

No. 21-401

IN THE

**Supreme Court of the United States**

ZF AUTOMOTIVE US, INC. GERALD DEKKER, AND  
CHRISTOPHE MARNAT,

*Petitioners,*

v.

LUXSHARE, LTD.,

*Respondent.*

**On Writ of Certiorari to the  
United States Court of Appeals  
for the Sixth Circuit**

**BRIEF OF THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF  
ARBITRATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE UNITED  
STATES COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL  
BUSINESS AS *AMICI CURIAE*  
IN SUPPORT OF NEITHER PARTY**

NOAH D. RUBINS QC  
FRESHFIELDS BRUCKHAUS  
DERINGER LLP  
9 avenue de Messine  
Paris, France 75008  
+33 1 44 56 44 56

NICHOLAS P. LINGARD  
EKATERINA H. APOSTOLOVA  
FRESHFIELDS BRUCKHAUS  
DERINGER SINGAPORE  
PTE LTD  
10 Collyer Quay 42-01  
Ocean Financial Centre  
Singapore 049315  
+65 6636 8000

LINDA H. MARTIN  
*Counsel of Record*  
ERIC A. BRANDON  
FRESHFIELDS BRUCKHAUS  
DERINGER US LLP  
601 Lexington Avenue  
31st Floor  
New York, NY 10022  
(212) 277-4000  
linda.martin@freshfields.com

*Counsel for Amici Curiae*

January 31, 2022

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Interest of <i>amici curiae</i> .....	1
Summary of argument .....	4
Argument.....	6
I. <i>Amici</i> 's position of deference to the arbitral tribunal is supported under U.S. law.....	6
A. The text and purpose of Section 1782 support deference to the arbitral tribunal. ....	6
B. <i>Intel</i> and its progeny support deference to the arbitral tribunal. ....	7
II. Policy considerations support <i>amici</i> 's position of deference to the arbitral tribunal. ....	10
III. The arbitral tribunal has primary authority and control over discovery. ....	12
A. The ICC Rules of Arbitration grant the arbitral tribunal primary authority and control over discovery.....	12
B. Other major arbitration rules grant the arbitral tribunal primary authority and control over discovery.....	13
IV. The arbitral tribunal is best placed to assess a discovery request.....	16
Conclusion .....	17

**TABLE OF AUTHORITIES**

<b>Cases</b>	<b>Page(s)</b>
<i>AT&amp;T Mobility LLC v. Concepcion</i> , 563 U.S. 333 (2011).....	10, 11
<i>Epic Sys. Corp. v. Lewis</i> , 138 S. Ct. 1612 (2018) .....	10
<i>In re Application of Caratube Int’l Oil Co., LLP</i> , 730 F. Supp. 2d 101 (D.D.C. 2010).....	9
<i>In re Application of Technostroyexport</i> , 853 F. Supp. 695 (S.D.N.Y. 1994).....	8
<i>In re Bio Energias Comercializadora de Energia Ltda.</i> , No. 19-cv-24497-BLOOM, 2020 WL 509987 (S.D. Fla. Jan. 31, 2020) .....	8, 9
<i>In re Letter of Request from Crown Prosecution Serv. of United Kingdom</i> , 870 F.2d 686 (D.C. Cir. 1989) .....	5
<i>Intel Corp. v. Advanced Micro Devices, Inc.</i> , 542 U.S. 241 (2004).....	7, 8
<i>Moses H. Cone Mem’l Hosp. v. Mercury Constr. Corp.</i> , 460 U.S. 1 (1983).....	10
<i>Preston v. Ferrer</i> , 552 U.S. 346 (2008).....	10
<i>ZF Automotive US, Inc., et al. v. Luxshare, Ltd.</i> , No. 21-401, (Sep. 10, 2021) .....	4

**Statutes**

28 U.S.C. § 1782 .....	5
------------------------	---

**Other Authorities**

<i>German Arbitration Institute</i> , 2018 DIS Arbitration Rules (Mar. 1, 2018), <a href="https://www.disarb.org/fileadmin//user_upload/Werkzeuge_und_Tools/2018_DIS-Arbitration-Rules_072021.pdf">https:// www.disarb.org/fileadmin//user_up- load/Werkzeuge_und_Tools/2018_DIS- Arbitration-Rules_072021.pdf</a> .....	15
Hans Smit, <i>American Assistance to Litigation in Foreign and International Tribunals: Section 1782 of Title 28 of the U.S.C. Revisited</i> , 25 SYRACUSE J. INT'L & COMM. 1 (1998) .....	5
HKAC, <i>Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre Administered Arbitration Rules</i> , (Nov. 1, 2018), <a href="https://www.hkiac.org/arbitration/rules-practice-notes/hkiac-administered-2018">https://www.hkiac.org/ arbitration/rules-practice-notes/hkiac -administered-2018</a> .....	14
IBA, <i>IBA Rules on the Taking of Evidence in International Arbitration</i> , (Dec. 17, 2020), <a href="https://www.ibanet.org/Document/Default.aspx?DocumentUid=def0807b-9fec-43ef-b624-f2cb2af7cf7b">https://www.ibanet.org/Document/De- fault.aspx?DocumentUid=def0807b-9fec- 43ef-b624-f2cb2af7cf7b</a> .....	13
ICC, <i>ICC Dispute Resolution Bulletin -2021</i> , Issue 1 (Feb. 2021), <a href="https://library.iccwbo.org/dr-statisticalreports.htm">https://library.iccwbo. org/dr-statisticalreports.htm</a> .....	1

ICC, <i>ICC Dispute Resolution Bulletin – 2019 ICC Dispute Resolution Statistics, Issue 2</i> (2020), <a href="https://library.iccwbo.org/dr-statisticalreports.htm">https://library.iccwbo.org/dr- statisticalreports.htm</a> .....	2
ICC, <i>ICC International Court of Arbitration Bulletin – 1998 Statistical Report, Vol. 10</i> No. 1 (Jan. 1999), <a href="https://library.iccwbo.org/dr-statisticalreports.htm">https://library.iccwbo.org/ dr-statisticalreports.htm</a> .....	1
ICC, <i>ICC International Court of Arbitration - Homepage</i> , <a href="https://iccwbo.org/dispute-resolution-services/icc-international-court-arbitration">https://iccwbo.org/dispute- resolution-services/icc-international-court- arbitration</a> (last visited on Jan. 28, 2022).....	2
ICC, <i>International Chamber of Commerce Rules of Arbitration</i> (Jan. 1, 2021), <a href="https://iccwbo.org/dispute-resolution-services/arbitration/rules-of-arbitration">https://ic- cwbo.org/dispute-resolution-services/ arbitration/rules-of-arbitration</a> .....	<i>passim</i>
LCIA, <i>London Court of International Arbitration - Arbitration Rules</i> , (Oct. 1, 2020), <a href="https://www.lcia.org/Dispute_Resolution_Services/lcia-arbitration-rules-2020.aspx">https://www.lcia.org/Dispute_Resolution _Services/lcia-arbitration-rules-2020.aspx</a> .....	14
Queen Mary Univ. of London & White & Case, <i>2021 International Arbitration Survey: Adapting arbitration to a changing world</i> , (May 6, 2021), <a href="https://www.white-case.com/sites/default/files/2021-05/quml-international-arbitration-survey-2021-web.pdf">https://www.white- case.com/sites/default/files/2021-05/ quml-international-arbitration-survey- 2021-web.pdf</a> .....	2
S. Rep. No. 1580, 88th Cong., 2nd Sess. (1964), <i>reprinted in</i> 1964 U.S.C.C.A.N. 3782 .....	6

*SIAC, Singapore International Arbitration  
Centre Rules, (Aug. 1, 2016), <https://siac.org.sg/our-rules/rules/siac-rules-2016>..... 14*

United Nations Convention on the Recognition  
and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral  
Awards, (June 1958), <https://www.newyorkconvention.org/english> ..... 11

## INTEREST OF *AMICI CURIAE*<sup>1</sup>

The International Chamber of Commerce (*ICC*) is the world's largest business organization representing more than 45 million companies in over 100 countries. Its members include many of the world's leading companies, small and mid-size enterprises, business associations and local chambers of commerce. ICC's core mission is to make business work for everyone, every day, everywhere. Through a unique mix of advocacy, solutions, and standard setting, it promotes international trade, responsible business conduct, and a global approach to regulation, in addition to providing market-leading dispute resolution services. Globally, ICC is considered the voice for international business on important issues related to international trade and investment, and in recognition of ICC's role in fostering global trade, it has Observer Status at the United Nations.

Established in 1923, the International Court of Arbitration of the ICC (*ICC Court*) is the arbitration body of the ICC and the world's leading international arbitration institution. Since its inception, the ICC Court has seen a steady increase in its caseload, from around 30 new cases filed in 1923, to a record 946 new cases filed in 2020—the fourth consecutive year of robust and regular growth. *See ICC, ICC International Court of Arbitration Bulletin – 1998 Statistical Report*, Vol. 10 No. 1 (Jan. 1999), at pg. 3, <https://library.iccwbo.org/dr-statisticalreports.htm>; *ICC, ICC Dispute Resolution Bulletin - 2021*, Issue 1 (Feb. 2021), at pg.

---

<sup>1</sup> All parties consent to the filing of this brief. Pursuant to Rule 37.6, counsel for *amici curiae* authored this brief. No counsel for a party in this case authored this brief in whole or in part. No one other than *amici curiae* or their counsel contributed monetarily to the preparation and submission of this brief.

6, <https://library.iccwbo.org/dr-statisticalreports.htm>. As of 2020, the ICC Court had administered over 25,000 cases internationally. ICC, *ICC Dispute Resolution Bulletin – 2019 ICC Dispute Resolution Statistics*, Issue 2 (2020), at pg. 1, <https://library.iccwbo.org/dr-statisticalreports.htm>. According to a recent global survey of users of international arbitration, the ICC Court is the most preferred arbitration institution in the world. Queen Mary Univ. of London & White & Case, *2021 International Arbitration Survey: Adapting arbitration to a changing world*, at pg. 9 (May 6, 2021), <https://www.whitecase.com/sites/default/files/2021-05/quml-international-arbitration-survey-2021-web.pdf> (stating that 57% of respondents said the ICC was one of their preferred arbitral institutions, more than any other institution).

The ICC Court's purpose is "to ensure proper application of the ICC Rules [of Arbitration], as well as assist parties and arbitrators in overcoming procedural obstacles," including ensuring the proper constitution of the arbitral tribunal formed for any particular case. ICC, *ICC International Court of Arbitration - Homepage*, <https://iccwbo.org/dispute-resolution-services/icc-international-court-arbitration> (last visited on Jan. 28, 2022). Its key functions include "monitoring the arbitral process to make certain that it is performed properly and with the required speed and efficiency necessary." *Id.* To that end, the ICC Court has developed rules and standards which parties adopt voluntarily and incorporate into their dispute resolution agreements. These include the ICC Rules of Arbitration, which reflect current internationally accepted practice. See ICC, *International Chamber of Commerce Rules of Arbitration (ICC Rules of Arbitration)* (Jan. 1, 2021), <https://iccwbo.org/dispute-resolution-services/arbitration/rules-of-arbitration>.



Founded in 1945, the United States Council for International Business (*USCIB*) promotes open markets, competitiveness and innovation, sustainable development, and corporate responsibility, supported by international engagement and regulatory coherence. Its members include global companies and professional services firms, and as the U.S. affiliate of the ICC, Business at OECD, and the International Organization of Employers, USCIB represents the central values, ideas, and common interests of U.S. international business before U.S. policymakers as well as officials in the United Nations, the European Union, and other governments and organizations.

USCIB is the U.S. national committee of the ICC, and in that capacity, it represents the interests of the U.S. business community in connection with the ICC's dispute resolution services. U.S. international arbitration practitioners appointed or nominated by USCIB play key roles in ICC arbitration proceedings, on the ICC Commission on Arbitration and ADR, and on other ICC arbitration bodies. Moreover, U.S. parties are the most frequent users of ICC arbitration services.

As the world's leading international arbitral institution and a global thought leader in dispute resolution, the ICC Court has a strong interest in this case because the issues raised are of great importance to the conduct of international arbitrations worldwide. The ICC Court has particular expertise in document production and evidence-gathering in arbitration, and seeks to provide valuable practical insight and assistance to the Court in considering the wider ramifications of the issues arising in this case. The ICC Court is concerned with ensuring that the Court's decision

in this case has a positive impact, by sending a cohesive message to the international business and international arbitral communities. As the U.S. national committee of the ICC, USCIB shares those interests.

### SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT

*Amici* are making this neutral submission without any vested interest in the outcome of the case itself.

The question presented in the case, as stated in the petition for writ of certiorari, is: “Whether 28 U.S.C. § 1782(a), which permits litigants to invoke the authority of United States courts to render assistance in gathering evidence for use in ‘a foreign or international tribunal,’ encompasses private commercial arbitral tribunals, as the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Fourth and Sixth Circuits have held, or excludes such tribunals, as the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Second, Fifth, and Seventh Circuits have held.” Petition for Writ of Certiorari Before Judgment at i, *ZF Automotive US, Inc., et al. v. Luxshare, Ltd.*, No. 21-401 (Sep. 10, 2021).

*Amici* are not taking a position in favor of or against the availability of 28 U.S.C. § 1782(a) (**Section 1782**) in private commercial arbitration.

Rather, *amici* aim to assist the Court on the following sub-issue: Assuming the Court finds that Section 1782 is available in connection with private commercial arbitration, what degree of deference should a U.S. court give to an arbitral tribunal’s views on the

discovery sought before it decides whether to grant or deny a Section 1782 application?<sup>2</sup>

To effectuate the purpose of Section 1782 and properly apply the discretionary *Intel* factors (discussed further below), and further the pro-arbitration policy of the U.S., a U.S. court weighing a Section 1782 petition should afford a very high degree of deference to the arbitral tribunal's views on the discovery sought. *Amici* respectfully urge the Court to take this opportunity to re-emphasize and make explicit the importance of doing so.

Professor Hans Smit, the “dominant drafter of, and commentator on, the 1964 revision of Section 1782,” *In re Letter of Request from Crown Prosecution Serv. of United Kingdom*, 870 F.2d 686, 689 (D.C. Cir. 1989), stated that “the rule in relation to international arbitral tribunals should be that American court[s] should honor an application under Section 1782 only if the application is approved by the arbitral tribunal.” Hans Smit, *American Assistance to Litigation in Foreign and International Tribunals: Section 1782 of Title 28 of the U.S.C. Revisited*, 25 SYRACUSE J. INT'L & COMM. 1, 9 (1998).

Affording a very high degree of deference to the tribunal would also be in line with the fundamental principle in private international commercial arbitrations that the arbitral tribunal has the primary authority and control over the proceedings, including discovery matters. As a result of this authority and an

---

<sup>2</sup> While there are treaty and other public international law disputes administered under the ICC Rules of Arbitration, the question before the Court is limited to private commercial arbitration. For consistency, *amici*'s views as set forth in this submission are also limited to private commercial arbitration.

arbitral tribunal’s familiarity with the governing arbitration rules and the underlying dispute, the arbitral tribunal constituted for a particular dispute is best placed to assess the propriety and utility of evidence that may result from a Section 1782 application.

## ARGUMENT

### I. *Amici’s position of deference to the arbitral tribunal is supported under U.S. law.*

Deferring to the arbitral tribunal’s view on the propriety and utility of Section 1782 discovery is in line with the text and purpose of Section 1782 and plays a crucial role in the U.S. court’s assessment of the discretionary *Intel* factors.

#### A. **The text and purpose of Section 1782 support deference to the arbitral tribunal.**

The statute’s title, “Assistance to foreign and international tribunals and to litigants before such tribunals,” underscores the importance of providing *assistance* to arbitral tribunals. 28 U.S.C. § 1782.

The statute’s legislative history is also replete with references to providing *assistance* to foreign tribunals. *See* S. Rep. No. 1580, 88th Cong., 2nd Sess. (1964), *reprinted in* 1964 U.S.C.C.A.N. 3782, 3788–89 (explaining that “the *assistance* made available by subsection (a) is also extended to international tribunals and litigants before such tribunals” and that “subsection (a) permits effective and desirable *assistance* to foreign and international courts and litigants before such courts”) (emphasis added).

Moreover, as the Court has noted, the purpose of Section 1782 is “to assist foreign tribunals in obtaining relevant information that the tribunals may find

useful but, for reasons having no bearing on international comity, they cannot obtain under their own laws.” *Intel Corp. v. Advanced Micro Devices, Inc.*, 542 U.S. 241, 262 (2004).

Because Section 1782 is designed to assist foreign tribunals, granting Section 1782 discovery without heavily weighing the views of the arbitral tribunal—which has primary authority over discovery and fact-finding in its own proceedings—would contravene the clear purpose of Section 1782. In fact, disregarding—or failing to assess—the arbitral tribunal’s views would be assisting *a party* to the arbitral proceedings, but would *not* necessarily be assisting the arbitral tribunal.

**B. *Intel* and its progeny support deference to the arbitral tribunal.**

Following the arbitral tribunal’s lead is also consistent with the Court’s decision in *Intel*, where the Court outlined a four-factor analysis (the ***Intel factors***) under which a U.S. court—after determining that the statutory factors of Section 1782 have been met—then determine whether to exercise its discretion in favor of granting a Section 1782 application. Two of the four *Intel* factors (the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> factors) are particularly relevant as indicators that U.S. courts should consider and heed the arbitral tribunal’s recommendation.

*Amici* respectfully urge the Court to take this opportunity to re-emphasize the importance of considering the arbitral tribunal’s views under the *Intel* factors, and to weigh the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> *Intel* factors heavily in connection with Section 1782 applications that seek discovery in aid of private commercial arbitrations. Further, *amici* respectfully urge the Court to make it

explicit that, once an arbitral tribunal is constituted, a very high degree of deference should be afforded to the views of that arbitral tribunal on the discovery sought.

This deference is supported by the second *Intel* factor, which is “the nature of the foreign tribunal, the character of proceedings underway abroad, *and the receptivity of the foreign government, court, or agency to federal-court judicial assistance.*” *Intel*, 542 U.S. at 264 (emphasis added). *Amici* submit that, generally, the discretion of the U.S. court should be exercised *against* Section 1782 discovery when there are concerns about the receptivity of an arbitral tribunal to the Section 1782 discovery. Applying the second *Intel* factor, U.S. courts have rejected granting a Section 1782 application in such circumstances. *See In re Bio Energias Comercializadora de Energia Ltda.*, No. 19-cv-24497-BLOOM, 2020 WL 509987, at \*4 (S.D. Fla. Jan. 31, 2020) (denying Section 1782 request in part because “it is not evident that the [arbitral tribunal] would be receptive to documents obtained in the manner Bio Energias seeks to obtain them”); *In re Application of Technostroyexport*, 853 F. Supp. 695, 697–98 (S.D.N.Y. 1994) (in a pre-*Intel* case, denying Section 1782 petition where the petitioner “made no effort to obtain any ruling from the arbitrators” and noting that “[w]hether or not there is to be pre-hearing discovery is a matter governed by the applicable arbitration rules (as distinct from court rules) and by what the arbitrators decide”).

*Amici*’s position is also supported by the third *Intel* factor, which considers “whether the § 1782(a) request conceals an attempt to circumvent foreign proof-gathering restrictions.” *Intel*, 542 U.S. at 265. Permitting discovery under Section 1782 despite an arbitral

tribunal's wishes to the contrary runs the risk of allowing a party to circumvent proof-gathering restrictions that the arbitral tribunal has imposed. Such a result should be avoided. *In re Bio Energias Comercializadora de Energia Ltda.*, 2020 WL 509987, at \*4 (denying Section 1782 discovery in part because “[a]s to the third *Intel* factor, and critical to the Court . . . it is not apparent that the [Section 1782] Application is anything less than an attempt to circumvent the arbitral panel in Brazil”); *see also In re Application of Caratube Int’l Oil Co., LLP*, 730 F. Supp. 2d 101, 108 (D.D.C. 2010) (finding that the third *Intel* factor weighed against granting Section 1782 petition where petitioner “side-stepped” the IBA Rules, which the arbitral tribunal and parties had adopted, “and ha[d] thus undermined the Tribunal’s control over the discovery process”). Such proof-gathering restrictions may manifest as a discovery order that, for example, does not provide for Section 1782 discovery or sets certain parameters for discovery, such as limits on third-party discovery or other restrictions on the manner or volume of discovery. Such restrictions could also take the form of a scheduling order that provides a discovery deadline or a hearing date that would be inconsistent with providing discovery through the grant of a Section 1782 application. Thus, the determination that an arbitral tribunal does not approve of the Section 1782 application does not necessarily hinge on an express statement about that particular application—it may be implied where granting a Section 1782 order would be inconsistent with the procedures and schedule established by the arbitral tribunal.

In sum, *amici* respectfully submit that when applying the second and third *Intel* factors in connection with a Section 1782 application seeking discovery in aid of private commercial arbitration, a U.S. court

should give great weight to the arbitral tribunal’s position on the discovery requested, whether that view has been provided expressly or impliedly.

## **II. Policy considerations support *amici*’s position of deference to the arbitral tribunal.**

Policy considerations support *amici*’s position.

First, considering the views of the arbitral tribunal is in line with the strong pro-arbitration policy embedded in the Federal Arbitration Act (*FAA*) and U.S. jurisprudence. *See, e.g., Moses H. Cone Mem’l Hosp. v. Mercury Constr. Corp.*, 460 U.S. 1, 24 (1983) (noting that the *FAA* evinces a “liberal federal policy favoring arbitration agreements”). The pro-arbitration policy includes recognition of the fundamental principle of party autonomy in arbitration: if parties agree to arbitrate their dispute, that choice should be respected, including the arbitration rules chosen by the parties and the concomitant primacy of the arbitral tribunal in managing its own procedure. *AT&T Mobility LLC v. Concepcion*, 563 U.S. 333, 339 (2011) (“We have described [Section 2 of the *FAA*] as reflecting both a ‘liberal federal policy favoring arbitration,’ and the ‘fundamental principle that arbitration is a matter of contract.’”) (citation omitted); *Epic Sys. Corp. v. Lewis*, 138 S. Ct. 1612, 1621 (2018) (“[T]he [Federal] Arbitration Act requires courts ‘rigorously’ to ‘enforce arbitration agreements according to their terms, including terms that specify . . . *the rules* under which that arbitration will be conducted.’”) (emphasis in original) (citation omitted); *Preston v. Ferrer*, 552 U.S. 346, 353 (2008) (“[Section 2 of the *FAA*] ‘declare[s] a national policy favoring arbitration’ of claims that parties contract to settle in that manner.”) (citation omitted). As discussed below, when parties agree to settle disputes



through arbitration, they agree not only that the arbitral tribunal will adjudicate their dispute, but also that it will wield authority over the process through which that dispute is adjudicated.

Second, affording the views of the arbitral tribunal a very high degree of deference promotes efficiency by ensuring that the arbitral tribunal would readily admit evidence obtained pursuant to a Section 1782 request. *See AT&T Mobility*, 563 U.S. at 544 (“The point of affording parties discretion in designing arbitration processes is to allow for efficient, streamlined procedures tailored to the type of dispute.”). If a U.S. court fails to consider or disregards an arbitral tribunal’s views, the U.S. court runs the risk of ordering discovery that will ultimately be useless. The U.S. court can avoid taking unnecessary steps and imposing unnecessary costs by considering and deferring to the arbitral tribunal’s views on the discovery sought. Doing so would have the practical benefit that any information obtained would be utilized and useful to the arbitral tribunal in the arbitration proceedings.

Third, considering the views of the arbitral tribunal ensures an enforceable award. *See, e.g.*, ICC Rules of Arbitration, art. 42 (Jan. 1, 2021). Under the United Nations Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards, art. V(d) (June 1958) (the *New York Convention*), <https://www.newyorkconvention.org/english>, the recognition and enforcement of an arbitral award may be refused if “the arbitral procedure was not in accordance with the agreement of the parties.” In circumstances where the agreed procedure requires the arbitral tribunal’s consent for discovery from a third party but a party to the arbitration makes a Section 1782 request without consent from the arbitral tribunal,

there may be a risk of a challenge to the arbitral award under Article V(d) of the New York Convention. This risk can be avoided if the U.S. court affords significant deference to the views of the arbitral tribunal on the discovery sought.

Considering the important policy factors at play, U.S. courts should afford a very high degree of deference to the views of the arbitral tribunal on the discovery sought.

### **III. The arbitral tribunal has primary authority and control over discovery.**

One of the foundational elements of the international arbitral process is that the arbitral tribunal has primary authority over the conduct of the proceedings, including discovery. The rules that typically govern international arbitrations recognize this authority. Providing significant weight to an arbitral tribunal's views on the discovery sought in a Section 1782 petition, once the tribunal has been constituted, will reinforce the imperative of this fundamental principle that an arbitral tribunal should manage discovery.

#### **A. The ICC Rules of Arbitration grant the arbitral tribunal primary authority and control over discovery.**

Parties who agree to arbitrate under the ICC Rules of Arbitration recognize, and consent to, the arbitral tribunal's sovereignty over the proceedings, including discovery. The ICC Rules of Arbitration do not grant the parties an automatic right to discovery. Under Article 22 of the ICC Rules of Arbitration, "the arbitral tribunal shall adopt such procedural measures as it considers appropriate, provided that they are not contrary to any agreement of the parties." ICC Rules of Arbitration, art. 22(2) (Jan. 1, 2021).

This extensive authority of the arbitral tribunal, which is agreed to by parties arbitrating under the ICC Rules of Arbitration, includes the arbitral tribunal's authority over discovery and testimony from parties and third parties. Specifically, the arbitral tribunal is tasked, in as short a time as possible, with “establish[ing] the facts of the case by all appropriate means” and may “[a]t any time during the proceedings . . . summon any party to provide additional evidence.” *Id.*, arts. 25(1), 25(4).

**B. Other major arbitration rules grant the arbitral tribunal primary authority and control over discovery.**

The ICC Rules of Arbitration are not an outlier. The International Bar Association's Rules on the Taking of Evidence in International Arbitration (the *IBA Rules of Evidence*) and the rules of other leading arbitral institutions adopt a similar approach.

The IBA Rules of Evidence, for example, “are intended to provide an efficient, economical and fair process for the taking of evidence in international arbitrations, particularly those between Parties from different legal traditions.” IBA, *IBA Rules on the Taking of Evidence in International Arbitration*, Preamble, art. 1 (Dec. 17, 2020), <https://www.ibanet.org/Document/Default.aspx?DocumentUid=def0807b-9fec-43ef-b624-f2cb2af7cf7b>. The IBA Rules of Evidence outline a detailed process for document discovery between the parties, overseen by the arbitral tribunal. *Id.*, arts. 3.2–3.8. They also allow a party to seek third-party document discovery by “seek[ing] leave from the Arbitral Tribunal” and provide that the arbitral tribunal “shall decide on this request” and take “such steps as the Arbitral Tribunal considers appropriate.” *Id.*,

art. 3.9. While the IBA Rules of Evidence are not binding *per se*, they are a valuable resource and reflect best practice. Parties and arbitral tribunals frequently adopt them or use them as guidelines for the conduct of arbitral proceedings, including in arbitrations administered by the ICC Court.

The arbitration rules of other leading international arbitral institutions also make clear that the arbitral tribunal overseeing a proceeding controls discovery. *See, e.g.*, LCIA, *London Court of International Arbitration - Arbitration Rules*, art. 22.1 (Oct. 1, 2020), [https://www.lcia.org/Dispute\\_Resolution\\_Services/lcia-arbitration-rules-2020.aspx](https://www.lcia.org/Dispute_Resolution_Services/lcia-arbitration-rules-2020.aspx) (“The Arbitral Tribunal shall have the power . . . (v) to order any party to produce to the Arbitral Tribunal and to other parties documents or copies of documents in their possession, custody or power which the Arbitral Tribunal decides to be relevant; (vi) to decide whether or not to apply any strict rules of evidence (or any other rules) as to the admissibility, relevance or weight of any material tendered by a party on any issue of fact or expert opinion; and to decide the time, manner and form in which such material should be exchanged between the parties and presented to the Arbitral Tribunal[.]”); SIAC, *Singapore International Arbitration Centre Rules*, art. 27 (Aug. 1, 2016), <https://siac.org.sg/our-rules/rules/siac-rules-2016> (“[T]he tribunal shall have the power to . . . (f) order any Party to produce to the Tribunal and to the other Parties for inspection, and to supply copies of, any document in their possession or control which the Tribunal considers relevant to the case and material to its outcome[.]”); HKIAC, *Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre Administered Arbitration Rules*, art. 22.3 (Nov. 1, 2018), <https://www.hkiac.org/arbitration/rules-practice-notes/hkiac-administered-2018>

“At any time during the arbitration, the arbitral tribunal may allow or require a party to produce documents, exhibits or other evidence that the arbitral tribunal determines to be relevant to the case and material to its outcome. The arbitral tribunal shall have the power to admit or exclude any documents, exhibits or other evidence.”); German Arbitration Institute, 2018 DIS Arbitration Rules, arts. 28.1–28.2 (Mar. 1, 2018), [https://www.disarb.org/fileadmin//user\\_upload/Werkzeuge\\_und\\_Tools/2018\\_DIS-Arbitration-Rules\\_072021.pdf](https://www.disarb.org/fileadmin//user_upload/Werkzeuge_und_Tools/2018_DIS-Arbitration-Rules_072021.pdf) (“The arbitral tribunal shall establish the facts of the case that are relevant and material for deciding the dispute. For this purpose, the arbitral tribunal may, *inter alia*, on its own initiative, . . . order any party to produce or make available any documents or electronically stored data.”).

These arbitral rules reflect the parties’ agreement to grant their arbitral tribunal authority to manage discovery. When parties agree to arbitration, they agree not only that the arbitral tribunal will decide the case, but that the arbitral tribunal will govern pre-hearing proceedings as well. To undo this private agreement once the arbitral tribunal is constituted is to undo the dispute resolution system to which the parties have agreed. By ensuring that U.S. courts carefully consider the arbitral tribunal’s position on the discovery requested, the parties’ common will is preserved in relation to the taking of evidence and the procedural conduct of the arbitral proceedings is maintained.

#### **IV. The arbitral tribunal is best placed to assess a discovery request.**

Not only does the arbitral tribunal have primary authority and control over discovery, but from a practical standpoint, the arbitral tribunal is also best placed to assess any discovery request from the parties in an arbitration before it.

First, the arbitral tribunal constituted for a particular dispute is most familiar with that dispute's agreed procedural rules. Thus, that arbitral tribunal would be best placed to determine whether or not a party is seeking the specific discovery sought by a Section 1782 application in order to circumvent the rules in place in the arbitration.

Second, the arbitral tribunal is in the best position to evaluate whether the discovery sought will have a bearing on the dispute. The arbitral tribunal is constituted for the sole purpose of presiding over and deciding the dispute in relation to which the Section 1782 request is brought and as such, it will be well placed to determine the disclosure that will best serve the interests of the arbitral tribunal and the arbitrating parties. Because of its familiarity with the specific dispute, the arbitral tribunal is also best placed to ensure that the request is not a guerrilla tactic by a party to gain leverage through the cost of parallel proceedings, or to disrupt the arbitration by requesting irrelevant materials.

Finally, because the arbitral tribunal conducts the arbitral proceedings pursuant to the parties' agreement, the arbitral tribunal is best placed to consider the effects of granting a Section 1782 application on the basic procedural principles of giving all parties a fair opportunity to present their case and treating

them equally. *See, e.g.*, ICC Rules of Arbitration, art. 22(4) (Jan. 1, 2021) (“In all cases, the arbitral tribunal shall act fairly and impartially and ensure that each party has a reasonable opportunity to present its case.”). The parties’ agreement allocates that task to the arbitral tribunal.

Thus, based on practical realities, the arbitral tribunal is best placed to assess any discovery request from the parties in an arbitration before it.

### CONCLUSION

For the avoidance of doubt, *amici* do not express a view on the outcome of the present case on the particular facts of this case, or whether Section 1782 applies generally to private commercial arbitrations. Rather, for the aforementioned reasons, assuming the Court holds that Section 1782 is available in aid of private commercial arbitrations, *amici* respectfully request that the Court re-emphasize and make it explicit that the views of the constituted arbitral tribunal should be given a very high degree of deference under the *Intel* factors.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda H. Martin  
*Counsel of Record*  
Eric A. Brandon  
FRESHFIELDS BRUCKHAUS  
DERINGER US LLP  
601 Lexington Avenue,  
31st Floor  
New York, NY 10022  
(212) 277-4000

Noah D. Rubins QC  
FRESHFIELDS BRUCKHAUS  
DERINGER LLP  
9 avenue de Messine  
Paris, France 75008  
+33 1 44 56 44 56

Nicholas P. Lingard  
Ekaterina H. Apostolova  
FRESHFIELDS BRUCKHAUS  
DERINGER SINGAPORE  
PTE LTD  
10 Collyer Quay 42-01  
Ocean Financial Centre  
Singapore 049315  
+65 6636 8000

*Counsel for Amici Curiae*

January 31, 2022