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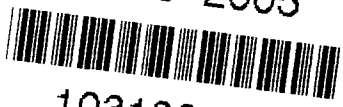
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

To the Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Original documents or copy thereof.

1. Name of conveying party(ies): Yasuhide NAKAYAMA, Shogo NISHI, Yasushi NEMOTO and Yoshihiro OKAMOTO

2. Name and address of receiving party(ies): NATIONAL CARDIOVASCULAR CENTER 7-1, Fujishiro-dai 5-chome Suita-shi, Osaka 565-8565 JAPAN

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

BRIDGESTONE CORPORATION 10-1, Kyobashi 1-chome Chuo-ku, Tokyo 104-8340 JAPAN

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

Execution Date: March 2 and April 18 and 25, 2005

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) 10/525,016 B. Patent No.(s) Additional numbers attached?  Yes  No

5. Name and address of party to whom correspondence concerning document should be mailed: Robert M. Masters, Esq. 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  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. Robert M. Masters July 25, 2005 Reg. No. 35,603 Date

Total number of pages including cover sheet, attachments, and documents: 2 Mail documents to be recorded with required cover sheet information to: MAIL STOP ASSIGNMENT RECORDATION SERVICES Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

# Assignment

Whereas, I/We, Yasuhide Nakayama, Shogo Nishi, Yasushi Nemoto and Yoshihiro Okamoto of 11-15, Midorigaoka 3-chome, Toyonaka-shi, Osaka, Japan, 27-8, Kunimatsu-cho, Neyagawa-shi, Osaka, Japan, c/o Yokohama Plant, Bridgestone Corporation, 1, Kashio-cho, Totsuka-ku, Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa, Japan and c/o Yokohama Plant, Bridgestone Corporation, 1, Kashio-cho, Totsuka-ku, Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa, Japan

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

## STENT AND PROCESS FOR PRODUCING THE SAME

and executed an application for Letters Patent of the United States of America therefor on Japan as represented by President of NATIONAL CARDIOVASCULAR CENTER of 7-1, Fujishiro-dai 5-chome, Suita-shi, Osaka 565-8565 Japan

and

BRIDGESTONE CORPORATION of 10-1, Kyobashi 1-chome, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 104-8340 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 application number and filing date of said application when known.

Date:	<u>March 2, 2005</u> s/	<u><i>Y. Nakayama</i></u> Yasuhide Nakayama
Date:	<u>April 18 2005</u> s/	<u><i>S. Nishi</i></u> Shogo Nishi
Date:	<u>April 25 2005</u> s/	<u><i>Y. Nemoto</i></u> Yasushi Nemoto
Date:	<u>April 25 2005</u> s/	<u><i>Y. Okamoto</i></u> Yoshihiro Okamoto

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