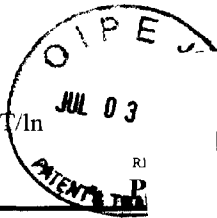


Atty Docket No.: 204974US0PCT/In

FORM PTO-1595
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07-10-2001



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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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Joachim DENTLER
Ruediger FUNK
Norbert HERFERT
Mariola WANIOR
Friedrich ENGELHARDT

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

Name: BASF Aktiengesellschaft

Address: 67056 Ludwigshafen, Germany

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

3. Nature of Conveyance:

- Assignment Merger
- Security Agreement Change of Name
- Other

Execution Date: October 21, 21, 21 and 28, 1999

Additional name(s) and 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)
09/806,944

B. Patent No.(s)

Additional numbers attached? Yes No

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



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6. Total applications and patents involved: 1

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Assignment of Application

0050/980430

WHEREAS, I (WE)

Joachim Dentler, Wilhelm-Busch-Ring 11, 63486 Bruchköbel, Germany
Citizen of Germany

Rüdiger Funk, Heinrich-Heine-Str.15, 65527 Niedernhausen, Germany
Citizen of Germany

Norbert Herfert, Obergasse 59, 63674 Albstadt, Germany
Citizen of Germany

Mariola Wanior, Vogelsbergstr.58, 63526 Erlensee, Germany
Citizen of Germany

Friedrich Engelhardt, 131 Harbour watch drive, Chesapeake, VA 23320, United States of America
Citizen of Germany

respectively, have invented certain new and useful improvements in

Hydrophilic, highly swellable hydrogels, their preparation and use

for which an application for Letters Patent was executed on October 21 and 28, 1999

(Application No. 09/806,944, filed April 6, 2001), and

WHEREAS, *BASF Aktiengesellschaft (hereinafter referred to as "ASSIGNEE")*, having a place of business at 67056 Ludwigshafen, Germany, is desirous of acquiring the entire right, title and interest in and to said invention and in and to any Letters Patent that may be granted therefore in the United States and its territorial possessions and in any and all foreign countries;

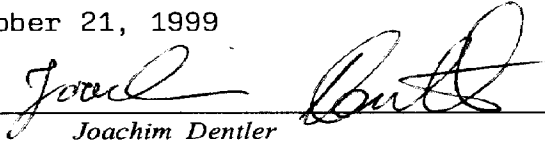
NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the sum of One Dollar (\$1.00), the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, and for other good and valuable consideration, I (WE), by these presents do sell, assign and transfer unto said ASSIGNEE(S), the full and exclusive right to the said invention in the United States and its territorial possessions and in all foreign countries and the entire right, title and interest in and to any and all Letters Patent which may be granted therefor in the United States and its territorial possessions and in any and all foreign countries and in and to any and all divisions, reissues, continuations, substitutions and renewals thereof.

I (WE) hereby authorize and request the Patent Office Officials in the United States and its territorial possessions and any and all foreign countries to issue any and all of said Letters Patent, when granted, to said ASSIGNEE(S) as the assignee(s) of my (our) entire right, title and interest in and to the same, for the sole use and behoof of said ASSIGNEE(S), its (his) 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 me (us) had this Assignment and sale not been made.

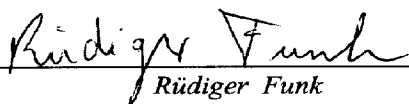
FURTHER, I (WE) agree that I (WE) will communicate to said ASSIGNEE(S), or its (his) representatives any facts known to me (us) respecting said invention, and testify in any legal proceeding, sign all lawful papers, execute all divisional, continuation, substitute, renewal and reissue applications, execute all necessary assignment papers to cause any and all of said Letter Patent to be issued to said ASSIGNEE(S), make all rightful oaths, and, generally do everything possible to aid said ASSIGNEE(S), its (his) successors and assigns, to obtain and enforce proper protection for said invention in the United States and its territorial possessions and in any and all foreign countries

The undersigned hereby grant(s) the firm of **Oblon, Spivak, McClelland, Maier & Neustadt, P.C.** of Fourth Floor, 1755 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202 the power to insert on this assignment any further identification, including the application number and filing date, which may be necessary or desirable in order to comply with the rules of the United States Patent and Trademark Office for recordation of this document.

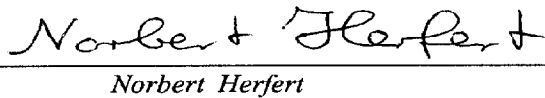
Date: October 21, 1999


Joachim Dentler

Date: October 21, 1999


Rüdiger Funk

Date: October 21, 1999


Norbert Herfert

Date: October 21, 1999


Mariola Wanior

October 28, 1999

Date: 
~~Fritz Engelhardt~~
Friedrich Engelhardt