

WRF Files Lawsuit to Enforce Radio Receiver Patents

On November 30, 2012, the Washington Research Foundation filed a lawsuit for patent infringement in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington (Seattle). A copy of the complaint is available for download here: [Case 2:12-cv-02092](#)

As explained in the complaint, the lawsuit is part of an ongoing, multi-year, successful licensing program relating to patents issued to Edwin Suominen based on research he conducted as a student at the University of Washington. These patents and pending applications relate to inventions in the field of radio receiver technology and methods of tuning radio channels. The patents have applications in many areas of Low IF wireless technology, including Bluetooth®, FM, GSM and Wi-Fi radio tuners.

As a result of the seven-year licensing program, WRF has concluded many licenses under these patents, including with most of the world's leading radio chipset companies. Some of these companies are licensed to produce any type of Low IF chipset, and others are only licensed to produce Low IF chipsets for specific fields (such as Bluetooth). The list of licensed chipset companies includes:

- Airoha Technology Corp.
- Broadcom Corp.
- CSR plc
- Ericsson AB with rights extending to two of its licensees:
 - National Semiconductor
 - Winbond
- Infineon
- Marvell Semiconductor, Inc.
- Silicon Laboratories
- SiTel Semiconductor BV
- ST-Ericsson and ST-NXP, with limited rights extending to:
 - STMicroelectronics (for STMicroelectronics non-automotive Bluetooth products made or sold prior to August 2, 2008),
- TOSHIBA Corp, and
- NXP Semiconductors N.V.

Companies that sell and offer for sale products using licensed chipsets manufactured by the above suppliers do not infringe WRF's patents.

This lawsuit identifies several major entities that infringe WRF's patents by importing, selling and offering for sale in the United States products employing specific unlicensed Wi-Fi chipsets supplied by Qualcomm and its predecessor, Atheros. WRF has attempted over a period of several years to negotiate licenses with the named defendants and their chipset suppliers on terms reasonably consistent with the numerous license agreements reached with the above-listed companies. As those multi-year licensing efforts were unsuccessful, this lawsuit was filed.

WRF is a 31-year-old independent nonprofit foundation that captures and enhances the value of intellectual property arising from Washington state research institutions to support research and scholarship. To date, WRF has returned over \$370 million to the University of Washington in the form of gifts and licensing disbursements, thus providing a substantial return on investment to the taxpayers whose dollars support this institution. The gifts from the Washington Research Foundation have supported the creation of over 100 endowments for chairs, professorships, research fellowships and graduate stipends in science, medicine and engineering, all at reduced or no cost to the taxpayer. WRF believes strongly in and relies extensively upon the patent system, which is central to its charter, and will vigorously enforce its patent rights.