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Docket No. 187730/US - 465122 - 00025

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office

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

1. Name of conveying party(ies):
**HIROSHIGE INOUE, RYUICHI HONMA,
MANABU MIZUMOTO, YUUSUKE OIKAWA,
RYO MATSUHASHI, SHINJI TSUGE
and SHIGEO FUKUMOTO**

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

2. Name and address of receiving party(ies)
**NIPPON STEEL & SUMIKIN STAINLESS
STEEL CORPORATION,
3-2-2, Nihonbashi Hongoku-cho,
Chuo-ku,
Tokyo, JAPAN**

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

3. Nature of conveyance:

 Assignment Merger
 Security Agreement Change of Name

 Other _____
Execution Date: June 21, 2006

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 **June 21, 2006**

A. Patent Application No.(s)
11/404,413 filed April 13, 2006

B. Patent No.(s)

Additional numbers attached? Yes No

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

8. Deposit account number:
50-2054
(Attach duplicate copy of this page if paying by deposit account)

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

Name: Gary Abelev, Esq.

Dorsey & Whitney LLP

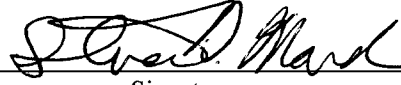
Address: 250 Park Avenue.

City: New York State: NY Zip: 10177

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9. Statement and signature

To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing instrumentation is true and correct and any attached copy is a true copy of the original document.

Steven P. Marsh, Esq. Reg. No. 53,271
Name of Person Signing  Signature June 26, 2006 Date

Total number of pages including cover sheet, attachments and document:

ASSIGNMENT

WHEREAS, WE,

(1) Hiroshige INOUE
c/o NIPPON STEEL CORPORATION, Technical Development Bureau,
20-1, Shintomi, Futtsu-shi, Chiba-ken, Japan
Citizenship: Japan

and

(2) Ryuichi HONMA
c/o NIPPON STEEL CORPORATION, Technical Development Bureau,
20-1, Shintomi, Futtsu-shi, Chiba-ken, Japan
Citizenship: Japan

and

(3) Manabu MIZUMOTO
c/o NIPPON STEEL CORPORATION, Technical Development Bureau,
20-1, Shintomi, Futtsu-shi, Chiba-ken, Japan
Citizenship: Japan

and

(4) Yuusuke OIKAWA
c/o Nippon Steel & Sumikin Stainless Steel Corporation
3-2-2, Nihonbashi Hongoku-cho, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Japan
Citizenship: Japan

and

(5) Ryo MATSUHASHI
c/o NIPPON STEEL CORPORATION, Technical Development Bureau,
20-1, Shintomi, Futtsu-shi, Chiba-ken, Japan
Citizenship: Japan

and

(6) Shinji TSUGE
c/o Nippon Steel & Sumikin Stainless Steel Corporation
3-2-2, Nihonbashi Hongoku-cho, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Japan
Citizenship: Japan

and

(7) Shigeo FUKUMOTO
c/o Nippon Steel & Sumikin Stainless Steel Corporation
3-2-2, Nihonbashi Hongoku-cho, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Japan

Citizenship: Japan

have made an invention entitled "AUSTENITIC STAINLESS STEEL WELDING WIRE
AND WELDING STRUCTURE,"
as set forth and described in _____ patent application which is being filed with
the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office herewith; and

WHEREAS, Nippon Steel & Sumikin Stainless Steel Corporation, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of Japan, and having offices at 3-2-2, Nihonbashi Hongoku-cho, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Japan ("Assignee") is desirous of acquiring the entire right, title and interest in and to the invention, the application, and any and all Letters Patent or similar legal protection, foreign or domestic, to be obtained therefore;

NOW, THEREFORE, TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, BE IT KNOWN, that WE, the said Hiroshige INOUE, Ryuichi HONMA, Manabu MIZUMOTO, Yuusuke OIKAWA, Ryo MATSUHASHI, Shinji TSUGE, and Shigeo FUKUMOTO for and in consideration of the sum of One Dollar (\$1.00), lawful money of the United States, to us in hand paid by said Nippon Steel & Sumikin Stainless Steel Corporation and other valuable considerations unto us me moving from said Nippon Steel & Sumikin Stainless Steel Corporation at or before the ensembling and delivery of these presents, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, have sold, assigned, transferred and conveyed and by these presents do sell, assign, transfer and convey, unto said Nippon Steel & Sumikin Stainless Steel Corporation, its successors and assigns, the entire right, title and interest in and to the said invention entitled "AUSTENITIC STAINLESS STEEL WELDING WIRE
AND WELDING STRUCTURE" as set forth and described in patent application which is filed with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office herewith, and any and all improvements thereon, and in and to said application and any application claiming priority therefrom, and any non-provisional application, division, continuation or continuation-in-part thereof, and in and to any Letters Patent of the United States which may be issued on any of said applications, and any reissues thereof, and in and to any and all applications for Letters Patent filed in foreign countries for said invention or improvements, including all priority rights under the Paris Convention, and any and all Letters Patent which may be granted in foreign countries therefor, TO HAVE AND TO HOLD THE SAME to the full end of the term or terms for which any and all said Letters Patent may be granted;

AND WE, the said Hiroshige INOUE, Ryuichi HONMA, Manabu MIZUMOTO, Yuusuke OIKAWA, Ryo MATSUHASHI, Shinji TSUGE, and Shigeo FUKUMOTO do hereby authorize and request the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to issue the said Letters Patent of the United States to said Nippon Steel & Sumikin Stainless Steel Corporation, as the assignee of the entire right, title and interest in and to the same, for the sole use and benefit of said Nippon Steel & Sumikin Stainless Steel Corporation, its successors and assigns;

AND WE, the said Hiroshige INOUE, Ryuichi HONMA, Manabu MIZUMOTO, Yuusuke OIKAWA, Ryo MATSUHASHI, Shinji TSUGE, and Shigeo FUKUMOTO for the considerations aforesaid, do hereby covenant and agree to and with said Nippon Steel & Sumikin Stainless Steel Corporation, its successors and assigns, that we have the full power to make this assignment, and that the rights assigned are not encumbered by any grant, license or right heretofore given, and that we, our executors or administrators, shall

and will do all lawful acts and things and make, execute and deliver without further compensation, any and all other instruments in writing, further applications, papers, affidavits, powers of attorney, assignments, and other documents which, in the opinion of counsel for said Nippon Steel & Sumikin Stainless Steel Corporation, its successors and assigns, may be required or necessary to more effectively secure to and vest in said Nippon Steel & Sumikin Stainless Steel Corporation, its successors and assigns, the entire right, title and interest in and to said invention and improvements, applications, Letters Patent, rights, benefits, privileges and advantages hereby sold, assigned, transferred and conveyed, and that we will sign any applications for reissue which may be desired by the owner of the patent or patents which may be issued for the said invention or improvements.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, WE, the said Hiroshige INOUE, Ryuichi HONMA, Manabu MIZUMOTO, Yuusuke OIKAWA, Ryo MATSUHASHI, Shinji TSUGE, and Shigeo FUKUMOTO have hereunto set our hands and seals on the date below

Written in _____

Hiroshige Inoue

Name of Inventor: Hiroshige INOUE

Witness 1

Name : _____

Signature : Naoki Miyasaka

Date: June 21, 2006

Witness 2

Name : _____

Signature : HIROFUMI MITSUURA

Date: June 21, 2006

Ryuichi Honma

Name of Inventor: Ryuichi HONMA

Witness 1

Name : _____

Signature : Naoki Miyasaka

Date: June 21, 2006

Witness 2

Name : _____

Signature : HIROFUMI MITSUURA

Date: June 21, 2006

Manabu Mizumoto

Name of Inventor: Manabu MIZUMOTO

Witness 1

Name : _____

Signature : Naoki Miyasaka

Date: June 21, 2006

Witness 2

Name : _____

Signature : HIROFUMI MITSUURA

Date: June 21, 2006

Yuusuke Oikawa

Name of Inventor: Yuusuke OIKAWA

Witness 1

Name : _____

Signature : Naoki Miyasaka

Date: June 21, 2006

Witness 2

Name : _____

Signature : HIROFUMI MITSUURA

Date: June 21, 2006

4836-7937-5360\1

Ryo Matsuhashi

Name of Inventor: Ryo MATSUHASHI

Witness 1

Name : _____

Signature : Naoki Miyasaka

Date: June 21, 2006

Witness 2

Name : _____

Signature : HIROFUMI MITSUURA

Date: June 21, 2006

Shinji Tsuge

Name of Inventor: Shinji TSUGE

Witness 1

Name : _____

Signature : Naoki Miyasaka

Date: June 21, 2006

Witness 2

Name : _____

Signature : HIROFUMI MITSUURA

Date: June 21, 2006

4836-7937-5360\1

Shigeo Fukumoto

Name of Inventor: Shigeo FUKUMOTO

Witness 1

Name : _____

Signature : *Naoki Miyasaka*

Date: June 21, 2006

Witness 2

Name : _____

Signature : HIROFUMI MITSUURA

Date: June 21, 2006