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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

102342354 Box Assignments, Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D. C. 20231 United States Postal Service Express Mail Mailing Label No. EV139486351US Please record the attached original documents or copy thereof. 1-15-03 Name and address of receiving party(ies): Name of conveying party(ies): 1 Brian Thomas Branecky A.O. Smith Corporation Name: Address: 11270 West Park Place Nature of Conveyance: 3. Milwaukee, WI 53224 X Assignment _ Merger Additional name(s) & address(es) attached? Yes X No _ Change of Name _ Security Agreement Execution Date: January 8, 2003 Application number(s) or patent number(s): B. A. Patent Application No.(s) 09/925,051 Patent No.(s) Filed: August 8, 2001 Additional numbers attached? _ Yes _X_ No 5. Name and address of party to whom correspondence concerning document Total number of applications and patents involved: should be mailed: David R. Price Michael Best & Friedrich LLP 100 East Wisconsin Avenue Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202-4108 Phone: (414) 271-6560 Total fee (37 CFR 3.41):....\$ 40.00 X Enclosed X Deficiencies in fee charged to Deposit Account Deposit account number: 13-3080 DO NOT USE THIS SPACE 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. Chad W. Shea (Reg. No. 48.470) Name of Person Signing Date Attorney File 010121-9849 Total number of pages including cover sheet, attachments, and document: 3 OMB No. 0651-0011 (exp. 4/94)

cc: Docketing

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ASSIGNMENT

Pursuant to my obligation to A. O. Smith Corporation (hereinafter referred to as "Assignee"), a Delaware corporation having its principal place of business at:

11270 West Park Place Milwaukee, WI 53224

and for other valuable and sufficient consideration, receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, I:

Brian Thomas Branecky N69 W34327 E. Circle Drive Oconomowoc, Wisconsin 53066

confirm my obligation to and hereby sell, assign and convey, unto Assignee, its successors and assigns, my entire right, title and interest -

- (1) in and to an invention entitled "SWITCHED RELUCTANCE MOTOR AND METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ALIGNING THE ROTOR THEREOF" for which I have executed United States Patent Application Serial No. 09/925,051, filed August 8, 2001 (Atty. File No. 010121-9849);
- (2) in and to said United States patent application, in and to all other patent applications (including divisional, continuation, continuation-in-part, §111(b) provisional, §111(a), and reissue applications) based upon said invention, and in and to the patent or patents to be granted thereon, including reissues thereof, if any, to the full end of the term or terms for which said patent or patents may be granted;
- (3) in and to all patent applications on said invention now or hereafter filed in countries foreign to the United States of America, and in and to any and all patents granted on said applications to the full end of the terms for which said patents may be granted; and

PATENT REEL: 013662 FRAME: 0700 (4) under the International Convention in respect to the United States patent application and agree that any patent applications of any foreign countries which may be filed shall be filed in the name of my Assignee with a claim to priority based on said United States application.

And I hereby agree that I will, upon demand of Assignee, its successors or assigns, and without further consideration to me, execute any and all papers that may be necessary, or deemed by Assignee, its successors or assigns, to be necessary, to a complete fulfillment of the intent and purposes of this Assignment, it being understood that any expense incident to the execution of such papers shall be paid by Assignee, its successors and assigns, and not by me.

And the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks of the United States is hereby authorized and requested to issue said United States patent or patents to Assignee.

1/8/03 Date: Brian Thomas Branecky

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