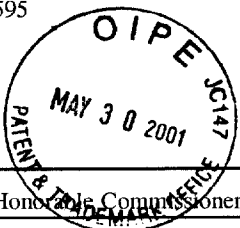


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Attorney's Docket No. 000348-262

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

1. Name of conveying party(ies):

Philippe GUILLAUME and Jose BUIL

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

3. Nature of conveyance:

[X] Assignment

[] Merger

[] Security Agreement

[] Change of Name

Other: _____

Execution Date: April 10, 2001

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

Name: L'AIR LIQUIDE, SOCIETE ANONYME
POUR L'ETUDE ET L'EXPLOITATION DES
PROCEDES GEORGES CLAUDE

Address: 75, Quai d'Orsay

75321 Paris Cedex

FRANCE

Additional name(s) & address(es) attached? [] Yes [X] 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)

09/832,024

B. Patent No.(s)

Additional numbers attached? [] Yes [X] No

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

Name: E. Joseph Gess

Address: BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

P.O. Box 1404

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404

6. Total number of applications and patents involved: 1

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

[X] Enclosed

[X] Authorized to be charged to deposit account, if necessary

8. Deposit account number:

02-4800

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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.

E. Joseph Gess
Name of Person Signing

[Signature]
Signature

May 30, 2001
Date

Total number of pages including cover sheet, attachments, and document: 3

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BURNS DOANE SWECKER & MATHIS LLP
United States Patent Rights

Attorney Docket No. 000348-262

ASSIGNMENT

WHEREAS: **GUILLAUME Philippe**
BUIL José

(hereinafter designated as the undersigned) has (have) invented certain new and useful improvements in : **Plant for transferring a gas into a liquid**

for which an application for Letters Patent of the United States of America has been executed by the undersigned on April 10, 2001, and;

WHEREAS, **L'AIR LIQUIDE, Société Anonyme pour l'Etude et l'Exploitation des Procédés Georges Claude**, 75, Quai d'Orsay, 75321 PARIS CEDEX, FRANCE, and its heirs, successors, legal representatives and assigns (hereinafter designated as the Assignee) is desirous of acquiring the entire right, title and interest in and to said invention and in and to any Letters Patent(s) that may be granted therefor in the United States of America;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the sum of One Dollar (\$1.00) to the undersigned in hand paid, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, and other good and valuable consideration, the undersigned has (have) sold, assigned and transferred, and by these presents do sell, assign and transfer unto said Assignee the full and exclusive right to the said invention in the United States of America and its territories and for all foreign countries, dependencies and possessions and the entire right, title and interest in and to any and all Letters Patent(s) which may be granted therefor in the United States of America and its territories, dependencies and possessions, and in and to any and all divisions, reissues, continuations and extensions thereof for the full term or terms for which the same may be granted.

The undersigned agree(s) to execute all papers necessary in connection with this application and any continuing, divisional or reissue applications thereof and also to execute separate assignments in connection with such applications as the Assignee may deem necessary or expedient.

The undersigned agree(s) to execute all papers necessary in connection with any interference which may be declared concerning this application or any continuation, division or reissue thereof or Letters Patent(s) or reissue patent issued thereon and to cooperate with the Assignee in every way possible in obtaining and producing evidence and proceeding with such interference.

The undersigned agree(s) to execute all papers and documents and to perform any act which may be necessary in connection with claims under or provisions of the International Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property or similar agreements.

The undersigned agree(s) to perform all affirmative acts which may be necessary to obtain a grant of a valid United States patent(s) to the Assignee and to vest all rights therein hereby conveyed to said Assignee as fully and entirely as the same would have been held by the undersigned if this Assignment and sale had not been made.

The undersigned hereby authorize(s) and request(s) the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to issue any and all Letters Patents of the United States of America resulting from said application or any division or divisions or continuing or reissue applications thereof to the said Assignee, as Assignee of the entire interest, and hereby covenants that he has (they have) the full right to convey the entire interest herein assigned, and that he has (they have) not executed, and will not execute, any agreement in conflict herewith.

The undersigned hereby grant(s) the law firm of BURNS DOANE SWECKER & MATHIS LLP 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 U.S. Patent and Trademark Office for recordation of this document.

In witness thereof, this Assignment has been executed by the undersigned on the date(s) opposite the undersigned name(s).

Date April 10, 2001 Name of Inventor **GUILLAUME Philippe** _____ (SEAL)

Date April 10, 2001 Name of Inventor **BUIL José** _____ (SEAL)