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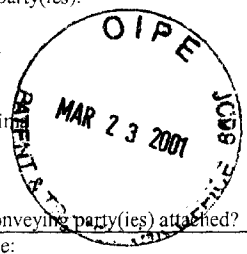
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To the Director of Patents and Trademark

y thereof

1. Name of conveying party(ies):
 Hiroshi Chihara
 Seiichiro Shirahata
 Syoji Shiraishi
 Naoki Tada
 Toshiyuki Kawashiri
 Hideaki Morita
 Yutaka Ohashi

Addit'l name(s) of conveying party(ies) attached? Yes No



2. Name and address of receiving party(ies):
 Nippon Paint Co., Ltd
 1-2, Oyodokita 2-chome
 Kita-ku, Osaka-shi
 Osaka 531-0077 Japan

Addit'l. name(s) & address(es) attached Yes No

3. Nature of conveyance:
 Assignment Merger
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 Other

Execution date: February 16, 2001

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)
09/732,867

B. Patent No.(s)

Additional numbers attached? Yes No.

6. Total Number of applications and patents involved [1]

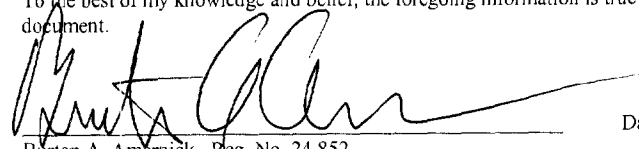
5. Name and address of party to whom correspondence concerning document should be mailed:
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UNFILED APPLICATION - MULTIPLE INVENTORS**ASSIGNMENT OF UNITED STATES APPLICATION FOR PATENT**

Whereas the undersigned, Hiroshi Chihara, Seiichiro Shirahata, Syoji Shiraishi, Naoki Tada, Toshiyuki Kawashima, Hideaki Morita and Yutaka Ohashi have invented certain improvements in METHOD FOR RECOVERY OF AQUEOUS WASH IN PHOSPHATE CHEMICAL CONVERSION AND APPARATUS FOR METAL SURFACE TREATMENT for which an application for Letters Patent of the United States of America was executed on even date herewith;

Whereas, Nippon Paint Co., Ltd., a Japanese corporation of 1-2, Oyodokita 2-chome, Kita-ku, Osaka-shi, Osaka 531-0077 Japan, (hereinafter referred to as Assignee) is desirous of acquiring an interest therein and in the Letters Patent to be obtained therefor;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of One Dollar (\$1.00) and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, the undersigned by these presents, hereby assign, sell and transfer unto the said Assignee, for the territory of the United States of America, all right, title and interest in and to said invention and application, and any and all divisions or continuations thereof, and in and to any Letters Patent that may be granted therefor together with any reissues, extensions or renewals thereof, the same to be held and enjoyed by the Assignee for Assignee's own use and behoof, and for Assignee's legal representatives, 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 the undersigned had this Assignment and same not been made; and the undersigned, and legal representatives thereof, hereby covenant and agree to execute and deliver any and all papers, and do all lawful acts that said Assignee may consider necessary or advisable to perfect title to said invention and to obtain Letters Patent therefor, and any divisions, continuations, reissues, extensions and renewals thereof, and agree at any time upon request, to communicate to said Assignee, Assignee's successors and assigns, such facts relating to said invention and Letters Patent or the history thereof as may be known to the undersigned and testify as to the same in any interferences, opposition or other litigation, when requested to do so, all without further consideration than that now paid, but at the expense of the said Assignee, Assignee's successors or assigns.

The undersigned hereby grant(s) the firm of Pollock, Vande Sande & Amernick, R.L.L.P., 1990 M Street, N.W., Suite 800, P.O. Box 19088, Washington, D.C. 20036 the power to insert on this assignment any further identification which may

be necessary or desirable in order to comply with the rules of the United States Patent Office for recordation of this document.

Hiroshi Chihara

Date

Seiichiro Shirahata

Date

Syoji Shiraishi

Date

Naoki Tada

Naoki Tada

FEB. 16. 2001

Date

Toshiyuki Kawashima

Toshiyuki Kawashima

FEB. 16. 2001

Date

Hideaki Morita

Date

be necessary or desirable in order to comply with the rules of the United States Patent Office for recordation of this document.

Hiroshi Chihara

Hiroshi Chihara

FEB. 16. 2001

Date

Seiichiro Shirahata

Seiichiro Shirahata

FEB. 16. 2001

Date

Syoji Shiraishi

Syoji Shiraishi

FEB. 16. 2001

Date

Naoki Tada

Date

Toshiyuki Kawashima

Date

Hideaki Morita

Date