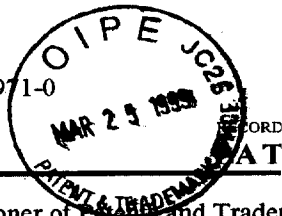


Atty Docket No.: 0010-0971-0

04-01-1999

FORM PTO-1595
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Mikiko SUGA, Masakazu SUGIMOTO, Tsuyoshi OSUMI,
Wataru HIBINO and Mika ITO

Additional name(s) of conveying party(ies) attached? Yes No

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

Name: Ajinomoto Co., Inc.
Address: 15-1, Kyobashi 1-chome,
Tokyo, Japan

Additional name(s) and address(es) attached? Yes No

3. Nature of Conveyance:

- Assignment Merger
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- Other

Execution Date: February 3, 1999

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)
09/222,817

B. Patent No.(s)

Additional numbers attached? Yes No

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

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND, MAIER &
NEUSTADT, P.C.
Attorneys at Law
Fourth Floor
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Arlington, Virginia 22202

6. Total applications and patents involved: 1

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PATENT
REEL: 9848 FRAME: 0954

Assignment Of Application

WHEREAS, I (WE) _____

Mikiko SUGA of c/o Ajinomoto Co., Inc., Fermentation & Biotechnology Laboratories, 1-1, Suzuki-cho, Kawasaki-ku, Kawasaki-shi, Kanagawa-ken, Japan, Masakazu

INSERT NAMES AND RESIDENCE ADDRESSES OF THE INVENTORS:

SUGIMOTO of c/o Ajinomoto Co., Inc., Fermentation & Biotechnology Laboratories, 1-1, Suzuki-cho, Kawasaki-ku, Kawasaki-shi, Kanagawa-ken, Japan, Tsuyoshi OSUMI

of c/o Ajinomoto Co., Inc., 15-1, Kyobashi 1-chome, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Japan, Tsuyoshi

NAKAMATSU of c/o Ajinomoto Co., Inc., Fermentation & Biotechnology Laboratories,

1-1, Suzuki-cho, Kawasaki-ku, Kawasaki-shi, Kanagawa-ken, Japan, Wataru HIBINO

of c/o Ajinomoto Co., Inc., Fermentation & Biotechnology Laboratories, 1-1,

Suzuki-cho, Kawasaki-ku, Kawasaki-shi, Kanagawa-ken, Japan, and Mika ITO of

c/o Ajinomoto Co., Inc., Tokai Plant, No. 1730, Oaza Hinaga, Yokkaichi-shi, Mie-ken, Japan

_____, respectively,

INSERT TITLE OF INVENTION:

have invented certain new and useful improvements in: _____

METHOD OF PRODUCING L-SERINE BY FERMENTATION

INSERT DATE INVENTORS SIGNED DECLARATION:

for which an application for Letters Patent was executed on February 3, 1999

(Application No. 09/222,817, filed December 30, 1998), and

INSERT NAME AND ADDRESS OF COMPANY OR OTHER ASSIGNEE:

WHEREAS, Ajinomoto Co., Inc.

(hereinafter referred to as "ASSIGNEE") having a place of business at: 15-1, Kyobashi 1-chome, Tokyo, Japan

is desirous of acquiring the entire right, title and interest in and to said invention and in and to any Letters Patent that may be granted therefore in the United States and its territorial possessions and in any and all foreign countries;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the sum of FIVE DOLLARS (\$5.00), the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, and for other good and valuable consideration, I (WE), by these presents do sell, assign and transfer unto said ASSIGNEE, the full and exclusive right to the said invention in the United States and its territorial possessions and in all foreign countries and the entire right, title and interest in and to any and all Letters Patent which may be granted therefor in the United States and its territorial possessions and in any and all foreign countries and in and to any and all divisions, reissues, continuations, substitutions and renewals thereof.

I (WE) hereby authorize and request the Patent Office Officials in the United States and its territorial possessions and any and all foreign countries to issue any and all of said Letters Patent, when granted, to said ASSIGNEE as the assignee of my (our) entire right, title and interest in and to the same, for the sole use and behoof of said ASSIGNEE, its (his) successors and assigns, to the full end of the term for which said Letters Patent may be granted, as fully and entirely as the same would have been held by me (us) had this Assignment and sale not been made.

Further, I (WE) agree that I (WE) will communicate to said ASSIGNEE or its (his) representatives any facts known to me (us) respecting said invention, and testify in any legal proceeding, sign all lawful papers, execute all divisional, continuation, substitute, renewal and reissue applications, execute all necessary assignment papers to cause any and all of said Letter Patent to be issued to said ASSIGNEE, make all rightful oaths, and, generally do everything possible to aid said ASSIGNEE, its (his) successors and assigns, to obtain and enforce proper protection for said invention in the United States and its territorial possessions and in any and all foreign countries.

The undersigned hereby grant(s) the firm of Oblon, Spivak, McClelland, Maier & Neustadt, P.C. of Fourth Floor, 1755 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202 the power to insert on this assignment any further identification, including the application number and filing date, which may be necessary or desirable in order to comply with the rules of the United States Patent and Trademark Office for recordation of this document.

Date: February 3, 1999

Mikiko Suga
 (Signature of Inventor) Mikiko SUGA

Date: February 3, 1999

Masakazu Sugimoto
 (Signature of Inventor) Masakazu SUGIMOTO

Date: February 3, 1999

Tsuyoshi Osumi
 (Signature of Inventor) Tsuyoshi OSUMI

Date: February 3, 1999

Tsuyoshi Nakamatsu
 (Signature of Inventor) Tsuyoshi NAKAMATSU

Date: February 3, 1999

Wataru Hibino
 (Signature of Inventor) Wataru HIBINO

Date: February 3, 1999

Mika Ito
 (Signature of Inventor) Mika ITO

Date: _____

(Signature of Inventor)

Date: _____

(Signature of Inventor)

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
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 FOURTH FLOOR
 1755 JEFFERSON DAVIS HIGHWAY
 ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22202