



Signage is displayed in the cooling area of the Arconic, Inc manufacturing facility at Alcoa, Tenn.
Photographer: Luke Sharrett/Bloomberg via Getty Images

Bloomberg Law

UAC Bests Arconic in \$265 Million Trade Secrets Trial Over Wings

- *Alcoa spinoff alleged theft led to loss of Boeing contract*
- *UAC argued that information in question wasn't a secret*

By Michael Shapiro

Arconic Inc. lost an eight-year, \$264.8 million trade secrets battle over aviation technology when a federal jury in Atlanta sided with Universal Alloy Corp..

The lawsuit accused UAC, a rival Boeing Co. supplier, of stealing protected information that allowed it to win a lucrative long-term contract to make aluminum spar chords for airplane wings.

The jurors from the US District Court for the Northern District of Georgia capped a three-week trial by returning a verdict that found in favor of UAC, including on the key question of trade-secret misappropriation.

In the lead-up to trial, UAC summarized its trial position in a statement of contentions. It argued the “alleged trade secrets are not trade secrets” and instead “comprise generally known and readily ascertainable information.” UAC further argued that it independently developed a process to make spar chords and “properly reverse engineered material provided by Boeing” to do so.

Arconic, which was only spun off by Alcoa after the lawsuit was filed in 2015, countered that spar chords are technologically complex and difficult to make and UAC “used Alcoa trade secrets across all seven stages of the process for manufacturing” them. Arconic further argued that UAC’s contract with Boeing resulted in the diversion of “approximately \$200 million in sales” from Alcoa to UAC.

[Tony Sammi](#), a Latham & Watkins partner and UAC lawyer, released a statement following the verdict thanking the jury and praising its decision.

“UAC looks forward to putting this matter behind them and continuing to be the leading global manufacturer and highly integrated producer of structural components and assemblies for the aerospace industry,” Sammi said.

Arconic didn’t immediately respond to a Bloomberg Law request for comment.

Latham & Watkins LLP; Womble Bond Dickinson (US) LLP; and Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP represent UAC.

Arconic is represented by Reichman Jorgensen Lehman & Feldberg LLP.

The case is Arconic Inc. v. Universal Alloy Corp. , N.D. Ga., 1:15-cv-1466, jury verdict entered 7/26/ 23 .

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