

CONGRUENT SOFTWARE, INC.
3998 Whittle Avenue
Oakland, CA 94602
(510) 531-5472
(510) 531-2942 FAX

December 24, 1997

Mark Aaker
Apple Computer, Inc.
MS 38-PAT
1 Infinite Loop
Cupertino, CA 95014

Dear Mark,

The IEEE High Performance Serial Bus working group is in the process of developing a standard, IEEE P1394a, that may utilize technology developed, in part, by Apple Computer, Inc. As such, there is the possibility that this standard may be covered by patents that Apple Computer, Inc. holds or patent applications submitted by Apple Computer, Inc. A copy of the draft standard is included; if you find it more convenient, you may also download an electronic copy, P1394a13.pdf, from the FTP site used by the working group, <ftp://ftp.symbios.com/pub/standards/io/1394/P1394a/Drafts>.

Please review and advise as to whether or not any Apple Computer, Inc. patents or patent applications apply to information in the document.

The IEEE patent policy requires a release letter on company letterhead (see the enclosed sample language) if your technology applies. I would appreciate it very much if your patent department would provide such a letter. I hope to hear from you by January 8, 1998. If I receive no response by that date, I will presume that your company has no patent issues with regard to this draft standard.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Peter G. Johansson
Chair, IEEE P1394a Working Group

Enclosures: IEEE P1394a Draft 1.3
Patent permission letter

Example patent response text

This letter is written in response to your letter of December 24, 1997, which requested that Apple Computer, Inc. confirm to the IEEE that we will provide licenses under our United States Patents #nnnnnn, # nnnnnn and # nnnnnn and foreign Patents #nnnnnn, # nnnnnn and # nnnnn with respect to the proposed IEEE P1394a standard. In that regard:

In the event the proposed standard is adopted and the standard cannot be practiced without the use of the cited patent(s), Apple Computer, Inc. agrees upon written request to grant a nonexclusive license under such patent on a nondiscriminatory basis and on reasonable terms and conditions.

This letter does not grant any right to the IEEE with respect to Apple Computer, Inc. copyrights or other intellectual property rights that relate to the proposed standard. Any party interested in the license described above may write to Mark Aaker at the address on the letterhead.