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OMB No. 0651-0011 (exp. 4/94)

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12/10/01  
10/004919  
12/09/01

To the Assistant Commissioner for Patents:  
Please record the attached original documents or copy thereof.

1. Name of conveying party(ies):

Naoto HIRAMATSU  
Kouki TOMIMURA  
Hiroshi FUJIMOTO  
Kenichi MORIMOTO

12/03/01

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

3. Nature of conveyance:

- Assignment  Merger
- Security Agreement  Change of Name
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Execution Date: August 28, 2001

2. Name and address of receiving party(ies)

Name: Nisshin Steel Co., Ltd.

Street Address: 4-1, Marunouchi 3-chome,  
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8366 Japan

Additional name(s) & 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: August 28, 2001

A. Patent Application No. (s)

B. Patent No. (s)

Additional numbers attached?  Yes  No

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

Name: Russell D. Orkin  
Internal Address: Webb Ziesenheim Logsdon  
Orkin & Hanson, P.C.  
Street Address: 700 Koppers Building  
436 Seventh Avenue  
City: Pittsburgh State: PA ZIP: 15219-1818

6. Total number of applications and patents involved: 1

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

- Enclosed
- Authorized to be charged to deposit account

8. Deposit account number:

(Attach triplicate copy of this page if paying by deposit account)

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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.

Kent E. Baldauf, Reg. No. 25,826  
Name of Person Signing

*Kent E. Baldauf*  
Signature

December 3, 2001  
Date

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

Mail documents to be recorded with required cover sheet information to:  
Commissioner for Patents, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Office of Public Records, Crystal Gateway 4, Room 335  
Washington, D.C. 20231

12/14/2001 6TON11 00000101 10004919

01 FC:581

40.00 OP

# ASSIGNMENT DEED

This assignment is applicable to an invention entitled (Invention Title) A High-Strength Austenitic Stainless Steel Strip Excellent in Flatness of Shape and its Manufacturing Method.

The PATENT RIGHTS referred to in this agreement are:

- (check one)  a patent application for this invention, executed by the ASSIGNOR(S) concurrently with this agreement.  
 U.S. patent application Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_ issued \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a U.S. patent application based on PCT International Application No. \_\_\_\_\_ filed on (date) \_\_\_\_\_ (U.S. patent application serial No. \_\_\_\_\_, if known).

The PATENT RIGHTS also include all divisions, reissues, continuations and extensions of the patents and patent applications identified above.

The PATENT RIGHTS assigned under this agreement are:

- (check one)  U.S. patent rights only.  
 worldwide patent rights. In this case, the assignee shall have the right to claim the benefit of the filing date of any U.S. patent application identified above.

The ASSIGNOR(S) referred to in this agreement is (or are):

(Full name of sole or first inventor) Naoto HIRAMATSU  
(Address) c/o Stainless Steel Business Div., Nisshin Steel Co., Ltd.,  
4976, Nomuraminami-machi, Shin-Nanyo-shi, Yamaguchi-ken, 746-8666 Japan  
(Full name of second joint inventor, if any) Kouki TOMIMURA  
(Address) c/o Stainless Steel Business Div., Nisshin Steel Co., Ltd.,  
4976, Nomuraminami-machi, Shin-Nanyo-shi, Yamaguchi-ken, 746-8666 Japan  
(Full name of third joint inventor, if any) Hiroshi FUJIMOTO  
(Address) c/o Stainless Steel Business Div., Nisshin Steel Co., Ltd.,  
4976, Nomuraminami-machi, Shin-Nanyo-shi, Yamaguchi-ken, 746-8666 Japan  
(Full name of fourth joint inventor, if any) Kenichi MORIMOTO  
(Address) c/o Stainless Steel Business Div., Nisshin Steel Co., Ltd.,  
4976, Nomuraminami-machi, Shin-Nanyo-shi, Yamaguchi-ken, 746-8666 Japan

The ASSIGNEES referred to in this agreement are:

I. (Name of First Assignee) Nisshin Steel Co., Ltd.  
(Address of Assignee) 4-1, Marunouchi 3-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8366 Japan

The first ASSIGNEE is:

- (check one)  An individual.  
 A Partnership.  
 A Corporation of Japan.  
(state or country)

The ASSIGNOR(S), in consideration of \$1.00 paid by the ASSIGNEE, and other good and valuable consideration, receipt of which is acknowledged, have and do hereby assign the following rights to the ASSIGNEE, its successors and assigns:

the full and exclusive right to the invention;  
the entire right, title and interest in and to the PATENT RIGHTS;  
the right to sue and recover for any past infringement; and

the right to claim priority under 35 USC 119, based on any earlier foreign applications for this invention.

As to all U.S. patent applications assigned under this agreement, the ASSIGNOR(S) hereby authorize(s) and request(s) the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to issue all Letters Patent to the ASSIGNEE as the assignee of the entire right, title and interest, for the sole use and enjoyment of said ASSIGNEE, its successors and assigns.

Further, the ASSIGNOR(S) agree(s) to communicate to said ASSIGNEE, or its representatives, any facts known to the ASSIGNOR(S) respecting said invention, and testify in any legal proceedings, sign all lawful papers, execute all divisional, continuation, substitute, renewal, re-examination and reissue applications, execute all necessary assignment papers to cause any and all Letters Patent to be issued to said ASSIGNEE, make all rightful oaths and generally do everything necessary or desirable to aid said ASSIGNEE, its successors and assigns, to obtain and enforce proper protection for said invention.

Naoto Hiramatsu 28, 8, 2001  
(Signature of sole or first inventor) Naoto HIRAMATSU (Date)

Kouki Tomimura 28, 8, 2001  
(Signature of second inventor) Kouki TOMIMURA (Date)

Hiroshi Fujimoto 28, 8, 2001  
(Signature of third inventor) Hiroshi FUJIMOTO (Date)

Kenichi Morimoto 28, 8, 2001  
(Signature of fourth inventor) Kenichi MORIMOTO (Date)