

IP

Cummins Owes C3.ai \$23 Million for Fuel Tool Trade Secret Theft

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Engine manufacturer Cummins Inc. must pay technology company C3.ai Inc. \$23.3 million for stealing fuel optimization tool trade secrets learned during their three-year partnership, a Delaware jury said.

C3.ai established that Cummins stole five out of the six trade secrets at issue and breached its software service agreement, according to the verdict form entered Wednesday in Delaware Superior Court.

The verdict is a substantial windfall for the AI company, which the jury awarded \$2 million each for four of the secrets and \$15.3 million for theft of its trial code modules. The jury said, however, that C3.ai failed to show the final trial report constituted a trade secret, and didn't find that the successful breach of contract claim resulted in any damages beyond the trade secret loss.

C3.ai alleged that Cummins approached it in 2019 to create an AI-enabled solution for engine optimization. The parties began doing business together in 2020 and ultimately created an application that would save Cummins "hundreds of millions of dollars," the complaint said.

The agreements granted Cummins a limited license to the tool, prohibited unauthorized use of confidential information, and required Cummins to pay C3.ai more than \$3 million annually, C3.ai said.

But a January 2023 email from Cummins to C3.ai allegedly revealed the manufacturer employed an AI team in India to replicate C3.ai's work, which C3.ai said Cummins admitted. Cummins decided not to renew its agreement that April and announced its own fuel-optimization tool two months later, C3.ai said.

Judge Eric M. Davis refused to dismiss the suit in September 2024, finding that C3.ai sufficiently identified its claimed trade secrets and said the timing of Cummins new tool allows for a "reasonable inference" they were stolen.

Potter Anderson & Corroon LLP and Crowell & Moring LLP represent C3.ai. Polsinelli PC represents Cummins.

The case is C3.ai Inc. v. Cummins Inc., Del. Super. Ct., No. N23C-11-106, verdict 5/19/26.