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12.15.00

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Tab settings

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

1. Name of conveying party(ies):
**SHIGEAKI TAKAHASHI
NORIYOSHI NARUSE
ANDY ELKSNITIS**

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

Name: **AKECHI CERAMICS KABUSHIKI KAISHA**

Internal Address: **1614, Akechi-cho, Ena-gun, Gifu-ken**

Japan

Street Address:

City: State: ZIP:

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

Additional names(s) of conveying party(ies) Yes No

3. Nature of conveyance:

- Assignment Merger
- Security Agreement Change of Name
- Other

Execution Date: **10/25/00; 11/06/00; 11/07/00**

4. Application number(s) or registration numbers(s):

If this document is being filed together with a new application, the execution date of the application is: **10/25/00; 11/06/00; 11/07/00**

A. Patent Application No.(s)

B. Patent No.(s)

09 738 698

Additional numbers attached? Yes No

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

Name: **Daniel F. Drexler**

Internal Address: **Cantor Colburn LLP**

Street Address: **55 Griffin Road South**

City: **Bloomfield** State: **CT** ZIP: **06002**

6. Total number of applications and patents involved: **1**

7. Total fee (37 CFR 3.41):.....\$ **40.00**

Enclosed - Any excess or insufficiency should be credited or debited to deposit account

Authorized to be charged to deposit account

8. Deposit account number:

06-1130

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Statement and signature. **40.00 DP**

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.

Daniel F. Drexler, Reg. No. P47,535

December 15, 2000

Name of Person Signing

Signature

Date

Total number of pages including cover sheet, attachments, and document: **2**

ASSIGNMENT

WHEREAS, I/WE

Shigeaki TAKAHASHI, residing at c/o Akechi Ceramics Kabushiki Kaisha, 1614, Akechi-cho, Ena-gun, Gifu-ken, Japan;

Noriyoshi NARUSE, residing at c/o Akechi Ceramics Kabushiki Kaisha, 1614, Akechi-cho, Ena-gun, Gifu-ken, Japan; and

Andy ELKSINITIS, residing at 4151 Mainway Drive, Burlington, Ontario, CANADA;

Title: Stopper for Continuous Casting

for which I/WE have filed an application for Letters Patent of the United States;

AND WHEREAS, Akechi Ceramics Kabushiki Kaisha, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of Japan, having a place of business at 1614, Akechi-cho, Ena-gun, Gifu-ken, Japan

is desirous of acquiring an interest in the United States and all foreign countries, in and to the said invention and the Letters Patent to be obtained therefor;

NOW THEREFORE, TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, be it known that, for and in consideration of one (\$1.00) dollar to me/us in hand paid, and other good and valuable considerations, the receipt of all of which is hereby acknowledged, I/We, the said Shigeaki TAKAHASHI, Noriyoshi NARUSE and Andy ELKSINITIS have sold, assigned and transferred, and by these presents do sell, assign and transfer unto said Akechi Ceramics Kabushiki Kaisha, the entire right, title and interest in and to said invention in the United States and in all foreign countries, including priority rights, as fully set forth and described in said application; and I/We do hereby authorize and request the Commissioner of Patents to issue said Letters Patent on said application and any and all Letters Patent that may be issued upon any and all revivals, refilings, continuations, continuation-in-part, divisions and reissues thereof, to the said

Akechi Ceramics Kabushiki Kaisha, as assignee of the entire right, title and interest in and to the same, for the sole use and behoof of Akechi Ceramics Kabushiki Kaisha, its successors and assigns; and I/We will execute all papers necessary in connection with the United States applications and foreign applications when called upon to do so by the said Akechi Ceramics Kabushiki Kaisha, its successors or assigns, and that I/We will, at the cost and expense of the said Akechi Ceramics Kabushiki Kaisha, fully assist and cooperate in all matters in connection with the United States and foreign applications and patents issuing thereon.

The undersigned declare that all statements made herein of their own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Date: Nov. 06 - 2000

Shigeaki Takahashi L.S.

Date: Oct. 25 - 2000

Noriyoshi Naruse L.S.

Date: Nov. 07 2000

Andy Elksitis L.S.