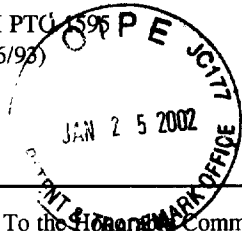


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Attorney's Docket No. 011900-315

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1. Name of conveying party(ies):

Syuji Nakai, Tatsuo Kanai, Yoshihiko Higuchi and Sei Hiraki

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

3. Nature of conveyance:

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respectively

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

Name: SUMITOMO METAL INDUSTRIES, LTD.

Address: 5-33 Kitahama, 4-chome

Chuo-ku, Osaka-shi

Osaka, Japan

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

4. Application number(s) or patent number(s):

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A. Patent Application No.(s)

09/989,530

B. Patent No.(s)

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

Name: Platon N. Mandros

Address: BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

P.O. Box 1404

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404

6. Total number of applications and patents involved: ONE

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

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02-4800

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Peter K Skiff  
Signature

January 25, 2002  
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PATENT  
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# ASSIGNMENT

In consideration of the premises and other good and valuable consideration paid, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the undersigned,

- (1) Syuji NAKAI (4) Sei HIRAKI  
(2) Tatsuo KANAI  
(3) Yoshihiko HIGUCHI

who have made a certain new and useful invention, hereby sell, assign, and transfer unto

SUMITOMO METAL INDUSTRIES, LTD. of 5-33 Kitahama, 4-chome, Chuo-ku, Osaka-shi,  
Osaka, Japan

its successors and assigns (hereinafter designated "ASSIGNEE") the entire right, title and interest for the United States of America as defined in 35 U.S.C. 100 in the invention entitled

ULTRA-LOW CARBON STEEL SHEET AND A METHOD FOR ITS MANUFACTURE

(a) for which an application for United States Letters Patent was filed on November 21, 2001 and identified by United States Serial No. 09/989,530; or

(b) for which an application for United States Letters Patent was executed on \_\_\_\_\_

and the undersigned hereby authorize and request the United States Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to issue any and all United States Letters Patent which may be granted therefor and any and all extensions, divisions, reissues, substitutes, renewals, continuations, or continuations-in-part thereof, and the right to all benefits under the International Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property to the said ASSIGNEE, for its interest as ASSIGNEE, its successors, assigns and legal representatives; the undersigned agree that the attorneys of record in said application shall hereafter act on behalf of said ASSIGNEE;

AND the undersigned hereby agree to transfer a like interest, and to render all necessary assistance in making application for and obtaining original, divisional, substitute, renewed, continuation, continuation-in-part, reissued or extended Letters Patent of the United States, upon request of the said ASSIGNEE, its successors, assigns and legal representatives, and without further remuneration, in and to any improvements, and applications for patent based thereon, growing out of or related to the said invention; and to execute any papers by the said ASSIGNEE, its successors, assigns and legal representatives, deemed essential to ASSIGNEE's full protection and title in and to the invention hereby transferred.

I(We) hereby grant the following law firm the power to insert on this Assignment any further identification which may be necessary or desirable in order to comply with the rules of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office for recordation of this document; BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P. of P.O. Box 1404, Alexandria, VA 22313-1404.

SIGNED on the date(s) indicated aside my(our) signature(s):

INVENTORS

DATE SIGNED

1) Syuji Nakai  
Name: Syuji NAKAI

January 10, 2002

INVENTORS

DATE SIGNED

2) Tatsuo Kanai  
Name: Tatsuo KANAI

January 15, 2002

3) Yoshihiko Higuchi  
Name: Yoshihiko HIGUCHI

January 17, 2002

4) Sei Hiraki  
Name: Sei HIRAKI

January 16, 2002