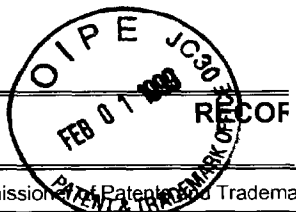


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A S S I G N M E N T

For valuable consideration, the receipt and adequacy of which is hereby acknowledged, we, Hans Erich Harder, Harm-Iven Jensen and Andreas Werner Speitling;

of Mecklenburger Str. 35, D-24253 Probsteierhagen, Germany
(Street) (City) (County) (State/Country)

Haffkamp 16, D-24214 Noer Germany
(Street) (City) (County) (State/Country)

Knooper Weg 150B, D-24105 Kiel, Germany
(Street) (City) (County) (State/Country)

respectively, hereby sell, assign, and transfer unto **Howmedica GmbH**, a corporation organized under the laws of the Federal Republic of Germany and having a place of business at Prof. Kuntscher-Strasse 1-5, 2314 Schoenkirchen, Federal Republic of Germany, the entire right, title, and interest in and to our application for Letters Patent of the United States, filed the 22nd day of June, 1998, having U.S. serial number 09/102,300 and entitled

AN ELONGATE ELEMENT FOR TRANSMITTING FORCES

and our entire right, title, and interest in the United States in and to all our inventions, whether joint or sole, disclosed

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in said application for Letters Patent, and in and to all United States patents granted on the foregoing inventions, and we hereby agree, whenever requested, to communicate to said assignee, its successors and assigns, any facts known to us respecting said inventions, to testify in any legal proceeding, and to execute all applications or papers necessary to obtain and maintain proper patent protection on said inventions in the United States.

Signed and witnessed this 13 day of January 1999
at Schönkirchen, Germany
(City, State)

Hans Erich Harder
Hans Erich Harder

In the presence of:

Sandra Laxie
(Witness as to Applicant No. 1)

Sandra Laxie
(Typed or Printed Name of Witness)

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Signed and witnessed this 14 day of January 1999
at Schönkirchen, Germany
(City, State)

H. - I. Jensen
Harm-Iven Jensen

In the presence of:

Sandra Laxi
(Witness as to Applicant No. 2)

Sandra Laxi
(Typed or Printed Name of Witness)

Signed and witnessed this 15 day of January 1999
at Schönkirchen, Germany
(City, State)

A. W. Speitling
Andreas Werner Speitling

In the presence of:

Sandra Laxi
(Witness as to Applicant No. 3)

Sandra Laxi
(Typed or Printed Name of Witness)

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