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

<p>1. Name of conveying party(ies): Chiyoji SHIBATA Hideaki ARAI Katsuya TANABE</p> <p>Additional name/s of conveying party/ies attached? <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>3. Nature of conveyance: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assignment      <input type="checkbox"/> Merger <input type="checkbox"/> Security Assignment      <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Name <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</p> <p>Execution Date: May 25, 25, 23, 1998</p>		<p>2. Name and address of receiving party(ies):</p> <p>Name: HITEC Co. Ltd. Internal Address: _____ Street Address: 27-6, Seta 1-chome, Setagaya-ku _____ _____ City: Tokyo State/Country: Japan Zip: 158</p> <p>Additional name/s &amp; address/es attached? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>				
<p>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: _____</p> <table border="0"><tr><td>A. Patent Application No(s). (1) 09/083,279 (2) (3)</td><td>B. Patent No(s). (1) (2) (3)</td></tr></table> <p>Additional numbers attached <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>				A. Patent Application No(s). (1) 09/083,279 (2) (3)	B. Patent No(s). (1) (2) (3)	
A. Patent Application No(s). (1) 09/083,279 (2) (3)	B. Patent No(s). (1) (2) (3)					
<p>5. Name and address of party to whom correspondence concerning document should be mailed:</p> <p>Name: Arthur R. Crawford Internal Address: _____ Street Address: Nixon &amp; Vanderhye P.C. 1100 North Glebe Road 8<sup>th</sup> Floor State: VA Zip: 22201</p>		<p>6. Total number of applications &amp; patents involved: 1</p> <p>7. Total fee (37 CFR 3.41) \$ 40.00 € <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enclosed <input type="checkbox"/> Authorized to be charged to deposit account #14-1140</p> <p>8. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any <u>deficiency</u> in the fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper thereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our <b>Account No. 14-1140.</b></p>				
<p>08/07/1998 PREPARED BY 00000051 09083279 05 FC:581 40.00 DP</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>DO NOT USE THIS SPACE</b></p>						
<p>9. Statements 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.</p> <table border="0"><tr><td>Arthur R. Crawford Name of Person Signing Reg. No. 25,327</td><td> Signature</td><td>August 3, 1998 Date</td></tr></table> <p>Total number of pages including <b>original</b> cover sheet, attachments, and document: [2]</p>				Arthur R. Crawford Name of Person Signing Reg. No. 25,327	 Signature	August 3, 1998 Date
Arthur R. Crawford Name of Person Signing Reg. No. 25,327	 Signature	August 3, 1998 Date				

# ASSIGNMENT OF PATENT APPLICATION

(1) Chiyoji SHIBATA  
 (2) Hideaki ARAI  
 (Inventors) (3) Katsuya TANABE and  
 (4) \_\_\_\_\_

In consideration of the sum of one dollar (\$1.00) and other good and valuable considerations paid to each of the undersigned, the undersigned agree(s) to assign, and hereby does assign, transfer and set over to

(Assignee) (5) HITEC Co., Ltd.

(Address) (6) of 27-6, Seta 1-chome, Setagaya-ku, Tokyo 158 JAPAN

(hereinafter designated as the Assignee) the entire right, title and interest for the United States, its territories, dependencies and possessions, and for the country of

(Other Countries) (7) \_\_\_\_\_ in the invention, and all applications for patent and any Letters Patent which may be granted therefor, known as

(Title) (8) DEVICE FOR SUSPENDING A CHAIN OF LINKED FOOD PRODUCTS SUCH AS SAUSAGES, AND APPARATUS FOR MANUFACTURING A CHAIN OF SUCH LINKED FOOD PRODUCTS HAVING THE SUSPENDING DEVICE (Case No. \_\_\_\_\_)

for which the undersigned has (have) executed on even date herewith an application for patent in the United States of America or, if not on even date, then has executed

(9) on \_\_\_\_\_ or has already filed in

(10) U.S. appln. Serial Number: 09/083,279, filed on May 22, 1998

(11) The undersigned acknowledges an obligation of assignment of this invention to said assignee at the time the invention was made.

1) The undersigned agree(s) to execute all papers and documents necessary in connection with the application or any interference which may be declared and any continuing or divisional applications thereof and also to execute separate assignments in connection with such applications as the Assignee may deem necessary or expedient and further to perform any act which may be necessary in connection with claims or provisions of the International Convention for Protection of Industrial Property or similar agreements.

2) The undersigned agree(s) to perform all affirmative acts which may be necessary to obtain a grant of a valid United States patent to the Assignee.

3) The undersigned hereby authorize(s) and request(s) the Commissioner of Patents to issue any and all Letters Patent of the United States resulting from said application or any division or divisions or continuing applications thereof to the said Assignee, as Assignee of the entire interest, and hereby covenants that he has (they have) full right to convey the entire interest herein assigned, and that he has (they have) not executed and will not execute, any agreement in conflict herewith.

4) The undersigned hereby grant(s) the firm of **NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.** the power to insert on this assignment any further identification which may be necessary to desirable in order to comply with the rules of the United States Patent Office for recordation of this document.

In witness whereof, executed by the undersigned on the date(s) opposite the undersigned signature(s).

Date May 25, 1998 Signature of Inventor (1) Chiyoji Shibata  
 Date May 25, 1998 Signature of Inventor (2) Hideaki Arai  
 Date May 23, 1998 Signature of Inventor (3) Katsuya Tanabe  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Inventor (4) \_\_\_\_\_

Witnessed by:

Witness \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Witness \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_