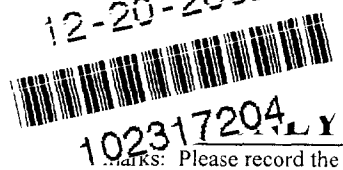


12-20-2002

Q71781

Form PT 1595 (modified) (Rev. 03/01) OMB No. 0651-0027 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): Hirohisa SUWABE Yasuhiko OTSUBO Shinya TOKUMARU Hiroshi FUNABASHI Keiichi NAKAGOME Makoto TSUJITA Hisaki TORISAKA Additional name(s) of conveying party(ies) attached? Yes No

12-13-02

2. Name and address of receiving party(ies): HITACHI METALS, LTD. 2-1 Shibaura 1-chome Minato-ku, Tokyo, Japan And HINO MOTORS, LTD. 3-1-1, Hionodai, Hino-shi Tokyo, Japan

3. Nature of conveyance: Assignment Merger Security Agreement Change of Name Other

Execution Date: December 2, 2002 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 No.(s) 10/241,685

B. Patent No.(s)

Additional numbers attached? Yes No

5. Name and address of party to whom correspondence concerning document should be mailed: SUGHRUE MION, PLLC WASHINGTON OFFICE 23373 PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE



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 No. 19-4880. The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. 8. Deposit Account Number: 19-4880 (Attach duplicate 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. Peter D. Olexy Reg. No. 24,513 December 13, 2002 Date

Total number of pages including cover sheet, attachments, and documents: 3 Mail documents to be recorded with required cover sheet information to: Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks Box Assignment Washington, D.C. 20231

12/19/2002 LMUELLER 00000209 10241685 01 FC 8021 40.00 DP

Assignment

Whereas, I/We, Hirohisa SUWABE, Yasuhiko OTSUBO, Shinya TOKUMARU, Hiroshi FUNABASHI, Keiichi NAKAGOME, Makoto TSUJITA and Hisaki TORISAKA of Fukuoka-ken, Japan; Fukuoka-ken, Japan; Fukuoka-ken, Japan; Tokyo, Japan; Tokyo, Japan; Tokyo, Japan; and Tokyo, Japan

hereinafter called assignor(s), have invented certain improvements in
CERAMIC HONEYCOMB FILTER

and executed an application for Letters Patent of the United States of America therefor on
December 2, 2002; and

Whereas,

(1) HITACHI METALS, LTD.
2-1 Shibaura 1-chome
Minato-ku, Tokyo, Japan

(2) HINO MOTORS, LTD.
3-1-1, Hionodai
Hino-shi, Tokyo, Japan

(assignee), desires to acquire the entire right, title, and interest in the application and invention, and to any United States patents to be obtained therefor;

Now therefore, for valuable consideration, receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged,

I/We, the above named assignor(s), hereby sell, assign and transfer to the above named assignee, its successors and assigns, the entire right, title and interest in the application and the invention disclosed therein for the United States of America, including the right to claim priority under 35 U.S.C. §119, and I/we request the Director – U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to issue any Letters Patent granted upon the invention set forth in the application to the assignee, its successors and assigns; and I/we will execute without further consideration all papers deemed necessary by the assignee in connection with the United States application when called upon to do so by the assignee.

I/We hereby authorize and request our attorneys SUGHRUE MION, PLLC of 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20037-3213 to insert here in parentheses (Application number 10/241,685 and Confirmation number _____, filed September 12, 2002) the filing date and application number of said application when known.

Date: Dec. 2, 2002 Hirohisa Suwabe
s/ Hirohisa SUWABE

Date: Dec. 2, 2002 Yasuhiko Otsubo
s/ Yasuhiko OTSUBO

Date: Dec. 2, 2002 Shinya Tokumaru
s/ Shinya TOKUMARU

Date: Dec. 2, 2002 Hiroshi Funabashi
s/ Hiroshi FUNABASHI

Date: Dec. 2, 2002 Keiichi Nakagome
s/ Keiichi NAKAGOME

Date: Dec. 2, 2002 Makoto Tsujita
s/ Makoto TSUJITA

Date: Dec. 2, 2002 Hisaki Torisaka
s/ Hisaki TORISAKA

(Legalization not required for recording but is prima facie evidence of execution under 35 U.S.C. §261)