

11-15-2002

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

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

1. Name of conveying party(ies) NPPC Services, Inc. FINANCE SECTION

2. Name and address of receiving party(ies) Name: Nestec, Ltd. Internal Address: 11.402

3. Nature of conveyance: [X] Assignment [] Merger [] Security Agreement [] Change of Name [] Other Execution Date: July 1, 2002

Street Address: Avenue Nestle 55 CH-1800 City: Vevey Country: Switzerland Additional name(s) & address(es) attached? [] Yes [X] 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 No.(s) 10/162,545; 10/161,925 B. Patent No.(s) 6,025,004; 6,261,081; 6,403,142 Additional numbers attached? [] Yes [X] No

5. Name and address of party to whom correspondence concerning document should be mailed: Name: Lawrence E. Evans Internal Address: Blackwell Sanders Peper Martin LLP Street Address: 720 Olive Street, Suite 2400 City: St. Louis State: MO Zip: 63101

6. Total number of applications and patents involved: 5 7. Total fee (37 CFR 3.41) \$ 200.00 [] Enclosed [X] Authorized to be charged to deposit account 8. Deposit account number: 11-0160

DO NOT USE THIS SPACE

9. Signature. Lawrence E. EVANS Name of Person Signing [Signature] Signature Nov 4, 2002 Date

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

Mail documents to be recorded with required cover sheet information to: Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks, Box Assignments Washington, D.C. 20231

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PATENT REEL: 013475 FRAME: 0141

ASSIGNMENT

WHEREAS, NPPC Services, Inc., a Delaware corporation with a mailing address of Checkerboard Square, St. Louis, Missouri 63164 (hereinafter "Assignor") desires to convey certain Intellectual Property to Nestec, Ltd., a Swiss corporation (hereinafter "Assignee"); and

WHEREAS, Assignee desires to acquire such Intellectual Property from Assignor.

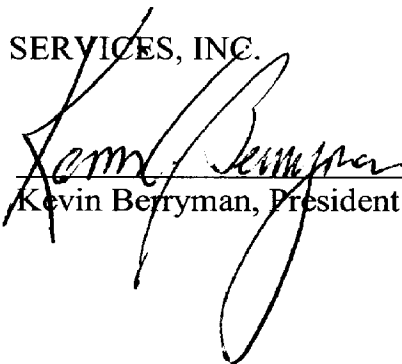
NOW, THEREFORE, for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the parties agree as follows:

Assignor hereby sells, transfers, conveys and assigns to Assignee all of its right, title and interest in the patents and patent applications listed on the attached Schedule A, including the right to sue for past infringement and collect for past damages and all continuations, divisions or reissues, and Assignor does hereby authorize and request the U. S. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks and any other governmental agency to issue, in accordance with this Assignment, any and all Letters Patent that may be granted on said applications.

This Assignment is effective July 1, 2002.

NPPC SERVICES, INC.

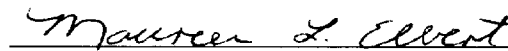
By:


Kevin Berryman, President

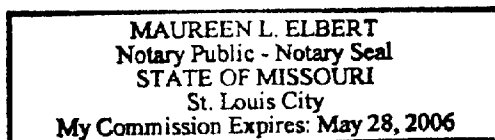
STATE OF MISSOURI)
) ss.
CITY OF ST. LOUIS)

On this 23rd day of October 2002, before me appeared KEVIN BERRYMAN, to me personally known, who, being by me duly sworn did say that he is the President of NPPC SERVICES, INC., a corporation of the State of Delaware, and that said instrument was signed on behalf of said corporation by authority of its Board of Directors, and said KEVIN BERRYMAN acknowledged said instrument to be the free act and deed of said corporation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my notarial seal the day and year last above written.


Notary Public

My Commission Expires:



U. S. Patents

6,025,004 issued February 15, 2000
Extruder with Variable Restriction
Element and Method of Use

6,261,081 issued July 17, 2001
Extruder with Variable Restriction Element

6,403,142 issued June 11, 2002
Hypoallergenic Pet Food

Pending U. S. Patent Applications

S/N 10/162,545 filed June 4, 2002
Hypoallergenic Pet Food

S/N 10/161,925 filed June 4, 2002
Hypoallergenic Pet Food

International Patents and Pending Applications

Mexico
Application No. 98/05106 filed June 23, 1998
Extruder with Variable Restriction Element and
Method of Use

Canada
Pat. 2,235,515 issued June 26, 2001
Extruder with Variable Restriction Element and
Method of Use

Columbia
Application No. 98037349 filed July 2, 1998
Extruder with Variable Restriction Element

Argentina
Application No. 98 01 03210 filed July 1, 1998
Extrusora con elemento de restriccion variable
y metodo para su uso

Brazil
Application No. PI9802330-6 filed July 1, 1998
Extrusora Com Elemento De Restricao
Variavel E Metodo De Utilizacda

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