

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
NORTH CAROLINA

ECHJAY INDUSTRIES PRIVATE LTD. v. INDUS POWERTECH,
INC.

Echjay Industries · No. 5:25-CV-00754-M · Decided November 25, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina grants Echjay Industries Private Ltd.’s motion to seal materials submitted in support of its petition to confirm an arbitration award. The court finds that the materials contain confidential information protected under English law and that sealing limited portions of the filings is the least drastic alternative. The court orders documents at docket entries 2 and 4 maintained under seal and directs the petitioner to file a redacted public version of its memorandum.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Richard E. Myers II
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina
DECIDED	November 25, 2025
DOCKET	5:25-CV-00754-M
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Petitioner's motion to seal materials filed in support of its petition to confirm an arbitration award.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unpublished district court order; precedential status not indicated.
PARTIES	Echjay Industries Private Ltd. v. Indus Powertech, Inc.

TOPICS

- arbitration
- civil procedure
- commercial litigation

PRACTICE AREAS

- civil procedure
- arbitration
- commercial litigation

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the court should seal petitioner's supporting memorandum and specified exhibits containing information alleged to be confidential under English law.
2. Whether the request satisfied the requirements of public notice, consideration of less drastic alternatives, and specific factual findings supporting sealing.

HOLDINGS

1. A district court may seal documents when it provides public notice and a reasonable opportunity to object, considers less drastic alternatives, and makes specific reasons and factual findings supporting the sealing order and rejecting alternatives; those requirements were satisfied here.
2. The motion to seal should be granted because petitioner requested only limited redactions to confidential portions of its memorandum and sealing of exhibits pertaining to confidential English proceedings, making the request the least drastic alternative.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“(1) provide public notice of the request to seal and allow interested parties a reasonable opportunity to object, (2) consider less drastic alternatives to sealing the documents, and (3) provide specific reasons and factual findings supporting its decision to seal the documents and for rejecting the alternatives.”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Petitioner sought to restrict public access to its memorandum supporting the petition to confirm an arbitration award and Exhibits D through H to the declaration of David W. Bowker. Petitioner represented that the materials contained information presumptively confidential under English law and related to confidential proceedings between the parties before the Commercial Court at the High Court of Justice of England and Wales. The court found that limited redactions and sealing only the pertinent exhibits were necessary to protect the confidential information.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Echjay Industries Private Ltd. filed a petition to confirm an arbitration award and moved to seal its supporting memorandum and certain exhibits. The district court considered the motion under Local Civil Rule 79.2 and the public-access requirements articulated in *Ashcraft v. Conoco, Inc.*, and granted the motion.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- *Ashcraft v. Conoco, Inc.*, 218 F.3d 233, 302 (4th Cir. 2000)
- *Arch Ins. Co. v. Starr Surplus Lines Ins. Co.*, 2021 WL 5287162, at *1 (E.D.N.C. Oct. 28, 2021)

