

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
Trademark Trial and Appeal Board
P.O. Box 1451
Alexandria, VA 22313-1451
General Contact Number: 571-272-8500

VV/mbm

Mailed: June 1, 2018

Opposition No. 91236935

*Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial
Telecommunication SCRL*

v.

Swift Engineering Inc.

Mary Beth Myles, Interlocutory Attorney:

The Board notes Applicant's consented motion, filed May 15, 2018, to suspend this proceeding for 30 days for settlement discussions.

Applicant filed its answer on April 6, 2018. Proceedings were then suspended pending disposition of Opposer's motion (filed April 27, 2018) to strike Applicant's affirmative defenses. The parties had therefore not yet held their mandatory discovery conference. While the Board is liberal in granting extensions of time to accommodate settlement, after an answer has been filed, the Board is unlikely to find good cause for a motion, even upon consent or stipulation, to extend the deadline for the parties to conduct the required discovery conference when the basis for the motion is the existence of settlement discussions. *See* TBMP § 509.01(a); *Boston Red Sox Baseball Club LP v. Chaveriat*, 87 USPQ2d 1767, 1767 n.1 (TTAB 2008) ("It is unlikely the Board will find good cause for a motion to extend or suspend for

settlement if the motion is filed after answer but prior to the discovery conference, precisely because the discovery conference itself provides an opportunity to discuss settlement.”).

Inasmuch as the motion to suspend/extend was filed after the answer, but prior to parties’ discovery conference deadline, the Board does not find good cause to suspend/extend. Accordingly, the motion is **denied**.

Under the circumstances, Applicant is allowed until **twenty days** from the mailing date of this order in which to file and serve a response to Opposer’s motion to strike Applicant’s affirmative defenses.

Proceedings otherwise remain **suspended** pending disposition of Opposer’s motion to strike.