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Patent and Trademark Office

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1. Name of conveying party(ies):

Arvind D. Patel  
Burnhan Hoxha  
Reginald Bell

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

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

Name: M-I L.L.C.

Internal Address:

Street Address: 1201 Louisiana

City: Houston State: TX Zip: 77072

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

3. Nature of conveyance:

Assignment  Merger  
 Security Agreement  Change of Name  
 Other

Execution Date:  
August 10, 2001

4. Application number(s) or registration number(s): **09/927619**

If this document is being filed together with a new application, the execution date of the application is:

A. Patent Application Serial No.(s) Filed Herewith

B. Patent No.(s)

Additional numbers attached?  Yes  No

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

Name: Carter J. White, Ph.D.  
HOWREY SIMON ARNOLD & WHITE LLP  
P.O. Box 4433

City: Houston State: Texas Zip: 77210

6. Total number of applications and patents involved:     

7. Total fee (37 C.F.R. 3.41)----- \$ 40.00

Enclosed  
 Authorized to be charged to deposit account if check insufficient or inadvertently omitted

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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.*

Carter J. White *Carter White* August 10, 2001

Name of Person Signing, Reg. No. 41,374 Signature Date

Total number of pages including cover sheet, attachments and documents: 4

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Date: 10 Aug 01 *Carter White*  
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ASSIGNMENT

FOR GOOD AND VALUABLE CONSIDERATION, the receipt, sufficiency and adequacy of which are hereby acknowledged, the undersigned, does hereby:

SELL, ASSIGN AND TRANSFER to M-I L.L.C. (the "Assignee"), a corporation of Delaware, having a place of business at 1201 Louisiana, Houston, Texas 77072, the entire right, title and interest for the United States and all foreign countries in and to any and all improvements which are disclosed in the application for United States Letters Patent, executed on even date and is entitled "**Invert Emulsion Drilling Fluids And Muds Having Negative Alkalinity**", such application and all divisional, continuing, substitute, renewal, reissue and all other applications for patent which have been or shall be filed in the United States and all foreign countries on any of such improvements; all original and reissued patents which have been or shall be issued in the United States and all foreign countries on such improvements; and specifically including the right to file foreign applications under the provisions of any convention or treaty and claim priority based on such application in the United States;

AUTHORIZE AND REQUEST the issuing authority to issue any and all United States and foreign patents granted on such improvements to the Assignee;

WARRANT AND COVENANT that no assignment, grant, mortgage, license or other agreement affecting the rights and property herein conveyed has been or will be made to others by the undersigned, and that the full right to convey the same as herein expressed is possessed by the undersigned;

COVENANT, when requested and at the expense of the Assignee, to carry out in good faith the intent and purpose of this assignment, the undersigned will execute all divisional, continuing, substitute, renewal, reissue, and all other patent applications on any and all such improvements; execute all rightful oaths, declarations, assignments, powers of attorney and other papers; communicate to the Assignee all facts known to the undersigned relating to such improvements and the history thereof; and generally do everything possible which the Assignee shall consider desirable for vesting title to such improvements in the Assignee, and for securing, maintaining and enforcing proper patent protection for such improvements;

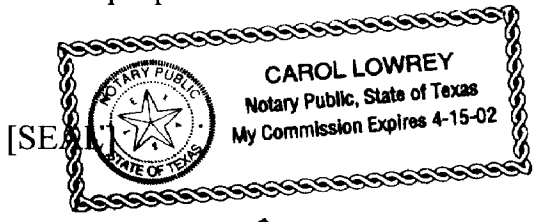
TO BE BINDING on the heirs, assigns, representatives and successors of the undersigned and extend to the successors, assigns and nominees of the Assignee.

Signature: Arvind D. Patel  
Name: Arvind D. Patel

Date: Aug. 10, 2001

~~COUNTRY OF~~ County of HARRIS )  
~~PROVINCE OF~~ State of TEXAS ) ss.

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this 10 day of August, 2001, personally appeared Arvind D. Patel, known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that he executed the same of his own free will for the purposes and consideration therein expressed.



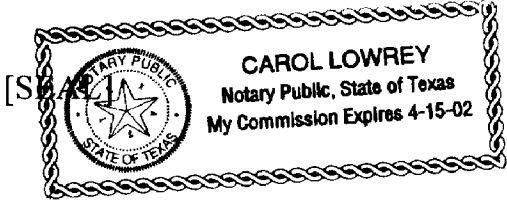
Carol Lowrey  
Notary or Consular Officer

Signature: Burnhan Hoxha  
Name: Burnhan Hoxha

Date: 8/10/01

~~COUNTRY OF~~ County of Harris )  
~~PROVINCE OF~~ State of Texas ) ss.

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this 10 day of August, 2001, personally appeared Burnhan Hoxha, known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that he executed the same of his own free will for the purposes and consideration therein expressed.



Carol Lowrey  
Notary or Consular Officer

Signature: Reginald Bell

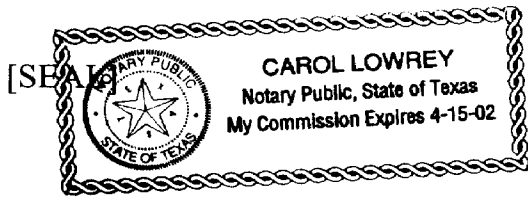
Date: Aug 10, 2001

Name: Reginald Bell

COUNTRY OF Harris )  
State of Texas ) ss.  
PROVINCE OF Texas )

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this 10 day of August, 2001, personally appeared Reginald Bell, known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that he executed the same of his own free will for the purposes and consideration therein expressed.

Carol Lowrey  
Notary or Consular Officer



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