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Attorneys for Defendants

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF UTAH, CENTRAL DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

VS.

RAPOWER-3, LLC, INTERNATIONAL AUTOMATED SYSTEMS, INC., LTB1, LLC, R. GREGORY SHEPARD, NELDON JOHNSON, and ROGER FREEBORN,

Defendants.

Civil No. 2:15-cv-00828-DN-EJF

DEFENDANTS' OBJECTION TO EXHIBITS DESIGNATED IN PLAINTIFF'S RULE 26 PRETRIAL DISCLOSURES AND USE OF DEPOSITIONS IN LIEU OF LIVE TESTIMONY

> Judge David Nuffer Magistrate Judge Evelyn J. Furse

I. Background.

- 1. On February 9th, 2018, Plaintiff provided the Defendants its pretrial disclosures pursuant to Rule 26(a)(3)(a)(ii).
- 2.Plaintiff designated the, among others, the following exhibits it intends to use at trial which Defendants object to on the grounds set out for each exhibit:
- No copy has been provided and Defendants' counsel have not seen the document
- Not a complete document

30 Missing attachments 38 Need foundation to be admissible 40 Need foundation to be admissible 41 Need foundation to be admissible 44 The exhibit has a handwritten note on it that will need some foundation to be admissible 48 Need foundation to be admissible 50 Defendants' counsel does not have a copy and has never seen this exhibit 51 Need foundation to be admissible 52 Need foundation to be admissible 54 Need foundation and cannot tell if it is complete 56 Need foundation to be admissible 57 Need foundation to be admissible 59 Need foundation to be admissible 60 Need foundation to be admissible 61 Need foundation to be admissible 62 Need foundation to be admissible 63 Tax return needs redacted the personal information including SSIs and a foundation 64 Tax return needs redacted the personal information including SSIs and a foundation Tax return needs redacted the personal information including SSIs and a foundation 65 66 Tax return needs redacted the personal information including SSIs and a foundation Tax return needs redacted the personal information including SSIs and a foundation 67 Tax return needs redacted the personal information including SSIs and a foundation 68 70 Incomplete, missing attachment Not provided and Defendants counsel has never seen the document 70A

75 Missing an attachment and therefore incomplete 76 Incomplete, missing attachments 77 Incomplete 78 Incomplete 81 Needs foundation to be admissible 83 Needs foundation to be admissible 85 Incomplete and will need a foundation Needs foundation to be admissible 87 88 Incomplete document 91 Needs foundation, irrelevant third-party document 92 Has taxpayer ID numbers that should be redacted-then no objection 93 Incomplete missing attachments 94 Has taxpayer ID numbers that should be redacted-then no objection 95 Incomplete document 127 Has taxpayer ID numbers that should be redacted-Needs foundation 128 Has taxpayer ID numbers that should be redacted-Needs foundation 129 Has taxpayer ID numbers that should be redacted-Needs foundation 130 Has taxpayer ID numbers that should be redacted-Needs foundation 132 Has taxpayer ID numbers that should be redacted-Needs foundation 134 Incomplete document and needs foundation 135 Incomplete document and needs foundation 141 Appears incomplete and needs foundation 142 Incomplete document and needs foundation 147 Incomplete document needs foundation

154 Incomplete missing attachments 158 Incomplete, needs foundation to be admissible 168 Has taxpayer ID numbers that should be redacted-Needs foundation 169 Has taxpayer ID numbers that should be redacted-Needs foundation 170 Has taxpayer ID numbers that should be redacted-Needs foundation 171 Has taxpayer ID numbers that should be redacted-Needs foundation 172 Has taxpayer ID numbers that should be redacted-Needs foundation 173 Has taxpayer ID numbers that should be redacted-Needs foundation 175 Needs foundation to authenticate 181 Has highlights and handwriting that need authentication and foundation 184 Document has been marked and needs foundation for the alteration 187 Document has been marked and needs foundation for the alteration 191 Has taxpayer ID numbers that should be redacted-Needs foundation 198 Needs foundation to be admissible 198A Not provided and Defendants counsel have never seen this document 198B Not provided and Defendants counsel have never seen this document 198C Not provided and Defendants counsel have never seen this document 199 Needs foundation to be admissible 200 Needs foundation to be admissible, hearsay, relevance 216 Needs foundation to be admissible, hearsay, relevance 217 Needs foundation to be admissible, hearsay, relevance 218 Needs foundation to be admissible, hearsay, relevance 220 Needs foundation to be admissible, hearsay, relevance 237 Needs foundation to be admissible, hearsay, relevance

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673	Objection to the use of deposition when the live witness is available to testify, hearsay
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681	Objection to the use of deposition when the live witness is available to testify, hearsay
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685	Objection to the use of deposition when the live witness is available to testify, hearsay
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690	Hearsay
693	Hearsay, Deposition has never been provided
697	Hearsay

713 Objection to the use of deposition when the live witness is available to testify, hearsay 714 Needs foundation to be admissible, hearsay, relevance 715 Needs foundation to be admissible, hearsay, relevance 716 Needs foundation to be admissible, hearsay, relevance 717 Needs foundation to be admissible, hearsay, relevance 718 Needs foundation to be admissible, hearsay, relevance 719 Needs foundation to be admissible, hearsay, relevance 720 Needs foundation to be admissible, hearsay, relevance 721 Needs foundation to be admissible, hearsay, relevance 722 Needs foundation to be admissible, hearsay, relevance 723 Needs foundation to be admissible, hearsay, relevance 724 Needs foundation to be admissible, hearsay, relevance 728 Needs foundation to be admissible, hearsay, relevance 729 Needs foundation to be admissible, hearsay, relevance 730 Needs foundation to be admissible, hearsay, relevance 731 Footnote 3 to Paragraph 7.a. of the Scheduling Order requires that "The Parties must disclose and exchange any demonstrative exhibits or animations with the 26(a)(3) disclosures." Plaintiff failed to provide a copy of this exhibit in violation of that requirement. Further, needs foundation to be admissible, hearsay, relevance 732 Plaintiff failed to provide a copy of this exhibit in violation of the Scheduling Order, as identified above. Needs foundation to be admissible, hearsay, relevance 733 Plaintiff failed to provide a copy of this exhibit in violation of the Scheduling Order, as identified above. Needs foundation to be admissible, hearsay, relevance

- Plaintiff failed to provide a copy of this exhibit in violation of the Scheduling Order, as identified above. Needs foundation to be admissible, hearsay, relevance
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- Plaintiff failed to provide a copy of this exhibit in violation of the Scheduling Order, as identified above. Needs foundation to be admissible, hearsay, relevance
- Hearsay, Plaintiff did not designate any forensic computer expert in its Initial

 Disclosures, Plaintiff did not timely designate any expert witness who was a forensic

 computer expert, Plaintiff has not provided an expert report from any forensic computer

 expert, Plaintiff has not provided copies of any such documents from any forensic

 computer expert.

- Plaintiff failed to provide a copy of this exhibit in violation of the Scheduling Order, as identified above. Needs foundation to be admissible, hearsay, relevance
- Plaintiff failed to provide a copy of this exhibit in violation of the Scheduling Order, as identified above. Needs foundation to be admissible, hearsay, relevance
- Plaintiff failed to provide a copy of this exhibit in violation of the Scheduling Order, as identified above. Needs foundation to be admissible, hearsay, relevance
- Plaintiff failed to provide copies of this exhibit. Defendants have never seen these videos. Needs foundation to be admissible, hearsay, relevance.
- Needs foundation to be admissible, hearsay, relevance, cumulative, unfairly prejudicial.
- Needs foundation to be admissible, hearsay, relevance, cumulative, unfairly prejudicial.

II. Argument.

A. The depositions of Mr. Johnson, Mr. Shepard, LBTI, IAS, and RaPower3 should not be used in lieu of live witness testimony.

Defendants object to Plaintiff's designated use of the deposition testimony in lieu of live testimony of Mr. Johnson and Mr. Shepard. Specifically, this objection includes the deposition testimony of (1) International Automated Systems, Inc. (taken June 29, 2017), (2) LBTI 1, LLC, (taken July 7, 2017), (3) RaPower-3, LLC (taken June 30, 2017), (4) Mr. Neldon Johnson (taken June 28, 2018 and October 3, 2018), and Mr. R. Gregory Shepard (taken May 22, 2017).

Deposition testimony is ordinarily inadmissible hearsay, although <u>Rule 32(a)</u> creates an exception to the hearsay rules. Under the rule, a party may use all or part of a deposition against an opposing party at trial if each of the following conditions are met:

- (A) the party was present or represented at the taking of the deposition or had reasonable notice of it;
- (B) it is used to the extent it would be admissible under the Federal Rules of Evidence if the deponent were present and testifying; and
- (C) the use is allowed by Rule 32(a)(2) through (8).²

A party who intends to use a deposition in lieu of live testimony must promptly file a designation of witness testimony which the party expects to present by deposition.³ However, a party may not use deposition testimony for any purpose in lieu of live witness testimony unless the court determines the deposed witness is unavailable.⁴

A witness is unavailable if the court finds any one of the following applies:

- (A) that the witness is dead;
- (B) that the witness is more than 100 miles from the place of hearing or trial or is outside the United States, unless it appears that the witness's absence was procured by the party offering the deposition;
- (C) that the witness cannot attend or testify because of age, illness, infirmity, or imprisonment;
- (D) that the party offering the deposition could not procure the witness's attendance by subpoena; or
- (E) on motion and notice, that exceptional circumstances make it desirable—in the interest of justice and with due regard to the importance of live testimony in open court—to permit the deposition to be used.⁵

The proponent of the deposition bears the burden of proving that it is admissible under Rule 32(a).⁶ The preference for a witness's attendance at trial is axiomatic, particularly when key

¹ Garcia-Martinez v. City & Cty. of Denver, 392 F.3d 1187, 1191 (10th Cir. 2004)

² FRCP 32(a)(1)(A)-(C).

³ FRCP 26(a)(3)(ii).

⁴ *Id.* at 32(a)(1)(C); 32(a)(4).

⁵ FRCP 32(a)(4); see also Fed. R. Evid. 804(a)(1)-(5); 804(b)(1)(A)-(B).

factual issues at trial turn on credibility and demeanor of the witness.⁷ This is especially true if the witness is the party.⁸

Here, Plaintiff cannot satisfy its burden of proving that the designated deposition testimony is admissible under Rule 32(a). First, both Plaintiff and Defendants have identified these witnesses as persons they intend to call at trial. Both Mr. Nelson and Mr. Shepard will attend trial, and therefore will not be more than 100 miles from this court. Second, neither witnesses are unable to testify because of age, illness, infirmity or imprisonment. Third, Defendants have provided Plaintiff with a proposed waiver of service of a subpoena to appear at trial for these witnesses, so Plaintiff cannot show that it could not procure the witnesses' attendance by subpoena. Finally, Plaintiff has not filed a motion that "exceptional circumstance make it desirable – in the interest of justice with due regard to the importance of live testimony in open court- to permit the deposition[s] to be used."

In sum, Plaintiff should not be permitted to the use the testimony it has identified in its Rule 26 Pretrial disclosures except for the purposes of impeachment.

B. The depositions of Robert Aulds, Peter C. Gregg, Roger Halverson, John Howell, Frank Lunn, Pacificorp, Mike Penn, and Brian Zeleznik should not be used in lieu of live testimony.

Defendants object to the use of deposition testimony in lieu of live testimony for the following:

- 1. Robert Aulds (March 14, 2017) (Boyd, TX)
- 2. Peter C. Gregg (November 16, 2016) (Boring OR)
- 3. Roger Halverson (Oct 18, 2016) (Stuart, FL)
- 4. John Howell (Aug. 23, 2017) (Wichita Falls, TX)

⁶ Garcia-Martinez, 392 F.3d at 1191.

⁷ *Id.* at 1191-92.

⁸ See Id.

⁹ See <u>FRCP 32(a)(4)(E)</u>.

5. Frank Lunn

6. Pacificorp (Nov. 15, 2016) (Portland, OR)

7. Mike Penn (March 13, 2017) (Wichita Falls, TX)

8. Brian Zeleznik (Aug 2, 2016) (Leroy, IL)

Plaintiff neither disclosed these individuals in their initial disclosure nor supplemented

disclosure to include these individuals. Additionally, current counsel for Defendants were not

present for their deposition, with the exception of John Howell. Furthermore, Plaintiff has not

provided Defendants with any copies of the transcripts of the excerpts Plaintiff intends to use at

trial. 10 For these reasons, the depositions of these witnesses should not be used in lieu of live

testimony.

III. Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, the Court should not permit Plaintiff to use the deposition

testimony of the above witnesses in lieu of live testimony.

Dated this 23^{rd} day of February, 2018.

NELSON SNUFFER DAHLE & POULSEN

/s/ Denver C. Snuffer, Jr.

Denver C. Snuffer, Jr.

Steven R. Paul

Daniel B. Garriott

Attorneys for Defendants

¹⁰ See FRCP 32(c).

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing **DEFENDANTS**' **OBJECTION TO EXHIBITS DESIGNATED IN PLAINTIFF'S RULE 26 PRETRIAL DISCLOSURES AND USE OF DEPOSITIONS IN LIEU OF LIVE TESTIMONY** was sent to counsel for the United States in the manner described below.

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	/s/ Denver C. Snuffer, Jr.
	Attorneys for Defendants