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Squires Orders Chinese Chip Co. To Prove

It's Not A Threat

By [Dani Kass](#) · [Listen to article](#)

Law360 (November 14, 2025, 7:10 PM EST) -- [U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Director John Squires](#) has mandated that [Yangtze Memory Technologies Co. Ltd.](#) explain why its challenge to [Micron Technology Inc.](#) patents should proceed, given that the Chinese company has been deemed a national security risk.

The [Patent Trial and Appeal Board](#) had cleared YMTC to proceed with its challenges to the rival semiconductor company's patents, but Squires is reconsidering that decision. He issued a show cause order on Monday asking it to prove why he shouldn't end the proceedings.

"Petitioner is listed on the [Bureau of Industry and Security's](#) Entity List, which 'identifies persons ... reasonably believed to be involved, or to pose a significant risk of being or becoming involved, in activities contrary to the national security or foreign policy interests of the United States,'" Squires said. "Petitioner is ordered to show cause why adjudicating petitions filed by such a designated entity is an appropriate use of the office's limited resources."

Squires is reviewing the PTAB's initial institution decisions by looking at whether YMTC's petitions should have been denied based on discretionary factors. The odds aren't in YMTC's favor, as the director has rejected all but one of the PTAB review petitions that have landed on his desk and become public.

Micron has argued that YMTC doesn't have the right to bring the pair of inter partes reviews in question, asserting it is a state-owned company from China, and that governments cannot file IPRs. Idaho-based Micron cited the [U.S. Supreme Court's](#) [Return Mail v. U.S. Postal Service](#) decision from 2019, which said only a "person" can do so, and the government wasn't a person. But persons include companies in this instance.

The PTAB determined Micron didn't sufficiently show YMTC wasn't a company, but Squires highlighted Return Mail in his show-cause order.

The director had raised broad concerns about Chinese companies taking advantage of the PTAB by challenging a high number of U.S. patents. In October, he started requiring that petitioners list all parties in interest from the beginning of proceedings, with concerns the Chinese companies would create national security threats.

Squires listed more than 100 IPR and post-grant reviews from Chinese companies to justify his concerns, including six from YMTC. A [Law360 review](#) found that each of those was in response to infringement allegations.

Counsel for YMTC and Micron didn't respond to requests for comment Friday.

The patents-in-suit are U.S. Patent Nos. [8,945,996](#); and [10,872,903](#).

YMTC is represented by Christopher M. Bonny and Andrew Radsch of [Ropes & Gray LLP](#).

Micron is represented by Jeremy Jason Lang, Jared Bobrow and Travis Jensen of [Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP](#).

The cases are Yangtze Memory Technologies Company, Ltd v. Micron Technology, Inc., case numbers IPR2025-00098 and IPR2025-00099, before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board.

--Editing by Adam LoBelia.

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PTAB Case Information

Case Title

[Yangtze Memory Technologies Company, Ltd. Inter Partes Review](#)

Case Number

[IPR2025-00098](#)

Date Filed

November 18, 2024

Case Title

[YANGTZE MEMORY TECHNOLOGIES COMPANY, LTD. Inter Partes Review](#)

Case Number

IPR2025-00099

Date Filed

November 18, 2024

Law Firms

- Orrick Herrington
- Ropes & Gray

Companies

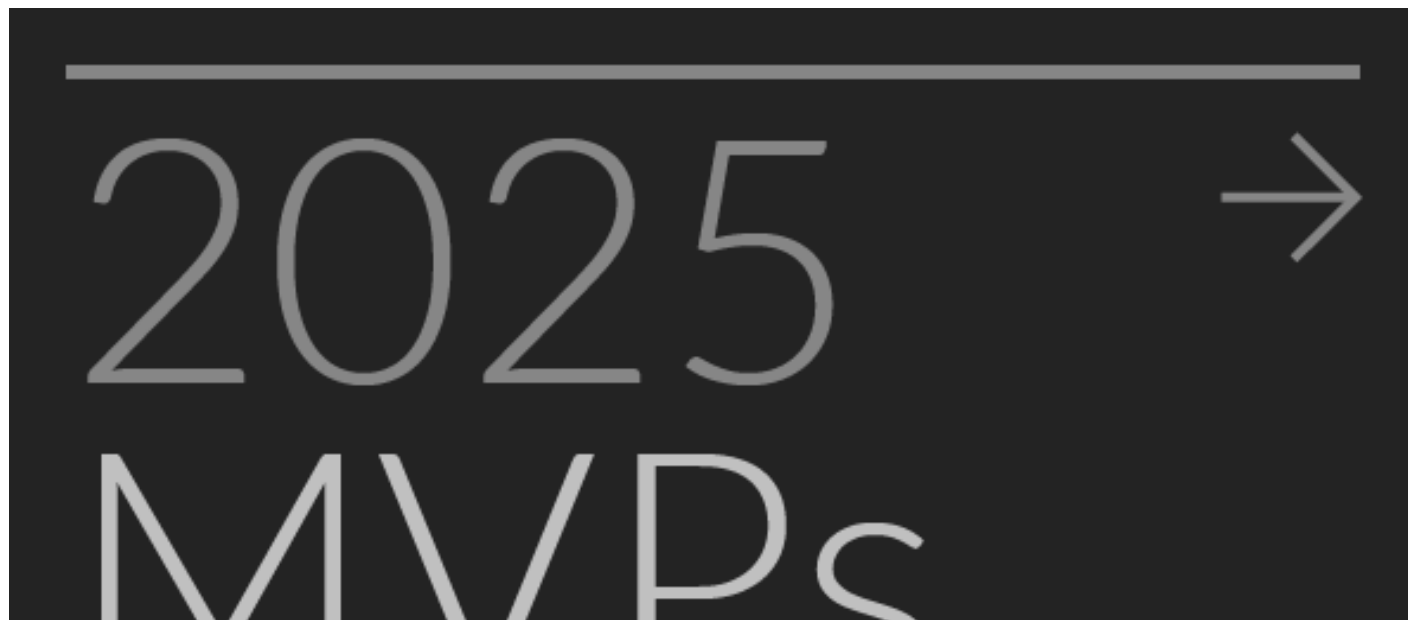
- Micron Technology Inc.
- Yangtze Memory Technologies Co. Ltd.

Government Agencies

- Bureau of Industry and Security
- Patent Trial and Appeal Board
- U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
- U.S. Postal Service
- U.S. Supreme Court

Patents

- 10,872,903 - Three dimensional memory and methods of forming the same
- 8,945,996 - Methods of forming circuitry components and methods of forming an array of memory cells





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- [4DOJ Official Among Trump Picks For District Courts](#)
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