

On March 11, 2024, the Commission terminated a number of claims from this investigation based on Shoals Technologies’ withdrawal of the complaint as to those claims. *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 Technologies’ 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, the Commission found no violation as to the ’739 Patent because Shoals Technologies had not satisfied the technical prong of the domestic industry requirement for that patent. Order No. 20 (March 6, 2024), *unreviewed by* Comm’n Notice (Apr. 19, 2024).

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

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.

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

On September 16, 2024, Shoals Technologies, Respondents, and OUII each filed petitions for review of the FID. On September 24, 2024, Complainant, Respondents and OUII each filed responses to the respective petitions.

The Commission has determined to extend the deadline for determining whether to review the subject FID to November 13, 2024.

The Commission vote for this determination took place on October 4, 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa R. Barton", written in a cursive style.

Lisa R. Barton  
Secretary to the Commission

Issued: October 7, 2024