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**Datasheet for the decision
of 30 April 2026**

Case Number: T 0360/25 - 3.5.04

Application Number: 16198358.0

Publication Number: 3171352

IPC: G08G1/01, G07C5/00

Language of the proceedings: EN

Title of invention:

BIG TELEMATICS DATA CONSTRUCTING SYSTEM

Applicant:

GEOTAB Inc.

Headword:

Relevant legal provisions:

EPC Art. 84, 123(2), 111(1)
RPBA 2020 Art. 11

Keyword:

Claims - clarity (yes)
Amendments - added subject-matter (no)
Remittal to the department of first instance - (yes)

Decisions cited:

Catchword:



Beschwerdekammern
Boards of Appeal
Chambres de recours

Boards of Appeal of the
European Patent Office
Richard-Reitzner-Allee 8
85540 Haar
GERMANY
Tel. +49 (0)89 2399-0

Case Number: T 0360/25 - 3.5.04

D E C I S I O N
of Technical Board of Appeal 3.5.04
of 30 April 2026

Appellant: GEOTAB Inc.
(Applicant) 2440 Winston Park Drive
Oakville, ON L6H 7V2 (CA)

Representative: Fleuchaus & Gallo Partnerschaft mbB
Steinerstraße 15/A
81369 München (DE)

Decision under appeal: **Decision of the Examining Division of the
European Patent Office posted/electronically
transmitted on 11 October 2024 refusing European
patent application No. 16198358.0 pursuant to
Article 97(2) EPC.**

Composition of the Board:

Chair W. Ungler
Members: M. Paci
A. Seeger

Summary of Facts and Submissions

- I. The appeal is against the examining division's decision refusing European patent application No. 16198358.0, published as European patent application No. 3 171 352 A2.
- II. The decision under appeal was based on the following grounds.
- Claim 1 of **the main request then on file** did not meet the requirement of clarity under Article 84 EPC.
 - Claims 1 to 6 of **the auxiliary request then on file** did not meet the requirement of clarity under Article 84 EPC, and claims 1 and 7 to 13 of **the auxiliary request then on file** did not meet the requirement of sufficiency of disclosure under Article 83 EPC.
- III. The applicant (appellant) filed notice of appeal. With the statement of grounds of appeal, the appellant filed amended claims according to a main request and auxiliary requests 1 to 7, replacing the previous requests. The appellant also filed several documents as evidence of common general knowledge.
- IV. The appellant was summoned to oral proceedings. In a communication under Article 15(1) RPBA, the board gave the following preliminary opinion.
- Claim 1 of the new main request overcame some but not all of the objections raised under Article 84 EPC in the Reasons for the decision under appeal.
 - The board raised additional objections under Article 84 EPC against claim 1 of the main request.

- The board was inclined not to admit new auxiliary requests 1 to 7 because they *prima facie* did not overcome all the objections raised under Article 84 EPC against the main request.
- The objection under Article 83 EPC raised in the Reasons for the decision under appeal was no longer relevant to any of the current requests because they did not contain the wording from which this objection arose.

V. With a letter dated 30 March 2026, the appellant filed a new main request and a new auxiliary request 1 and further requested that auxiliary requests 1 to 7 filed with the statement of grounds of appeal be renumbered as auxiliary requests 2 to 8.

VI. The board held oral proceedings on 30 April 2026.

During the oral proceedings, the appellant filed claims according to a new main request and withdrew all the other requests.

The appellant's final requests were that the decision under appeal be set aside and that a patent be granted on the basis of the claims of the main request filed during the oral proceedings.

At the end of the oral proceedings, the Chair announced the board's decision.

VII. Claim 1 of **the main request on which the decision under appeal was based** reads as follows.

"1. A real time analytical telematics big data constructing system for transforming raw telematics big

data, RTbD, into analytical telematics big Data, ATbD, comprising,

a plurality of mobile telematics devices (A-K), at least one analytical telematics big data constructor (55) disposed with a server (54), and a supplemental information server (52),

said plurality of mobile telematics devices (A-K) being configured for communicating a plurality of logs of raw telematics data in real time to said server (54) having a capability of storing said plurality of logs of raw telematics data and of forwarding the same as RTbD to said at least one analytical telematics big data constructor (55), wherein said raw telematics big data is a mixed log of raw telematics data and includes a first category raw vehicle data and at least one of a second category raw GPS coordinate data, a third category raw accelerometer data, a fourth category raw expander data monitored by an I/O expander or a fifth category raw beacon object data, wherein each category is a grouping of a type of similar data,

said at least one analytical telematics big data constructor (55) comprising a logic having a data segregator state, a data amender state, a data amalgamator state and a data transfer state, which are operating concurrently and in parallel,

the logic of said data segregator state being configured for receiving said RTbD, for processing each log of RTbD, for separating the data into preserve data and alter data in real time, the preserve data including portions of first category data, namely debug data and vehicle identification number (VIN) data, and third category data, the alter data including portions of first category data, namely engine specific data, and second, fourth, and fifth [sic] category data, and for forwarding said preserve data in a raw format to said data amalgamator state and said alter data to said

data amender state, wherein the data segregator state waits for receipt of a log or portion of raw telematics big data, upon receipt, the raw telematics big data is processed into either at least one preserve data path or at least one alter data path, then the data segregator state waits for receipt of the next log or portion of RTbD,

the logic of said data amender state being configured for identifying each category of alter data and for associating a category of supplemental data with each category of alter data, the supplemental data including translation data and/or augmentation data to supplement and amend the alter data with additional information, for obtaining amender state waits for receipt of a portion of RTbD that is identified as alter data, then obtains the supplemental data for the alter data from the supplemental information server (52), and provides each alter and the therewith associated supplemental data to the data amalgamator state,

the logic of said amalgamator state being configured for assembling said preserve data, alter data and supplemental data for constructing the analytical telematics big data, ATbD, in real time, and

the logic of said data transfer state being configured for communicating the ATbD to an analytics server (56) for subsequent real time fleet management analytics."

VIII. The claims of the appellant's **current main request** read as follows.

"1. A data processing system for transforming logs of raw telematics data in real time, the system comprising,

a plurality of mobile telematics devices (A-K), at least one analytical telematics data constructor (55) disposed with a server (54), a supplemental information server (52), and, optionally, at least one I/O expander connected to at least one telematics device (A-K), at least one Bluetooth module for communication with at least one of the telematics devices (A-K) or the at least one I/O expander, and at least one Bluetooth beacon,

said plurality of mobile telematics devices (A-K) being configured for communicating a plurality of logs of raw telematics data in real time to said server (54) having a capability of storing said plurality of logs of raw telematics data and of forwarding the same to said at least one analytical telematics data constructor (55), wherein said logs of raw telematics data comprise raw vehicle data and at least one of raw GPS data, raw accelerometer data, raw expander data obtained via said at least one I/O expander, or raw Bluetooth beacon object data obtained via said at least one Bluetooth module

said at least one analytical telematics data constructor (55) comprising a data segregator, at least one data amender, a data amalgamator and a data transfer state logic,

said data segregator being configured for separating in real time the logs of raw telematics data into preserve data and alter data, wherein the preserve data comprises at least one of vehicle identification number data, debug data, both being part of the raw vehicle data, or accelerometer data and is forwarded in its raw format directly to the data amalgamator without supplementation, and the alter data comprises at least one of engine status data, engine fault data, both being part of the raw vehicle data, raw GPS data, raw expander data, or raw beacon object data, and is

provided to the at least one data amender for supplementation with supplemental data,

the at least one data amender being configured for identifying each category of alter data and for associating a category of supplemental data with each category of alter data to provide amended data, the supplemental data comprising either translation data including fault descriptions, error descriptions, or diagnostic information associated with engine status data or engine fault data, for translating alter data from a raw machine-specific format into a human-readable or standardized format, or augmentation data including postal code data, zip code data, street name data, address data, or commercial business name data associated with raw GPS data, for augmenting alter data with additional information,

said data amalgamator being configured for reassembling or formatting by combining the preserve data and the amended data, and

said data transfer state logic being configured for communicating said reassembled or formatted data in real time to an analytics server (56) for subsequent real time fleet management analytics.

2. The system as in claim 1, wherein said raw vehicle data includes vehicle identification number data, debug data and manufacturer diagnostic trouble codes, said raw GPS data includes latitude coordinates and longitude coordinates, said raw accelerometer data includes accelerometer data, said raw expander data obtained via the I/O expander includes sensor data and near field communication data, and/or said raw Bluetooth beacon object data includes Bluetooth beacon object data."

Reasons for the Decision

1. The appeal is admissible.

Main request - admittance

2. In a communication pursuant to Article 15(1) RPBA, the board had expressed the preliminary opinion that the amended claims of the main request filed with the statement of grounds of appeal overcame some but not all of the objections raised by the examining division in the Reasons for the impugned decision.

In its preliminary opinion, the board had also raised *ex officio* a number of objections under Article 84 EPC against claim 1 of the main request.

3. The appellant filed the claims of the current main request in response to the objections under Article 84 EPC raised by the board for the first time in its communication pursuant to Article 15(1) RPBA.
4. The board considers this to constitute exceptional circumstances within the meaning of Article 13(2) RPBA.
5. Accordingly, the board decided to admit the current main request into the appeal proceedings.

Main request - added subject-matter (Article 123(2) EPC)

6. The board is satisfied that the claims of the current main request comply with the requirements of Article 123(2) EPC for the reasons set out below.
7. Claim 1 of the current main request is based, *inter alia*, on original claim 2 and the description and

drawings of the application as filed, in particular paragraphs [0010], [0081], [0083], [0097], [0101], [0109] and [0113], and Figures 9a and 13f.

8. Whereas the beginning of claim 2 of the application as filed reads "*A real time analytical telematics big data constructing system*", claim 1 of the current main request reads "*A data processing system for transforming logs of raw telematics data in real time*".

In the board's view, the above wording of claim 1 of the current main request does not introduce subject-matter extending beyond the content of the application as filed for the following reasons.

The data processing system of claim 1 of the main request is still an analytical telematics data constructing system because it comprises "*at least one analytical telematics data constructor (55)*".

The expression "*big data*" in claim 2 of the application as filed essentially meant that the claimed system was able to process large amounts of data (albeit without a clear threshold above which data were regarded as big data). Since that system could also process small amounts of data, it was effectively a system which could process any amount of data within realistic limits imposed by the features of the system.

Omitting the adjective "*big*" before "*data*" in claim 1 of the main request does not introduce subject-matter extending beyond the content of the application as filed because the data processing system of claim 1 of the main request can also process any amount of data within realistic limits imposed by the features of the system.

Main request - clarity (Article 84 EPC)

9. The examining division held that claim 1 of the main request on which the decision under appeal was based lacked clarity (Article 84 EPC) for essentially the following reasons (see section 13 of the Reasons for the impugned decision).

(1) Some of the features in the system of claim 1 related to a method of using the system rather than clearly defining the system in terms of its technical features. The intended limitations were therefore not clear (point 13.1.1 of the Reasons).

(2) The terms "*analytical telematics big data*", "*raw expander data*", "*raw beacon data*" and "*raw expander data monitored by an I/O expander*" were vague and unclear and left the reader in doubt as to the meaning of the technical features to which they referred (point 13.1.2 of the Reasons).

(3) The phrase "*analytical telematics big data constructor comprising a logic having a data segregator state, a data amender state, a data amalgamator state and a data transfer state, which are operating concurrently and in parallel*" was unclear for the following reasons (point 13.1.3 of the Reasons).

(3a) The term "*logic*" was unclear because it was not known to what technical means it referred. It could be a computer program or a specialised processor, for example.

(3b) The term "*data segregator state*" was unclear because it was not known to what technical means it referred. It could be a computer program or a specialised processor, for example.

(3c) It was also not known how a "logic" could comprise a "state", i.e. the definition of "state" was unclear in this context due to the fact that the "states" were "operating".

(3d) The same could be said about the other "states" (amender, amalgamator, transfer).

(3e) Since a state was by definition not a device, it was not grammatically understandable how a "state" could "operate" at all, let alone "concurrently and in parallel".

(3f) The "states" could not "operate" concurrently. The data first had to be identified as preserve data or alter data before the alter data could actually be separated before being altered, which also had to happen before the data was reassembled. More generally, a state machine could not be in a plurality of states at the same time.

(4) The data content and the manner in which the data were processed were unclear. For example, it was not described how the "preserve data" and the "alter data" were selected from the telematics data as no criteria or rules for doing so were disclosed. The categories of "alter data" and "supplemental data" were not defined, and it was not known how the supplemental data and the alter data categories were "associated". It was not clear either how the alter data were actually altered - whether they were altered by data being added (in which case they were in fact not altered) or by data entries being amended. The manner in which the I/O expander monitored the raw expander data was not disclosed. Furthermore, it was not described how the "preserve data, alter data and supplemental data" were reassembled to yield the undefined "analytical telematics big data". Lastly, it

was not disclosed how the "*analytics server*" used the data for analysis (point 13.1.4 of the Reasons).

10. Objections (1) and (3) were based on expressions which are no longer present in claim 1 of the current main request and are therefore moot, with the possible exception of the expression "*data transfer state logic*".

As to this last expression, the board regards it as clear in claim 1 of the current main request that the "*data transfer state logic*" is essentially a transfer module transferring the output of the data amalgamator to an analytics server (see "*said data transfer state logic being configured for communicating said reassembled or formatted data in real time to an analytics server (56) for subsequent real time fleet management analytics*"). This is also supported by paragraphs [0109] and [0113] of the description and by Figure 13f.

Objection (2) does not apply to claim 1 of the current main request for the following reasons.

- The term "*analytical telematics big data*" is no longer present.
- The "*raw expander data*" are now defined as being obtained via at least one I/O expander, which is clear.
- The "*raw beacon data*" have been replaced with raw Bluetooth beacon object data obtained via at least one Bluetooth module, which is clear.

Regarding objection (4), the "*preserve data*", the "*alter data*" and the "*supplemental data*" have been further defined in claim 1 of the current main request.

Furthermore, claim 1 states that the alter data are associated with supplemental data to provide amended data. This is broad, but clear. Lastly, the preserve data and the amended data are reassembled or formatted by combining them. This is also broad, but clear. Hence, claim 1 of the current main request overcomes objection (4).

11. Conclusion on clarity

For the above reasons, the board is satisfied that the wording of the claims of the current main request is clear and supported by the description (Article 84 EPC).

Remittal to the department of first instance

12. The reasons given in the decision under appeal were based only on objections under Articles 84 and 83 EPC. Moreover, the claims of the main request have been extensively amended on appeal.

13. Since novelty and inventive step were not discussed at all in the impugned decision, the board considers that there are special reasons within the meaning of Article 11 RPBA justifying a remittal under Article 111(1), second sentence, EPC.

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 Chair:



K. Boelicke

W. Ungler

Decision electronically authenticated