

ASSIGNMENT

WHEREAS I/We, Toshiyuki Muroi, residing at 415-6, Akechi-cho, Ena-gun, Gifu-ken, Japan, and Shojiro Naito, residing at 415-6, Akechi-cho, Ena-gun, Gifu-ken, Japan, and residing at _____, respectively, have invented certain new and useful improvements in A CONTINUOUS CASTING NOZZLE FOR CASTING MOLTEN STEEL, for which I/we have filed an Application in ~~another~~ other ~~than~~ the U.S., xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx U.S. Application No. 08/975,676 having a filing date of 11/28/97.

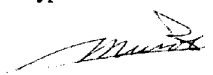
ANDWHEREAS, Akechi Ceramics Kabusiki Kaisha of 1614, Akechi-cho, Ena-gun, Gifu-ken, Japan, hereinafter called the "assignee," is desirous of acquiring the entire worldwide right, title, and interest in and to said application and the inventions and improvements therein disclosed and/or relating thereto;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of One Dollar (\$1.00) and other good and valuable consideration paid to me by said assignee, receipt and sufficiency whereof I hereby acknowledge, I do hereby assign, sell, transfer, convey, and set over unto said assignee the entire right, title, and interest in and to said application and all inventions and improvements relating thereto, whether or not therein disclosed, for the United States and all other countries of the world, and any and all Letters Patent which may issue therefor in the United States and all other countries of the world, and all divisions, reissues, continuations, renewals, and/or extensions thereof, including all priority rights under the International Convention associated therewith for each country and the Union, said assignee to have and to hold the interests herein assigned to the full ends of the terms of said Letters Patents and any and all divisions, reissues, continuations, renewals, and/or extensions thereof, respectively, as fully and entirely as the same would have been held and enjoyed by me had this Assignment not been made.

The United States Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks is requested to issue such Letters Patent in accordance herewith. I covenant that I am the lawful owner of the said application, inventions, and improvements, that the same are unencumbered, that no license has been granted to make, use, or vend the said inventions or improvements or any of them, and that I have the full right to make this Assignment.

And for the consideration aforesaid, I agree that I will communicate to said assignee or the representatives thereof any facts known to me respecting said inventions and improvements, and will, upon request, but without expense to me, testify in any legal proceedings, sign all lawful papers, execute all divisional, reissue, continuation, renewal, and/or extension applications, make all rightful oaths, and generally do all other and further lawful acts, deemed necessary or expedient by said assignee or by counsel for said assignee, to assist or enable said assignee to obtain and enforce the full benefits of the rights and interests herein assigned. This Assignment shall be binding upon my heirs, executors, administrators, and/or assigns, and shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and/or assigns, as the case may be, of said assignee.

Toshiyuki Muroi

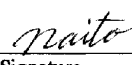
Typed Name


Signature

August 19, 1997

Date

Shojiro Naito

Typed Name


Signature

August 19, 1997

Date

Typed Name

Signature

Date