

12-13-2000

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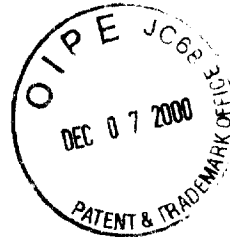
To the Assistant Commissioner of Patents. Please record the attached original documents or copy thereof.

00-2-21

1. Name of conveying party(ies):
Katsuyuki BABA, Shigeaki INO, Yoichi TAKAMOTO

Additional name(s) of conveying party(ies) attached?
 yes no

2. Name and address of receiving party(ies)?
THAMES CO., LTD.
10-17, Komorie 3-chome, Moji-ku, Kitakyushu-shi, Fukuoka-ken, 800-0007
JAPAN



3. Nature of Conveyance
 Assignment Merger
 Security Agreement Change of Names
 Other

Additional name(s) & address(es) attached?
 yes no

Execution Date: September 20, 2000

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)
09/642,688
Additional numbers attached? Yes No

B. Patent No (s)

Total number of applications and registration involved
1

5. Name and address of party to whom correspondence concerning document should be mailed
SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN, MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20037-3213

7. Total Fee (37 CFR 3.41): \$40.00
 Enclosed. Please charge any underpayment in connection with this Assignment to Deposit Account No 19-4880.
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8. Deposit Account No.
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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.

Darryl Mexic Reg. No. 23,063 December 7, 2000 Date

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PATENT
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Assignment

Whereas, I/We, Katsuyuki BABA, Shigeaki INO, Yoichi TAKAMOTO of c/o THAMES CO., LTD., 10-17, Komorie 3-chome, Moji-ku, Kitakyushu-shi, Fukuoka-ken, 800-0007 JAPAN; c/o THAMES CO., LTD., 10-17, Komorie 3-chome, Moji-ku, Kitakyushu-shi, Fukuoka-ken, 800-0007 JAPAN; and c/o THAMES CO., LTD., 10-17, Komorie 3-chome, Moji-ku, Kitakyushu-shi, Fukuoka-ken, 800-0007 JAPAN, respectively, hereinafter called assignor(s), have invented certain improvements in MANIPULATOR and executed an application for Letters Patent of the United States of America therefor on _____; and

Whereas, THAMES CO., LTD., 10-17, Komorie 3-chome, Moji-ku, Kitakyushu-shi, Fukuoka-ken, 800-0007 JAPAN (assignee), desires to acquire the entire right, title, and interest in the application and invention, and to any United States patents to be obtained therefor;

Now therefore, for valuable consideration, receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged,

I/We, the above named assignor(s), hereby sell, assign and transfer to the above named assignee, its successors and assigns, the entire right, title and interest in the application and the invention disclosed therein for the United States of America, including the right to claim priority under 35 U.S.C. §119, and I/we request the Commissioner of Patents to issue any Letters Patent granted upon the invention set forth in the application to the assignee, its successors and assigns; and I/we will execute without further consideration all papers deemed necessary by the assignee in connection with the United States application when called upon to do so by the assignee.

I/We hereby authorize and request our attorneys SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN, MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC of 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20037-3212 to insert here in parentheses (Application number 09/642,688 , filed August 22, 2000) the filing date and application number of said application when known.

Date: Sep. 20, 2000 Katsuyuki BABA
s/Katsuyuki BABA

Date: Sep. 20, 2000 Shigeaki Ino
s/Shigeaki INO

Date: Sep. 20, 2000 Yoichi Takamoto
s/Yoichi TAKAMOTO

Date: _____
s/

Date: _____
s/

Date: _____
s/

(Legalization not required for recording but is prima facie evidence of execution under 35 U.S.C. §261)