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**Datasheet for the decision
of 28 May 2026**

Case Number: T 1974/22 - 3.5.01

Application Number: 20194415.4

Publication Number: 3764509

IPC: H02J7/02, H05K7/20

Language of the proceedings: EN

Title of invention:

ELECTRONIC DEVICE AND METHOD FOR CONTROLLING FAN OF ELECTRONIC
DEVICE

Applicant:

Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd.

Headword:

Controlling a fan of an electronic device/SAMSUNG

Relevant legal provisions:

EPC Art. 76, 111(1)
RPBA 2020 Art. 11

Keyword:

Divisional application - added subject-matter (no) - after
amendment
Appeal decision - remittal to the department of first instance
(yes)



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Case Number: T 1974/22 - 3.5.01

D E C I S I O N
of Technical Board of Appeal 3.5.01
of 28 May 2026

Appellant: Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd.
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Representative: HGF
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Decision under appeal: **Decision of the Examining Division of the European Patent Office posted/electronically transmitted on 20 April 2022 refusing European patent application No. 20194415.4 pursuant to Article 97(2) EPC.**

Composition of the Board:

Chairman R. Moser
Members: M. Höhn
D. Rogers

Summary of Facts and Submissions

I. This appeal is against the decision of the examining division refusing European patent application No. 20194415.4 (a divisional application of the parent application EP16835440) pursuant to Article 97(2) EPC on the ground of Article 56 EPC (former main request) in view of D1 (JP2013135572 A) or D4 (US2014/365807 A1), and under Article 76 EPC (former auxiliary requests 1, 2 and 3).

II. In the statement of grounds of appeal, the appellant requested that the appealed decision be set aside and that a patent be granted on the basis of an amended main request as submitted with the statement setting out the grounds of appeal. Oral proceedings were requested as an auxiliary measure.

The independent claims according to the amended main request essentially corresponded to the former auxiliary request 2 in the contested decision. No opinion regarding inventive step for such subject-matter was given by the examining division in the contested decision.

III. In its communication, the Board expressed its preliminary opinion that it agreed with the contested decision that the first and second signals "used by the wireless charging device" did not limit the chargeable device as specified in claim 1. The nature of those signals, i.e. how they look like technically and how the information is coded, were not specified. Thus, merely an intended purpose of technically unspecified signals was claimed. This caused problems as the claimed subject matter was defined by reference to use

with another entity which was not part of the claimed subject-matter. The objection raised under point 14.1 of the contested decision therefore applied also to amended claim 1. Such a definition of a claimed entity by reference to a second entity that is not part of the claim was deemed a breach of the requirements of Article 84 EPC.

In view of the interpretation of claim 1 that the use of the signals by the charging device did not limit claim 1, it therefore appeared that also the amended claim 1 was distinguished from the disclosure of either D1 or D4 merely by the emission of unspecified signals at a predefined time of the day. The Board tended to agree with the contested decision (points 14.2 and 14.3) that this does not involve an inventive activity. Amended claim 1 therefore still appeared to lack inventive step in view of D1 or D4.

However, the requirements of Article 76 EPC appeared to be fulfilled for independent claims 9 and 10 thereby overcoming the corresponding objections in the contested decision.

- IV. In a reply, the appellant submitted an amended main request replacing the main request on file of which previous claims 1 to 8 were deleted and the remaining claims and their dependencies renumbered accordingly. Previous claim 9 was made new claim 1 and claim 2 (previous claim 10) was amended to explicitly recite the subject matter of previous claim 1 in place of the previous reference to claim 1.

The appellant requested that the present application be remitted to the examining division for further

examination where the further examination was confined to the undecided matters.

V. Independent claim 1 according to the main request reads as follows:

"1. A method for a chargeable device comprising a first coil and a battery, the method comprising: performing a wireless charging operation by wirelessly receiving electromagnetic power from a wireless charging device via the first coil and providing electric power, corresponding to the received electromagnetic power, to the battery; based on the result of a comparison between time data measured by the chargeable device and predetermined time data, while the wireless charging operation is being performed, performing wireless transmission of a first signal and a second signal to the wireless charging device at a predefined time of day, wherein the first signal corresponds to first information which is used by the wireless charging device for reducing the driving speed of a cooling fan of the wireless charging device starting from the predefined time of day, wherein the second signal corresponds to second information which is used by the wireless charging device for reducing a level of transmitted electromagnetic power starting from the predefined time of day; and wirelessly receiving a reduced level of electromagnetic power, after the second signal is transmitted to the wireless charging device."

Independent claim 2 according to the main request reads as follows:

"2. A system comprising:
a chargeable device and a wireless charging device,
the chargeable device comprising:
a first coil;
a battery; and
one or more first processor configured to control to:
perform a wireless charging operation by wirelessly
receiving electromagnetic power from the wireless
charging device via the first coil and providing
electric power, corresponding to the received
electromagnetic power, to the battery,
based on the result of a comparison between time data
measured by the chargeable device and predetermined
time data, while the wireless charging operation is
being performed, perform wireless transmission of a
first signal and a second signal to the wireless
charging device at a predefined time of day, wherein
the first signal corresponds to first information which
is used by the wireless charging device for reducing
the driving speed of a cooling fan of the wireless
charging device starting from the predefined time of
day, wherein the second signal corresponds to second
information which is used by the wireless charging
device for reducing a level of transmitted
electromagnetic power starting from the predefined time
of day, and
wirelessly receive a reduced level of electromagnetic
power, after the second signal is transmitted to the
wireless charging device and the wireless charging
device comprising:
a second coil;
a first circuit;
a second circuit;
a fan operable to discharge heat generated by the
second coil; and
one or more second processor configured to control to:

perform the wireless charging operation by wirelessly transmitting electromagnetic power to the chargeable device via the second coil using the first circuit, while the wireless charging operation is being performed, wirelessly receive, at a predefined time of day, the first signal and the second signal from the chargeable device which are processed using the second circuit to obtain the first information and the second information, and reduce a driving speed of the fan starting from the predefined time of day based at least in part on the first information, and reduce a level of electromagnetic power transmitted, via the second coil using the first circuit, to the chargeable device starting from the predefined time of day based at least in part on the second information."

- VI. The appellant's arguments are addressed in the reasons for the decision.

Reasons for the Decision

Main request

1. Scope of the claims

In the invention, a charging device and the chargeable device interact, whereby first and second signals are transmitted by the chargeable device at a predefined time of day. Both a level of power transmitted by a charging device and a driving speed of a cooling fan of the charging device are reduced according to the transmitted signals. Hence, the adjustment of the

functioning takes place on the side of the charging device. Independent claims 1 (method) and 2 (system) cover both the charging device and the chargeable device.

2. Article 76 EPC - Basis in the parent application
 - 2.1 Independent claim 1 is considered to be disclosed in Figure 13 as well as in the corresponding parts of the description (see [280]-[295] with reference to [249]-[250]) of the earlier application as filed (EP 3 335 296). Independent claim 2 is considered to be disclosed in the same passages and Figure 4 with the corresponding parts of the description (see e.g. [263] combining Figures 13 and 4).
 - 2.2 Operation 1341 of Figure 13 checks whether a charging state-change criterion is met. According to [280] the criteria may be the same as specified in operation 1240 of Figure 12. [249] discloses that the criterion is determined by the external electronic device/chargeable device, while [250] further discloses the use ("at least one of...") of a time information of the external device with a predetermined threshold value for determining whether the charging state is satisfied. According to [284] that comprises time information including time data measured by the chargeable device. In operation 1343 corresponding information is created for transmission. According to operation 1347 and [286] the electronic device/charging device may change the amount of power based on at least some of that received information which corresponds to the second information in claim 1. In operation 1351 and [291] the electronic device/charging device may change the speed of the fan based on at least some of that received information which corresponds to the first information in claim 1.

In view of the first and second communication circuits in Figure 4, corresponding first and second signals can be considered as well as corresponding structural features of a system according to claim 2.

2.3 In view of this disclosure in the parent application, the Board agrees with the appellant (page 2, para. 4 of the grounds) that the present divisional application is not limited to the case in which the information to be transmitted to the charging device includes only time information.

2.4 The requirements of Article 76 EPC are therefore fulfilled for independent claims 1 and 2, thereby overcoming the corresponding objections in the contested decision.

Procedural issues

3. Regarding inventive step of claims 1 and 2 no substantive examination of the subject-matter comprising the use of the first and the second signals has been carried out in the first instance proceedings for the corresponding independent claims. In particular, no examination whether a synergy between the first and second signal's operations exists, as alleged by the appellant, has been carried out. For this reason, there is no first instance decision in this regard which could be judicially reviewed by the Board, rather, it would be for the Board itself, for the first time in appeal proceedings, to carry out this examination. Given that the role of the Boards is to review first instance decisions, this does not seem an appropriate way to proceed.

The Board considers this as special reasons according to Article 11 RPBA justifying a remittal to the examining division in view of the Board's discretion under Article 111(1) EPC and the corresponding request of the appellant. Since the Board follows the appellant's request, no oral proceedings are necessary.

Order

For these reasons it is decided that:

1. The decision under appeal is set aside.
2. The case is remitted to the examining division for further prosecution.

The Registrar:

The Chairman:



T. Buschek

R. Moser

Decision electronically authenticated