

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS  
AND INTERFERENCES

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*Ex parte* ERIC T. STUBBS  
and JAMES E. MILLER

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Appeal 2007-2652  
Application 11/134,575  
Technology Center 2800

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Decided: November 30, 2007

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Before KENNETH W. HAIRSTON, ROBERT E. NAPPI,  
and SCOTT R. BOALICK, *Administrative Patent Judges*.  
HAIRSTON, *Administrative Patent Judge*.

DECISION ON APPEAL

Appellants appeal under 35 U.S.C. § 134 from the final rejection of claims 1 to 6. We have jurisdiction under 35 U.S.C. § 6(b).

We will sustain the rejection.



*external reference voltage independent of a power supply voltage* coupled to the memory array’ as recited in Appellants’ independent claim 1” (App. Br. 6).

### ISSUE

Does Yuh receive an externally generated reference voltage that is independent of a power supply voltage coupled to the memory array?

### FINDINGS OF FACT

Yuh describes a semiconductor memory device that includes a memory cell array 11 (Figure 1; col. 2, ll. 21 to 25). The voltage follower 22 receives a reference voltage  $V_{REFL}$ , and generates an internal reference voltage  $V_{INTL}$  from the external reference voltage (Figure 2B; col. 3, ll. 55 to 63). As seen in Figure 4, the external reference voltage  $V_{REFL}$  is independent of the power supply voltage  $V_{RTO}$  to a portion of the memory device (col. 4, ll. 40 to 43). Yuh does not describe any connection between the external reference voltage  $V_{REFL}$  and the power supply voltage  $V_{EXT}$  to the pull-up driver 13 (Figure 1). Yuh uses the internal reference voltage  $V_{INTL}$  in the sensing circuit 16 to logically evaluate a logic state of the data in the memory (col. 2, l. 57 to col. 3, l. 5).

### PRINCIPLES OF LAW

Anticipation is established when a single prior art reference discloses expressly or under the principles of inherency each and every limitation of the claimed invention. *Atlas Powder Co. v. IRECO, Inc.*, 190 F.3d 1342,

1347 (Fed. Cir. 1999); *In re Paulsen*, 30 F.3d 1475, 1478-79 (Fed. Cir. 1994).

#### ANALYSIS

As indicated *supra*, Yuh does not describe  $V_{REFL}$  as being derived from either of the two power supply voltages  $V_{RTO}$  and  $V_{EXT}$ . Thus, we disagree with Appellants' argument that the noted reference voltage is not received as an external reference voltage that is independent of the power supply voltages (App. Br. 5 and Reply Br. 4).

#### CONCLUSION OF LAW

Anticipation has been established by the Examiner for claim 1. In view of the lack of arguments by Appellants directed to claims 2 to 6, we find that the Examiner has also established anticipation of claims 2 to 6.

#### ORDER

The anticipation rejection of claims 1 to 6 is affirmed.

No time period for taking any subsequent action in connection with this appeal may be extended under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(1)(iv).

#### AFFIRMED

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