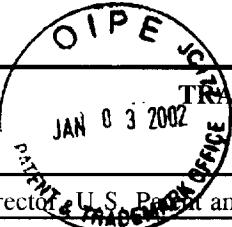


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Atty. Docket:

03500.015870

To the Director, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: Please record the attached original documents or copy thereof.

1. Name of conveying parties: (1) AKIHIRO SATO, (2) HIROAKI TAKAGISHI, (3) KATSUHITO KATO, and (4) DAISAKU KAMIYA

Additional name(s) of conveying party(ies) attached?

Yes No

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

Name: CANON KABUSHIKI KAISHA

Foreign Address: 3-30-2, Shimomaruko, Ohta-ku

Tokyo, Japan

Domestic Address:

3. Nature of conveyance:

Assignment Merger
 Security Agreement Change of Name
 Other

Execution Date: December 11, 2001 (1, 2, 3, & 4)

City: State ZIP

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:

A. Patent Application Number: 09/973,839
Filing Date: October 11, 2001

B. Title of Invention: SHEET TREATING APPARATUS, METHOD OF MOUNTING SHEET TREATING APPARATUS, AND IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS

Additional numbers attached? Yes No

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

Name: Fitzpatrick, Cella, Harper & Scinto

30 Rockefeller Plaza

New York, New York 10112-3801

Telephone No.: (212) 218-2100

Facsimile No.: (212) 218-2200

6. Number of applications and patents involved:

One

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

Enclosed
 Authorized to be charged to deposit account

8. Deposit account number (for deficiency or excess)

06-1205

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To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing information is true and the attached is the original document or is a true copy of the original document.

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Name of Person Signing

Signature

January 3, 2002

Date

Total number of pages including cover sheet, attachments, and documents: 2

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PATENT
REEL: 012425 FRAME: 0012

JOINT
(AFTER APPLICATION FILED)

ASSIGNMENT OF PATENT RIGHTS FOR THE UNITED STATES

FOR VALUE RECEIVED, WE, Akihiro Sato, Hiroaki Takagishi,
Katsuhito Kato and Daisaku Kamiya

hereby sell, assign, transfer and convey unto CANON KABUSHIKI KAISHA

a corporation of Japan

having a place of business at

3-30-2, Shimomaruko, Ohta-ku, Tokyo, Japan

its successors, assigns and legal representatives (hereinafter called the "Assignee"), the entire right, title and interest, for the United States, in and to certain inventions relating to

SHEET TREATING APPARATUS, METHOD OF MOUNTING SHEET TREATING APPARATUS, AND IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS

and described in an application for Letters Patent of the United States filed by us on October 11, 2001 and which has been accorded Application No. 09/973,839

and in and to said application, and all divisions, and continuations thereof, and all Letters Patent of the United States which may be granted, thereon, and all reissues and extensions thereof; and we hereby authorize and request the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks of the United States to issue all Letters Patent upon said inventions to the Assignee or to such nominees as it may designate.

AND we authorize and empower the said Assignee or nominees to invoke and claim for any application for patent or other form of protection for said inventions filed by it or them, the benefit of the right or priority provided by the International Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, as amended, or by any convention which may henceforth be substituted for it, and to invoke and claim such right of priority without further written or oral authorization from us.

AND we hereby consent that a copy of this assignment shall be deemed a full legal and formal equivalent of any assignment, consent to file or like document which may be required in the United States for any purpose and more particularly in proof of the right of said Assignee or nominees to claim the aforesaid benefit of the right of priority provided by the International Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, as amended, or by any convention which may henceforth be substituted for it.

AND we hereby covenant that we have the full right to convey the entire right, title and interest herein assigned and that we have not executed and will not execute any agreement in conflict herewith.

AND we hereby covenant and agree that we will communicate to said Assignee or nominees all facts known to us pertaining to said inventions, and testify in all legal proceedings, sign all lawful papers, execute all continuing and reissue applications, make all rightful oaths and declarations and in general perform all lawful acts necessary or proper to aid said Assignee or nominees in obtaining, maintaining and enforcing all lawful patent protection for said inventions in the United States.

By: Akihiro Sato
Akihiro Sato

Date: December 11, 2001

By: Hiroaki Takagishi
Hiroaki Takagishi

Date: December 11, 2001

By: Katsuhito Kato
Katsuhito Kato

Date: December 11, 2001

By: Daisaku Kamiya
Daisaku Kamiya

Date: December 11, 2001

By: _____

Date: _____