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Sharp slaps Samsung with LCD lawsuit

By Peter Clarke

LONDON — Electronics equipment and subsystem company Sharp Corp. (Osaka, Japan) has filed a lawsuit alleging South Korea’s Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd. of infringing five of its patents on liquid crystal display technology.

The suit was filed in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas on Monday (Aug. 6) against Samsung and its U.S. subsidiaries Samsung Electronics America, Inc. and Samsung Telecommunications America.

The five patents involved with the lawsuit are US Patent Numbers 4,649,383, 5,760,855, 6,052,162, 7,027,024 and 7,057,689, all of which relate to LCD modules.

The patents cover driving methods and devices, guard wiring to prevent static-induced damage, electrode formation, and the use of an optical film to enhance the viewing angle by compensating for optical phase difference.

The complaint alleges that LCD modules manufactured by Samsung and sold in the U.S. by Samsung, together with LCD televisions and mobile phones using the LCDs and sold in the U.S. by Samsung Electronics America, Inc. and Samsung Telecommunications America infringe these patents.

Sharp said it had been negotiating licensing with Samsung since 2006 but had been unable to agree terms. In the complaint, Sharp requests that the Court award compensatory damages to Sharp and prohibit the sales of the infringing products. Sharp also requests a jury trial.