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ASSIGNMENT

101949211

COVER SHEET

Patents Only

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

Attorney's Docket No. 38470/207877

1. Name of conveying party(ies):

James Edwin Smith, Jr.  
George O. Ellis  
David Todd Ellis

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

University of Alabama  
235 Madison Hall  
Huntsville, AL 35899

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

3. Nature of conveyance:

- Assignment
  - Merger
  - Security Agreement
  - Change of Name
  - Other Correction of previously recorded Assignment  
at Reel 011978, Frame 0546
- Execution Date: June 29, 2001

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

4. Application No. 09/775,080, filed February 1, 2001

Patent No.     

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

Additional numbers attached?  Yes  No

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

**CUSTOMER NO. 00826**  
**ALSTON & BIRD LLP**  
Bank of America Plaza  
101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000  
Charlotte, NC 28280-4000

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: 16-0605

01/15/2002 6TON11 00000248 09775080

01 FC:581 40.00 OP

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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.*

11/8/01 Date

Name of Person Signing: Donald M. Hill, Jr.  
Reg. No. 40,646

Total number of pages including cover sheet, attachments, and document: 8

CLT01/4505102v1

**PATENT**  
**REEL: 012458 FRAME: 0486**

7.13.01

ASSIGNMENT RE

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07/18/2001 DBYRNE 00000215 09775080

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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.*

Name of Person Signing: Donald M. Hill, Jr.

Reg. No. 40,646

July 9, 2001

Date

Total number of pages including cover sheet, attachments, and document: 5

CLT01/4486824v1

**PATENT**  
**REEL: 012458 FRAME: 0487**

## ASSIGNMENT

THIS ASSIGNMENT, made by us, **James Edwin Smith, Jr.**, citizen of the United States of America, residing at 416 Westburg Avenue, Huntsville, Alabama 35801; **George O. Ellis**, citizen of the United States of America, residing at 4401 Houligan Drive, Bowling Green, KY 42101; and **David Todd Ellis**, citizen of the United States of America, residing at 624 Oaklawn Way, Bowling Green, KY 42104, respectively;

WITNESSETH: That,

WHEREAS, we are the joint inventors of certain new and useful improvements in VALVE HAVING CERAMIC COMPONENTS AND ASSOCIATED FABRICATION METHOD for which an application for United States Letters Patent has been filed in the United States Patent and Trademark Office on February 1, 2001, under Application No. 09/775,080, and

WHEREAS, University of Alabama in Huntsville, having a principal place of business at 235 Madison Hall, Huntsville, Alabama 35899, hereinafter referred to as assignee, is desirous of acquiring the entire right, title and interest in and to said invention as described in said application, and in and to any and all Letters Patent which shall be granted therefor in the United States of America and all foreign countries;

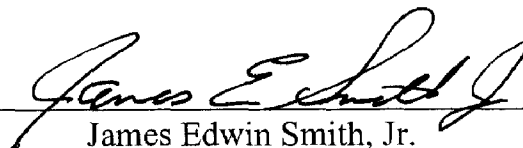
NOW, THEREFORE, To Whom It May Concern, be it known that for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, we have sold and by these presents do hereby sell, assign, transfer, and convey unto the said assignee, its successors and assigns, the entire right, title, and interest in and to the said invention and application, and in and to any and all continuations, continuations-in-part, or divisions thereof, and in and to any and all Letters Patent of the United States of America and all foreign countries or reissues, reexaminations, or extensions thereof which may be granted therefor or thereon, for the full end of the term for which said Letters Patent may be granted, together with the right to claim the priority of said application in all foreign countries in accordance with the International Convention, the same to be held and enjoyed by said assignee, its successors and assigns, as fully and entirely as the same would have been held and enjoyed by us if this assignment and sale had not been made.

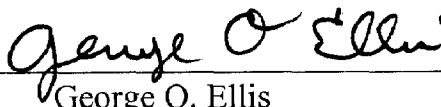
We hereby request that said Letters Patent be issued in accordance with this assignment.

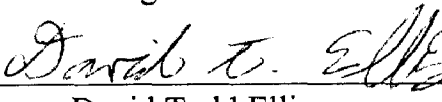
We further covenant and agree that, at the time of the execution and delivery of these presents, we possess full title to the invention and application above-mentioned, and that we have the unencumbered right and authority to make this assignment.

We further covenant and agree to bind our heirs, legal representatives, and assigns promptly to communicate to said assignee or its representatives any facts known to us relating to said invention, to testify in any interference or legal proceedings involving said invention, to execute any additional papers which may be requested to confirm the right of the assignee, its representatives, successors, or assigns to secure patent or similar protection for the said invention in all countries and to vest in the assignee complete title to the said invention and Letters Patent, without further compensation, but at the expense of said assignee, its successors, assigns, and other legal representatives.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and seals on this 29  
day of June, 2001.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
James Edwin Smith, Jr. (SEAL)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
George O. Ellis (SEAL)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David Todd Ellis (SEAL)

STATE OF Alabama )  
 )  
COUNTY OF Madison )

I, Michael I. Spearung, a Notary Public for said County and State, do hereby certify that James Edwin Smith, Jr. personally appeared before me this day and acknowledged the due execution of the foregoing instrument.

Witness my hand and official seal, this the 29 day of June, 2001.

(Official Seal)

Michael I. Spearung  
Notary Public

NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF ALABAMA AT LARGE  
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES: Oct 28, 2003  
BONDED THRU NOTARY PUBLIC UNDERWRITERS

My commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE OF KENTUCKY )  
 )  
COUNTY OF WARREN )

I, Karla A. Messenger, a Notary Public for said County and State, do hereby certify that George O. Ellis personally appeared before me this day and acknowledged the due execution of the foregoing instrument.

Witness my hand and official seal, this the 18th day of June, 2001.

(Official Seal)

Karla A. Messenger  
Notary Public

My commission expires: 02-01-05

STATE OF KENTUCKY )

COUNTY OF WARREN )

I, Karla A. Messenger, a Notary Public for said County and State, do hereby certify that David Todd Ellis personally appeared before me this day and acknowledged the due execution of the foregoing instrument.

Witness my hand and official seal, this the 26th day of June, 2001.

(Official Seal)

Karla A. Messenger  
Notary Public

My commission expires: 02-01-05

AttyDktNo. 38470/207877  
CLT01/4477480v1