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# Court action goes forward against Pizza Hut, Papa John's, Starbucks, Domino's

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Some very big names — including Pizza Hut, Papa John's, Starbucks and Domino's — got some very bad news this morning when news broke that a stay granted three years ago involving them and many more has now been lifted with trials set to go forward in the next year. The action by the district court of the Southern District of California involves more than 30 patent infringement cases filed by Ameranth, Inc. around use of its data synchronization inventions, according to a news release from Ameranth.

In fact, the company said every claim against its so-called "077 patent," which includes multiple technologies for hospitality food/drink ordering, reservations, ticketing, payment processing and mobile and web functions, has survived challenges and now remain fully valid. The hospitality

technology company said will push forward in court against all the defendants originally named in the patent infringement case.

"Ameranth is very pleased that the court has lifted the stay of our patent infringement cases and set a 12 month timeline to begin the infringement trials," Ameranth Chairman and CEO Vern Yates said in a news release. "For too long, these infringing defendants have been able to unfairly exploit Ameranth's inventions, without license but now our 'day in court' is clearly ahead.

"We intend to seek full damages for their unauthorized use of our intellectual property. We look forward to promptly proceeding to trial in the SDCA (Southern District of California) and winning there and then."

Ameranth has 45 direct "data synchronization" licensees, including more than 25 large national restaurant chains, totaling more than 50,000 deployed locations, which are in various stages of roll-out.

Clients include Taco Bell and Jersey Mike's, neither is involved in the court action.