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

1. Name of conveying party(ies):

Dominique MERCUZOT

2. Name and address of receiving party(ies):

SOCIETE INDUSTRIELLE DE MATERIEL
ELECTRIQUE SIMEL
Route de Saulon
21220 Gevrey-Chambertin
France

3. Nature of conveyance: ASSIGNMENT

Effective Date: April 9, 1996

Execution Date(s): August 24, 1998

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):

PCT/IB97/00342

B. Patent No.(s):

Filing Date: PCT Filing Date April 3, 1997

5. Name and address of party to whom correspondence concerning document should be mailed:

Jay L. Seitchik, President
THE WHITAKER CORPORATION
4550 New Linden Hill Road
Suite 450
Wilmington, DE 19808

6. Total number of applications and patents involved: One

7. Total fee (37 CFR 3.41) \$40.00
AUTHORIZED TO BE CHARGED TO
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

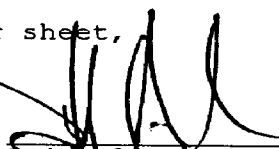
8. Deposit Account #23-1950

ATTACH DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS PAGE

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.

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


Driscoll A. Nina
Registration No. 34685
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Date: September 3, 1998

Docket No. 40506

PATENT
REEL: 9540 FRAME: 0801

ASSIGNMENT

I, Dominique MERCUZOT, who resides respectively at:

7, Impasse Nicolas Poussin, 21000 Dijon, France

have made certain inventions or discoveries (or both) set forth in a patent application in France entitled:

"CONNECTION SYSTEM FOR TUBE CONDUCTORS"

which application was executed by the inventor(s) on the date(s) of execution of this assignment and is identified by The Whitaker Corporation File Number 40506, European Patent Application No. 96400766.0 filed the 9th day of April, 1996,

and Societe Industrielle de Materiel Electrique SIMEL whose address is Route de Saulon, 21220 Gevrey Chambertin, France

and which, together with its successors and assigns is hereinafter called "Assignee", is desirous of acquiring the title, rights, benefits and privileges hereinafter recited, and of confirming the same or part thereof heretofore acquired by Assignee.

Now, therefore, for valuable consideration furnished by Assignee to me, receipt and sufficiency of which I hereby acknowledge, without reservation:

1. Assign and convey to and confirm in Assignee the entire right, title and interest in and to said inventions and discoveries, said patent application in France, any and all other applications for Letters Patent on said inventions and discoveries in whatsoever countries, including all divisional, renewal, substitute, continuation and convention applications based in whole or in part upon said inventions or discoveries or upon said applications, and any and all Letters Patent and reissues and extensions of Letters Patent granted for said inventions and discoveries or upon said applications, and every priority right that is or may be predicated upon or arise from said inventions, said discoveries, said applications, and said Letters Patent;

2. Authorize Assignee to file patent applications in any or all countries on any or all of said inventions and discoveries in my name or in the name of Assignee or otherwise as Assignee may deem advisable, under the International Convention or otherwise;

3. Authorize and request the empowered officials of all governments to issue or transfer all said Letters Patent to Assignee, as assignee of the entire right, title and interest therein or otherwise as Assignee may direct;

4. Warrant that I have not knowingly conveyed to others any right in said inventions, discoveries, applications or patent or any license to use the same or to make, use or sell anything embodying or utilizing any of said inventions or discoveries, and that I have good right to assign the same to Assignee without encumbrance;

5. Bind my heirs and legal representatives, as well as myself, to do, upon Assignee's request and at its expense, but without additional consideration to me or them, all acts reasonably serving to assure that the said inventions and discoveries, the said patent applications and the said Letters Patent shall be held and enjoyed by Assignee as fully and entirely as the same could have been held and enjoyed by me or my heirs or representatives if this assignment had not been made; and particularly to execute and deliver to Assignee all lawful application documents including petitions, specifications, and oaths, and all assignments, disclaimers, and lawful affidavits in form and substance as may be requested by Assignee; to communicate to Assignee all facts known to me

relating to said inventions and discoveries or the history thereof; and to furnish Assignee with any and all documents, photographs, models, samples and other physical exhibits in my control or in the control of my heirs or legal representatives and which may be useful for establishing the facts of my conceptions, disclosures, and reduction to practice of said inventions and discoveries.

The effective date of this instrument is the 9th day of April, 1996.

In testimony whereof I have affixed my signature.

Inventor 1: Dominique MERCUZOT ~~D Mercuzot~~ Date: August 24, 1998

Witness 1: A. DUPONT ~~Dupont~~ Date: August 24 1998

Witness 2: A. DUPONT ~~Dupont~~ Date: August 24, 1998