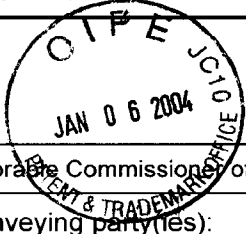


Form PTO-1595
(Rev. 03/01)

RECORDATION

01-12-2004

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office



PATE



102643146

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

1. Name of conveying party(ies): 1.6.04
Alexander Kuhn ; Stefan Gebart; Christopher Keller
Additional name(s) of conveying party(ies) attached? Yes No

2. Name and address of receiving party(ies):
FTE automotive GmbH & Co. KG, Andreas-Humann-
Straße 2, D-96106 Ebern, Germany

3. Nature of conveyance:
 Assignment Merger
 Security Agreement Change of Name
 Other: Letter from FTE automotive GmbH to Alexander Kuhn (and English translation) informing him that the German patent application, from which the present US application claims priority, is automatically assigned to FTE under German Law.
Execution Date: August 25, 2003; September 14, 2003

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)
09/981,284
Additional numbers attached? Yes No

B. Patent No.(s)

5. Name and address of party to whom correspondence concerning document should be mailed:
Kirk A. Vander Leest
McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Ltd.
34th Floor
500 West Madison Street
Chicago, Illinois 60661

6. Total number of applications and patents involved: 1
7. Total fee (37 CFR 3.41): \$ 40
 Enclosed. Any excess or insufficiency should be credited or debited to deposit account.
 Authorized to be charged to deposit account.
8. Deposit account number:
13-0017

1/05/2004 DBYRNE 00000093 09991294
FD-8021 40.00 UP DO NOT USE THIS SPACE

9. Signature.
Name of Person Signing: Joseph M. Butscher Reg. No. 48,326 Date: January 6, 2004
Signature: [Handwritten Signature]
Total number of pages including cover sheet, attachments and document: 7

ASSIGNMENT

Case No. 13405US01

Application Serial No. 09/981,284

Inventors: **ALEXANDER KÜHN**
STEFAN GEBERT
CHRISTOPH KELLER

In consideration of One Dollar (\$1.00) and other good and valuable considerations in hand paid, the receipt and sufficiency whereof are hereby acknowledged, each of the undersigned hereby assign to **FTE automotive GmbH & Co. KG, Andreas-Humann-Straße 2, D-96106 Ebern, Germany**, its successors and assigns, the entire right, title and interest in the invention or improvements of the undersigned disclosed in an application for Letters Patent of the United States, entitled:

**DEVICE FOR ARTICULATED CONNECTION BETWEEN A
CONTROL ELEMENT AND A CONTROL ROD WITH A BALL HEAD**

and which is found in U.S. Patent Application No. 09/981,284 filed October 17, 2001 and in said application and any and all other applications, both United States and foreign, which the undersigned may file, either solely or jointly with others, on said invention or improvements, and in any and all Letters Patent of the United States and foreign countries, which may be obtained on any of said applications, and in any reissue, continuation, divisional or extension of such patents, and further assigns to said assignee the priority right provided by the International Convention.

The undersigned hereby authorizes and requests the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to issue said Letters Patent to said assignee.

The undersigned hereby authorizes and requests the attorneys of record in said application to insert in this assignment the filing date and serial number of said application when officially known.

The undersigned warrants himself to be the owner of the entire right, title and interest in said invention or improvements and to have the right to make this assignment, and further warrants that there are no outstanding prior assignments, licenses, or other encumbrances on the interest herein assigned.

For said considerations the undersigned hereby agrees, upon the request and at the expense of said assignee, its successors and assigns, to execute any and all divisional, continuation and substitute applications for said invention or improvements, and any necessary oath, affidavit or declaration relating thereto, and any application for the reissue or extension of any Letters Patent that may be granted upon said application, and any and all applications and other document for Letters Patent in foreign countries on said invention or improvements, that said assignee, its successors or assigns may deem necessary or expedient, and for the said consideration the undersigned authorizes said assignee to apply for patents for said invention or improvements in its

own name in such countries where such procedure is proper and further agrees, upon the request of said assignee, its successors and assigns, to cooperate to the best of the ability of the undersigned with said assignee, its successors and assigns, in any proceedings or transactions involving such applications or patents, including the preparation and execution of preliminary statements, giving and producing evidence, and performing any and all other acts necessary to obtain said Letters Patent, both United States and foreign, and vest all rights therein hereby conveyed in the assignee, its successors and assigns, whereby said Letters Patent will be held and enjoyed by the said assignee, its successors and assigns, to the full end of the term for which said Letters Patent will be granted, as fully and entirely as the same would have been held and enjoyed by the undersigned if this assignment has not been made.

Rainer Portzel 25.08.2003 Stefan Gebert 25.8.03
(Witness) (Date) (STEFAN GEBERT) (Date)

Rainer Portzel
Egerländer Str. 10
96106 Ebern
Germany

ASSIGNMENT

Case No. 13405US01

Application Serial No. 09/981,284

Inventors: **ALEXANDER KÜHN**
STEFAN GEBERT
CHRISTOPH KELLER

In consideration of One Dollar (\$1.00) and other good and valuable considerations in hand paid, the receipt and sufficiency whereof are hereby acknowledged, each of the undersigned hereby assign to **FTE automotive GmbH & Co. KG, Andreas-Humann-Straße 2, D-96106 Ebern, Germany**, its successors and assigns, the entire right, title and interest in the invention or improvements of the undersigned disclosed in an application for Letters Patent of the United States, entitled:

**DEVICE FOR ARTICULATED CONNECTION BETWEEN A
CONTROL ELEMENT AND A CONTROL ROD WITH A BALL HEAD**

and which is found in U.S. Patent Application No. 09/981,284 filed October 17, 2001 and in said application and any and all other applications, both United States and foreign, which the undersigned may file, either solely or jointly with others, on said invention or improvements, and in any and all Letters Patent of the United States and foreign countries, which may be obtained on any of said applications, and in any reissue, continuation, divisional or extension of such patents, and further assigns to said assignee the priority right provided by the International Convention.

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For said considerations the undersigned hereby agrees, upon the request and at the expense of said assignee, its successors and assigns, to execute any and all divisional, continuation and substitute applications for said invention or improvements, and any necessary oath, affidavit or declaration relating thereto, and any application for the reissue or extension of any Letters Patent that may be granted upon said application, and any and all applications and other document for Letters Patent in foreign countries on said invention or improvements, that said assignee, its successors or assigns may deem necessary or expedient, and for the said consideration the undersigned authorizes said assignee to apply for patents for said invention or improvements in its

own name in such countries where such procedure is proper and further agrees, upon the request of said assignee, its successors and assigns, to cooperate to the best of the ability of the undersigned with said assignee, its successors and assigns, in any proceedings or transactions involving such applications or patents, including the preparation and execution of preliminary statements, giving and producing evidence, and performing any and all other acts necessary to obtain said Letters Patent, both United States and foreign, and vest all rights therein hereby conveyed in the assignee, its successors and assigns, whereby said Letters Patent will be held and enjoyed by the said assignee, its successors and assigns, to the full end of the term for which said Letters Patent will be granted, as fully and entirely as the same would have been held and enjoyed by the undersigned if this assignment has not been made.

Andreas Ofenhitzer 14.09.2003 Christoph Keller 14.09.03
(Witness) (Date) (CHRISTOPH KELLER) (Date)

Andreas Ofenhitzer

Jägergarten 58
87711 Moosbach

FTE®



FTE automotive GmbH | Postfach 1180 | D-96104 Ebern

Herrn
Alexander Kühn, EK

Ihre Zeichen / Nachricht-vom

Unsere Zeichen

Telefon 0 95 31/81-

Telefax 0 95 31/81-

Ebern

E-Porzel-gi

34 27

36 30

01. Dezember 2000

Ihre Erfindung vom 09. Juli 2000

FTE 00/04 - „Vorrichtung zur gelenkigen Verbindung eines Betätigungsorgans mit einer einen Kugelkopf aufweisenden Betätigungsstange“

Erfinder: Herren Stefan Gebert, Christoph Keller und Alexander Kühn

Sehr geehrter Herr Kühn,

wir erklären unter Bezugnahme auf die geltenden gesetzlichen Bestimmungen über Erfindungen von Arbeitnehmern, dass wir die oben genannte Erfindung, an welcher Sie Miterfinder sind, unbeschränkt in Anspruch nehmen.

Die Erfindung wurde am 30. Oktober 2000 beim Deutschen Patentamt zum Patent angemeldet. Die Erfindung erhielt folgendes Aktenzeichen:

P 100 53 819.3

Von den eingereichten Unterlagen, die nach 18 Monate als Offenlegungsschrift publiziert werden wird, erhalten Sie beiliegend eine Kopie.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen

FTE automotive GmbH

ppa.

Peuker

i. V.

Porzel

Bitte zurück an FTE, Bereich E, Herrn Porzel
Empfangsbestätigung:

04.12.00 A. Kühn
Datum Unterschrift

Ein Unternehmen der Dana Corporation

B_00412f

FTE automotive GmbH
Postfach 1180
D-96104 Ebern
Andreas-Humann-Str. 2
D-96106 Ebern

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Bankverbindung
Deutsche Bank Schweinfurt BLZ 790 700 16
Kto.-Nr. 8 400 830 S.W.I.F.T.-Code DEUT DE MM 790

PATENT
REEL: 014861 FRAME: 0967

Roughly translated the text of this declaration is as follows:

Mr. Alexander Kühn, EK

December 1, 2000

Your invention of July 9, 2000

FTE 00/04 - "Device for articulated connection between a control element and a control rod with a ball head"

Inventors: Messrs. Stefan Gebert, Christoph Keller and Alexander Kühn

Dear Mr. Kühn,

We declare with reference to the German Law Relating to Inventions of Employees that we make an unlimited claim to the above referenced invention of which you are a co-inventor.

A patent application on the invention has been filed with the German PTO on October 30, 2000. The following file number has been allotted to the invention:

P 100 53 819.3

Enclosed please find a copy of the filed application papers which will be published after 18 months as "Offenlegungsschrift".

Yours sincerely,

FTE automotive GmbH

ppa. [in power of procuration]

Peuker

Peuker

i.V. [in power to act]

Porzel

Porzel

Please send back to FTE, division E, Mr. Porzel
Acknowledgement of receipt:

04.12.00

Date

A. Kühn

Signature