

## **WRF Files Lawsuit to Enforce Radio Receiver Patents**

On April 15, 2011, 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 2:11-cv-00651](#)

As explained in the complaint, the lawsuit is part of an ongoing, multi-year 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 still pending applications relate to inventions in the field of radio receiver technology and methods of tuning radio channels. The patents have application in many areas of Low IF wireless technology, including Bluetooth®, FM and GSM radio tuners.

As a result of the seven year licensing program, WRF has concluded numerous licenses under these patents, including with the following Low IF radio chipset companies:

- Broadcom Corp.,
- CSR plc,
- SiTel Semiconductor BV,
- TOSHIBA Corp.,
- Marvell Semiconductor, Inc.,
- Ericsson AB (with certain rights extending to two of its licensees, National Semiconductor and Winbond),
- Silicon Laboratories, and
- Infineon.

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®). Companies that sell and offer for sale products using licensed chipsets manufactured by the above suppliers do not infringe WRF's patents. However, companies that sell and offer for sale products in the United States using unlicensed Low IF chipsets are at risk for infringement of WRF's patents. The most recent 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 Low IF chipsets supplied from ST Microelectronics, ST-Ericsson and ST-Ericsson's predecessor, ST-NXP.

WRF has stated many times to the parties identified in the litigation that it prefers an amicable resolution of this dispute on terms consistent with the numerous agreements reached with prior licensees. In fact, WRF has attempted over a period of several years to negotiate licenses with the named defendants and their chipset suppliers. Unfortunately, those efforts were unsuccessful, and this lawsuit resulted. WRF remains hopeful that an amicable resolution can still be reached.

WRF is a 30 year old independent nonprofit foundation that identifies, protects and enhances the value of intellectual property arising from Washington State research institutions to support research and scholarship. To date, WRF has contributed over \$300

million to the University of Washington through its licensing and gift programs. WRF believes strongly in and relies extensively upon the patent system, which is central to its charter, and will vigorously enforce its patent rights.