

Semiconductor company saves millions in royalty payments with evidence of prior use to defend against NPE

“Despite a short turnaround time, Chipworks was able to deliver exactly the kind of evidence we needed. As our trusted partner, they continue to help us with other prior use investigations.”

— Vice President,
Intellectual Property
Group

SITUATION

A large semiconductor company was notified by a non-practicing entity (NPE) of patent infringement involving a core product line. The company initially sought to invalidate the patent through prior art using its own internal resources and those of its outside counsel. When prior art wasn't found, the company turned to Chipworks to assess whether the patent could be invalidated by searching for evidence of prior use. The company trusted Chipworks' Patent Intelligence Services, having a working relationship spanning decades.

CHALLENGES

- Find a supplier capable of performing custom reverse engineering requiring circuit and systems analysis
- Procure a device not readily available in the market
- Gain credible, third party evidence of prior use

CHIPWORKS SOLUTION

- Chipworks' deep patent and market knowledge helped identify and procure a device that pre-dated the patent and was difficult to obtain
- Performed a combination of circuit extraction and functional testing to verify the circuit function in the device
- Within two weeks, delivered a report to the client confirming evidence of prior use

RESULTS

- The company will save millions of dollars in royalty payments to the NPE
- The company's intellectual property teams and legal counsel continue to rely on Chipworks for prior use investigations

For over 20 years, Chipworks has been a trusted patent and technology partner to the world's largest and most successful companies. Business leaders rely on Chipworks to help them identify and fully leverage their most valuable patents and provide crucial analysis of high-revenue products in the most competitive, fastest changing technology markets.