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To the Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, D.C. 20503, original documents or copy thereof.

1. Name of conveying party(ies):

AKIRA INOUE
m r p 5-10-99
Additional name(s) of conveying party(ies) attached? Yes No

2. Name and address of receiving party(ies):
Name: Sony Corporation
Internal Address: _____

3. Nature of Conveyance:
 Assignment Merger
 Security Agreement Change of Name
 Other _____
Execution Date: APRIL 13, 1999

Street Address: 7-35 Kitashinagawa 6-chome
Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo, Japan
Additional name(s) & address(es) attached? Yes No

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)
08/951,028 Filed October 15, 1997
Additional numbers attached? Yes No

B. Patent No.(s)

 Yes No

5. Name and address of party to whom correspondence concerning document should be mailed:
Name: Jay H. Maioli, Esq.
Internal Address: Cooper & Dunham LLP
Street Address: 1185 Avenue of the Americas
City: New York State: New York ZIP 10036

6. Total number of applications and patents involved: 1
7. Total fee (37 CFR 3.41): \$ 40.00
 Enclosed
 Authorized to be charged to deposit account
8. Deposit account number:
03-3125
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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.
Jay H. Maioli *Jay H. Maioli* May 5, 1999
Name of Person Signing Signature Date
Total Number of pages comprising cover sheet: 1

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ASSIGNMENT

WHEREAS, I, as below named inventor, residing at the address stated next to my name, am a joint inventor of certain inventions relating to a SPEECH ENCODING METHOD AND APPARATUS AND AUDIO SIGNAL ENCODING METHOD AND APPARATUS, for which application for Letters Patent of the United States of America was executed by me on the date indicated next to my name and address;

AND WHEREAS, Sony Corporation with offices at 6-7-35 Kitashinagawa, Shinagawa-Ku, Tokyo 141, Japan, (hereinafter referenced as ASSIGNEE) is desirous of acquiring all interest in, to and under said invention, said application disclosing the invention and in, to and under any Letters Patent or similar legal protection which may be granted therefor in the United States and in any and all foreign countries;

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the sum of One Dollar (\$1.00), and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, I, as a joint inventor as indicated below, by these presents do hereby assign, sell and transfer unto the said ASSIGNEE, its successors, assigns, and legal representatives, the entire right, title and interest in the said invention, said application, including any divisions and continuations thereof, and in and to any and all Letters Patent of the United States, and countries foreign thereto, which may be granted for said invention, and in and to any and all priority rights and/or convention rights under the International Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, Inter-American Convention Relating to Patents, Designs and Industrial Models, and any other international agreements to which the United States of America adheres, and to any other benefits accruing or to accrue to me with respect to the filing of applications for patents or securing of patents in the United States and countries foreign thereto, and I hereby authorize and request the Commissioner of Patents to issue the said United States Letters Patent to said ASSIGNEE, as the assignee of the whole right, title and interest thereto;

And I further agree to execute all necessary or desirable and lawful future documents, including assignments in favor of ASSIGNEE or its designee, as ASSIGNEE or its successors, assigns and legal representatives may from time-to-time present to me and without further remuneration, in order to perfect title in said invention, modifications, and improvements in said invention, applications and Letters Patent of the United States and countries foreign thereof;

And I further agree to properly execute and deliver and without further remuneration, such necessary or desirable and lawful papers for application for foreign patents, for filing subdivisions of said application for patent, and or, for obtaining any reissue or reissues of any Letters Patent which may be granted for my aforesaid invention, as the ASSIGNEE thereof shall hereafter require and prepare at its own expense;

And I further agree that ASSIGNEE will, upon its request, be provided promptly with all pertinent facts and documents relating to said application, said invention and said Letters Patent and legal equivalents in foreign countries as may be known and accessible to me and will testify as to the same in any interference or litigation related thereof;

And I hereby covenant that no assignment, sale, agreement or encumbrance has been or will be made or entered into which would conflict with this assignment and sale.

And I hereby authorize and request my attorney(s) of record in this application to insert the serial number and filing date of this application in the spaces that follow:

Serial No. 08/951,028 filed October 15, 1997

This assignment executed on the date indicated below.

AKIRA INOUE APR. 13, 1999
Name of joint inventor Execution date of U.S. Patent Application

1-19-14-101 Kitasenzoku Ota-Ku, Tokyo, Japan 145-0062
Residence of joint inventor

Akira Inoue APR. 13, 1999
Signature of joint inventor Date of this assignment