



**EXHIBIT A**

U. S. Patent Applications

<u>Serial No.</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>	<u>Title</u>
08/666,841	06/19/96	Method and Apparatus for Variably Elevating a Passenger Boarding Bridge Platform.
08/677,934	07/10/96	Method and Apparatus for Connecting a Passenger Boarding Bridge to a Movable Body.
08/775,439	12/30/96	Method and Apparatus for Reducing Skidding of Wheels on a Passenger Boarding Bridge.

Patent Disclosures

<u>Docket No.</u>	<u>Title</u>
091078.0261	Hydraulic Drive and Steering System for Loading Bridge.
091078.0263	Aircraft Loading Bridge.
091078.0606	Method and Apparatus for Variably Elevating a Passenger Boarding Bridge Platform.

U.S. Patents

<u>Patent No.</u>	<u>Issue Date</u>	<u>Title</u>
5,299,405	04/05/94	Wall Assembly.
5,328,252	07/12/94	Quick Change Wheel and Drive Assembly for Passenger Boarding Bridges.

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT  
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**A S S I G N M E N T**

THIS ASSIGNMENT is dated as of the 1st day of April, 1998, between Stearns Airport Equipment Company I, L.L.C. ("Assignor") and Thyssen Stearns Inc. ("Assignee").

WHEREAS, TRN Business Trust, a business trust organized and existing under the laws of the state of Delaware ("TRN"), is the registered owner of the patents, patent disclosures and patent applications described on Exhibit A attached hereto and made a part hereof, and the inventions described and claimed therein, the said patents, patent disclosures and patent applications having been registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and not having been abandoned (collectively, the "Patents");

WHEREAS, TRN, effective January 12, 1998, assigned all of its right, title and interest in and to the Patents to Stearns Airport Equipment Co., Inc. of Texas, a corporation duly formed and existing pursuant to the laws of the State of Texas ("Stearns-Texas");

WHEREAS, Stearns-Texas has merged with and into Stearns Airport Equipment Company I, L.L.C., a Texas limited liability company and, as a result thereof, Stearns Airport Equipment Company I, L.L.C., the said Assignor, has succeeded to all right, title and interest in and to the Patents; and

WHEREAS, Thyssen Stearns Inc., a corporation duly organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Delaware, having a principal place of business in Tarrant County, Texas, is desirous of acquiring all right, title and interest in and to said Patents;

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of One Dollar (\$1.00) and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, Stearns

Airport Equipment Company I, L.L.C., the said Assignor, does hereby assign unto Thyssen Stearns Inc., the said Assignee, good and marketable right, title and interest in and to the said Patents, and the registration thereof hereinbefore set forth, and including the right to sue and recover damages for past infringement of such Patents.

Assignor also assigns to Assignee, all right, title and interest in and to the inventions disclosed in said Patents throughout the world, including the right to file applications and obtain patents, utility models, industrial models and designs for said Patents in its own name throughout the world, including all rights to publish cautionary notices reserving ownership of said inventions and all rights to register said Patents in appropriate registries; and all rights to sue and recover for damages by reason of past infringement of such Patents; and Assignor further agrees to execute any and all powers of attorney, applications, assignments, declarations, affidavits, and any other papers in connection therewith necessary to perfect such right, title and interest in Assignee.

Assignor also will communicate to Assignee any facts known to it respecting any improvements; and, at the expense of Assignee, will testify in any legal proceedings, sign all lawful papers, execute all divisional, continuation, continuation-in-part, reissue and substitute applications, make lawful oaths and declarations, and generally do everything possible to vest title in Assignee and to aid Assignee to obtain and enforce proper protection for said Patents in all countries.

Stearns Airport Equipment Company I, L.L.C., the said Assignor, revoking any prior appointment, hereby appoints Montgomery, McCracken, Walker and Rhoads, L.L.P., attorneys

at law, to prosecute this assignment and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office in connection with the above-named patents.

STEARNS AIRPORT EQUIPMENT  
COMPANY I, L.L.C.

BY: *Fred Van Acker*  
NAME: FRED VAN ACKER  
TITLE: PRESIDENT

(Attest)

By: *John T. Sanford*  
Name: JOHN T. SANFORD  
Title: ASSISTANT SECRETARY

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

STATE OF TEXAS       §  
                                  §  
COUNTY OF DALLAS   §

BEFORE ME, a Notary Public, on April 1, 1998, on this day personally appeared Fred Van Acker, President of Stearns Airport Equipment Company I, L.L.C., known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed.

Given under my hand and seal of office this 1st day of April, 1998.

*Richard A. Fogel*  
Notary Public, State of Texas

[seal]

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