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To the Director of the U.S. Patent

1. Name of conveying party(ies):

Yasuki KIMURA

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

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

3. Nature of conveyance:

- Assignment Merger
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Execution Date: March 15, 2005

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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: March 15, 2005

A. Patent Application No.(s)
Not yet assigned

B. Patent No.(s)
Not yet assigned

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

CUSTOMER NUMBER

6. Total number of applications and patents involved:

1

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

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Assignment

Whereas, I/We, YASUKI KIMURA of Tokyo, Japan, hereinafter called assignor(s),
have invented certain improvements in
METHOD OF ETCHING A CHROMIUM-BASED THIN FILM AND
METHOD OF MANUFACTURING A PHOTOMASK

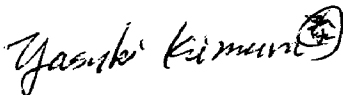
as set forth in an application for Letters Patent of the United States of America corresponding to international application No. PCT/JP2004/004938 filed on April 6, 2004; and

Whereas, HOYA CORPORATION,
7-5, Naka-Ochiai 2-chome, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 161-8525, 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 _____ and Confirmation number _____, filed _____) the filing date and application number of said application when known.

Date: March 15, 2005 
s/ YASUKI KIMURA
Date: _____
s/
Date: _____
s/
Date: _____
s/
Date: _____
s/

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