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1. Name of conveying party(ies):

- (1) Shigekazu Shimizu;
- (2) Yasuo Takahashi;
- (3) Yukio Kishimoto;
- (4) Tomoaki Ueda; and
- (5) Kazuhito Nakamura

*He*  
*5-15-06*

Additional name(s) of conveying party(ies) attached?

Yes  No

Name of receiving party(ies):

Name: CANON KABUSHIKI KAISHA

Foreign Address: 3-30-2, Shimomaruko, Ohta-ku

Tokyo, Japan

Domestic Address:

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Additional name(s) & address(es) attached?  Yes  No

3. Nature of conveyance:

- Assignment  Merger
- Security Agreement  Change of Name
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Execution Date: (1) November 16, 2005; (2) November 18, 2005; (3) November 22, 2005; (4) November 24, 2005; and (5) November 22, 2005.

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 Number: 11/257,031  
Filing Date: October 25, 2005

B. Title of Invention:  
UNDERGROUND EXPLORATION APPARATUS

Additional numbers attached?  Yes  No

5. Name and address of party to whom correspondence concerning document should be mailed:

Name: Fitzpatrick, Cella, Harper & Scinto

30 Rockefeller Plaza

New York, New York 10112-3800

Telephone No.: (212) 218-2100

Facsimile No.: (212) 218-2200

6. Number of applications and patents involved:

One

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

- Previously Paid on January 9, 2006
- Authorized to be charged to deposit account

8. Deposit account number (for deficiency or excess)

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9. Statement and signature.

*To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing information is true and the attached is the original document or is a true copy of the original document.*

John D. Magluyan, Reg. No. 56,867

Name of Person Signing

Signature

May 10, 2006

Date

Total number of pages including cover sheet, attachments, and documents: 3

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Atty. Docket: 03500.108508.

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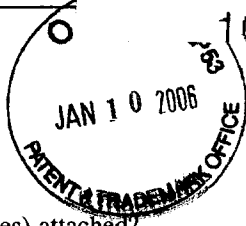
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John D. Magluyan, Reg. No. 56,867  
Name of Person Signing

January 9, 2006  
Date

Total number of pages including cover sheet, attachments, and documents: 3

**JOINT**  
(AFTER APPLICATION FILED)

**ASSIGNMENT**

FOR VALUE RECEIVED, WE, **Shigekazu Shimizu, Yasuo Takahashi,  
Yukio Kishimoto, Tomoaki Ueda and Kazuhito Nakamura**

citizens of **Japan**

hereby sell, assign, transfer and convey unto **CANON KABUSHIKI KAISHA**

a corporation of **Japan**

having a place of business at **3-30-2, Shimomaruko, Ohta-ku, Tokyo, Japan**

its successors, assigns and legal representatives (hereinafter called the "Assignee"), the entire right, title, and interest, for all countries, in and to certain inventions relating to

**UNDERGROUND EXPLORATION APPARATUS**

and described in an application for Letters Patent of the United States executed by us, and filed on **October 25, 2005 as Application No. 11/257,031**, and in and to said application, and all divisions, renewals and continuations thereof, and all Letters Patent of the United States which may be granted thereon, and all reissues and extensions thereof, and all applications for Letters Patent or other grants of protection of proprietary rights including, but not limited to, inventor's certificate, utility model, utility certificate, patent of importation, registration of patent and industrial design registration which may be filed, and which may be granted, upon said inventions in any countries or regions foreign to the United States, and all reissues, renewals and extensions thereof; and we hereby authorize and request the Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks of the United States, and all officials of countries or regions foreign to the United States having authority to do so, to issue all such Letters Patent or other grants of protection upon said inventions to the Assignee or to such nominees as it may designate.

AND we authorize and empower the said Assignee or nominees to invoke and claim for any application for such Letters Patent or other grants of protection for said inventions filed by it or them, the benefit of the right of priority provided by the international Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, as amended, or by a convention which may henceforth be substituted for it, and to invoke and claim such right of priority without further written or oral authorization from us.

AND we hereby consent that a copy of this assignment shall be deemed a full and formal equivalent of any assignment, consent to file or like document which may be required in any country or region for any purpose and more particularly in proof of the right of the said Assignee or nominees to claim the aforesaid benefit of the right of priority provided by the International Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, as amended, or by any convention which may henceforth be substituted for it.

AND we hereby covenant that we have the full right to convey the entire right, title and interest herein assigned and that we have not executed and will not execute any agreement in conflict herewith.

AND we hereby covenant and agree that we will communicate to said Assignee or nominees all facts known to us pertaining to said inventions, and testify in all legal proceedings, sign all lawful papers, execute all divisional, continuing and reissue applications, make all rightful oaths and declarations and in general perform all lawful acts necessary or proper to aid said Assignee or nominees in obtaining, maintaining, and enforcing all lawful patent or other grants of protection of said inventions in any and all countries and regions.

By: Shigekazu Shimizu  
Shigekazu Shimizu

Date: November 16, 2005

By: Yasuo Takahashi  
Yasuo Takahashi

Date: November 18, 2005

By: Yukio Kishimoto  
Yukio Kishimoto

Date: November 22, 2005

By: Tomoaki Ueda  
Tomoaki Ueda

Date: November 24, 2005

By: Kazuhito Nakamura  
Kazuhito Nakamura

Date: November 22, 2005

By: ~~Kazuhito Nakamura~~ K.N.

Date: ~~November 22, 2005~~ K.N.