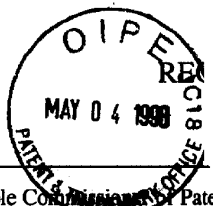


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05-12-1998



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Attorney's Docket No. 000400-559

To the Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks. Please record the attached original documents or copy thereof.

1. Name of conveying party(ies):
Tokihiko AKITA

Additional name(s) of conveying party(ies) attached? [] Yes [X] No

3. Nature of conveyance:
[X] Assignment [] Merger
[] Security Agreement [] Change of Name

Other: _____

Execution Date: December 16, 1997

2. Name and address of receiving party(ies):
Name: AISIN SEIKI KABUSHIKI KAISHA
Address: 1, Asahi-machi, 2-Chome
Kariya City, Aichi Pref.
JAPAN

Additional name(s) & address(es) attached? [] Yes [X] No

4. Application number(s) or patent number(s):
If this document is being filed together with a new application, the execution date of the application is: _____

A. Patent Application No.(s)
08/975,357

B. Patent No.(s)

Additional numbers attached? [] Yes [X] No

5. Name and address of party to whom correspondence concerning document should be mailed:
Name: Platon N. Mandros, Esquire
Address: BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.
P.O. Box 1404
22313-1404

6. Total number of applications and patents involved: One (1)

7. Total fee (37 CFR 3.41): \$ 40.00
[X] Enclosed
[X] Authorized to be charged to deposit account, if necessary

8. Deposit account number:
02-4800

05/07/1998 BALEXAND 0000021 00975357 22313-1404
02 FC-581 40.00 OP

DO NOT USE THIS SPACE

9. Statement and signature.
To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing information is true and correct and any attached copy is a true copy of the original document.

Matthew L. Schneider Matthew L. Schneider May 4, 1998
Name of Person Signing Signature Date

Total number of pages including cover sheet, attachments, and document: 3

Mail documents to be recorded with required cover sheet information to:
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Box Assignments
Washington, D.C. 20231

ASSIGNMENT

(SOLE)

THIS ASSIGNMENT, by TOKIHIKO AKITA, residing at 3-914-3, ASAHIDE, MIDORI-KU, NAGOYA CITY, AICHI PREF., JAPAN (hereinafter referred to as "the Assignor"), witnesseth:

WHEREAS, the Assignor has invented certain new and useful improvements in FLOW CONTROL VALVE UNIT set forth in an application, which is a provisional application to be filed herewith; which is a non-provisional application having an oath or declaration executed on even date herewith prior to filing of application; bearing Application No. _____, and filed on November 20, 1997; and

WHEREAS, AISIN SEIKI KABUSHIKI KAISHA, a corporation duly organized under and pursuant to the laws of JAPAN, and having its principal place of business at 1, ASAHI-MACHI, 2-CHOME, KARIYA CITY, AICHI PREF., JAPAN (hereinafter referred to as "the Assignee"), is desirous of acquiring the entire right, title, and interest in and to said inventions, the right to file applications on said inventions and the entire right, title and interest in and to any applications, including provisional applications for Letters Patent of the United States or other countries claiming priority to said application, and in and to any Letters Patent or Patents, United States or foreign, to be obtained therefor and thereon.

NOW, THEREFORE, having received good and sufficient consideration, the Assignor has sold, assigned, transferred, and set over, and by these presents does sell, assign, transfer, and set over, unto the Assignee, its successors, legal representatives, and assigns the entire right, title, and interest in and to the above-mentioned inventions, the right to file applications on said inventions and the entire right, title and interest in and to any applications for Letters Patent of the United States or other countries claiming priority to said application, and any and all Letters Patent or Patents of the United States of America and all foreign countries that may be granted therefor and thereon, and in and to any and all applications claiming priority to said applications, divisions, continuations, and continuations-in-part of said applications, and reissues and extensions of said Letters Patent or Patents, and all rights under the International Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, the same to be held and enjoyed by the Assignee, for its own use and behalf and the use and behalf of its successors, legal representatives, and assigns, to the full end of the term or terms for which Letters Patent or Patents may be granted as fully and entirely as the same would have been held and enjoyed by the Assignor had this sale and assignment not been made;

AND for the same consideration, the Assignor hereby covenants and agrees to and with the Assignee, its successors, legal representatives, and assigns, that, at the time of execution and delivery of these presents, the Assignor is the sole and lawful owner of the entire right, title, and interest in and to the inventions set forth in said applications and said applications, including provisional applications, above-mentioned, and that the same are unencumbered, and that the Assignor has good and full right and lawful authority to sell and convey the same in the manner herein set forth;

AND for the same consideration, the Assignor hereby covenants and agrees to and with the Assignee, its successors, legal representatives, and assigns that the Assignor will, whenever counsel of the Assignee, or the counsel of its successors, legal representatives, and assigns, shall advise that any proceeding in connection with said inventions or said applications for Letters Patent or Patents, or any proceeding in connection with Letters Patent or Patents for said inventions in any country, including interference proceedings, is lawful and desirable, or that any application claiming

Application No. _____
Attorney's Docket No. 000400-559

priority to said application, division, continuation, or continuation-in-part of any applications for Letters Patent or Patents, or any reissue or extension of any Letters Patent or Patents to be obtained thereon, is lawful and desirable, sign all papers and documents, take all lawful oaths, and do all acts necessary or required to be done for the procurement, maintenance, enforcement and defense of Letters Patent or Patents for said inventions, without charge to the Assignee, its successors, legal representatives, and assigns, but at the cost and expense of the Assignee, its successors, legal representatives, and assigns;

AND the Assignor hereby authorizes and requests the attorneys of BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P. of Alexandria, Virginia to insert in the spaces provided above the filing date, application number, and attorney docket number of said application when known.

AND the Assignor hereby requests the Commissioner of Patents to issue any and all said Letters Patent of the United States to the Assignee, as the Assignee of said inventions and the Letters Patent to be issued thereon for the sole use and behalf of the Assignee, its successors, legal representatives, and assigns.

Date 12-16-97 Signature of Assignor 
Tokihiko AKITA