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PATENT ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEET

Electronic Version v1.1 Stylesheet Version v1.2

EPAS ID: PAT3285973

SUBMISSION TYPE:	NEW ASSIGNMENT
NATURE OF CONVEYANCE:	ASSIGNMENT

CONVEYING PARTY DATA

Name	Execution Date
HEINRICH-HEINE-UNIVERSITY DUESSELDORF	10/14/2014
TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITAT DORTMUND	10/27/2014

RECEIVING PARTY DATA

Name:	AMLIKA MERCANTILE PRIVATE LIMITED
Street Address:	A/4-202, MILAN NAGER
Internal Address:	SOCIAL NAGAR KALA KILLA, SANGAM GULLY
City:	DHARAVI, SION, MUMBAI
State/Country:	INDIA
Postal Code:	400017

PROPERTY NUMBERS Total: 1

Property Type	Number
Application Number:	14346354

CORRESPONDENCE DATA

Fax Number: (617)502-5002

Correspondence will be sent to the e-mail address first; if that is unsuccessful, it will be sent

using a fax number, if provided; if that is unsuccessful, it will be sent via US Mail.

Phone: 6172485000

Email: patentdocket@choate.com

Correspondent Name: CHOATE, HALL & STEWART LLP

Address Line 1: 2 INTERNATIONAL PLACE

Address Line 4: BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02110

ATTORNEY DOCKET NUMBER:	2010809-0006
NAME OF SUBMITTER:	BRENDA HERSCHBACH JARRELL
SIGNATURE:	/Brenda Herschbach Jarrell/
DATE SIGNED:	03/27/2015

Total Attachments: 24

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PATENT TRANSFER AGREEMENT

between

Amlika Mercantile Private Limited, a company existing and incorporated in India under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 with its registered office at A/4-202, Milan Nagar, Social Nagar, Kala Kilia, Sangam Gilly, Dharavi, Sion, Mumbai - 400017, India,, represented by its (hereinafter referred to as "AMPL" which expression shall, unless it is applicant to the context or meaning thereof, be deemed to mean and include its Affiliated Companies, successors-in-interest and permitted assigns) on the FIRST PART;

and

Heinrich-Heine-University Duesseldorf, Universitaetsstraße 1, 40225 Duesseldorf, Germany, represented by the Rector Prof. Dr. med. Dr. phil. Hans Michael Piper, represented by the prorector of research and innovation Prof. Dr. Lutz Schmitt (hereinafter referred to as "HHU") on the SECOND PART.

and

Technische Universität Dortmund, August-Schmidt-Straße 4, 44227 Dortmund, Germany, represented by the Rector Prof. Dr. Ursula Gather (hereinafter referred to as "TU DORTMUND") on the THIRD PART.

(hereinafter collectively referred to as the "UNIVERSITIES").

for the purpose of conducting preliminary negotiations to this Agreement represented by PROvendis GmbH, Schlossstrasse 11-15, 45468 Muelheim/R, Germany, represented by the Managing Director Alfred Schillert

AMPL and UNIVERSITIES are hereinafter individually referred to as "PARTY" and collectively the "PARTIES", as the case might be -

Agreement Number: 275010-K2-131114

PREAMBLE

A) Within the framework of a cooperation between UNIVERSITIES in research and development activities, the UNIVERSITIES, through Prof. Lars Blank (employee of

TU DORTMUND) and Prof. Frank Rosenau and Dr. Susanne Wilhelm (employees of HHU) invented a process for the Recombinant Production of Design Rhamnolipids. During the cooperation the UNIVERSITIES also invented through Prof. Lars Blank and Mr. Till Tiso (employees of TU DORTMUND), and Prof. Frank Rosenau, Dr. Susanne Wilhelm and Mr. Andreas Wittgens (employees of HHU) a process for effective production of Rhamnolipids. On 21 September 2011 the UNIVERSITIES filed a European patent application for said processes with the title "Means and methods for rhamnolipid production" under the file number EP 11182080.9. In addition thereto, an international patent application was filed on 21 September 2012 under the file number PCT/EP 2012/068630 claiming the priority of the European application which was abandoned after PCT-Filing. The international patent application was nationalized in the United States of America under the file number US 14/346.354 on 21 March 2014, in Europe under the file number EP 12 775 455.4 on 17 April 2014 and in India under the file number 3104/DELNP/2014.

- B) The UNIVERSITIES are joint holders of the invention and the patent application. The UNIVERSITIES have not previously granted a license for the invention or for the patent application.
- C) The UNIVERSITIES are interested in the commercial exploitation of the invention and the industrial property rights within the framework of a transfer of the patent application against remuneration.
- O) AMPL, within the framework of its legally-authorized business operations, is interested in the acquisition of the UNIVERSITIES' invention and industrial property rights described above and intends to develop chemical compounds in the category of "Rhamnolipids" (hereinafter the "Product") based on the invention or on the industrial property rights, to develop the Product until it is ready for market, and to manufacture and distribute the Product.

Therefore, to achieve the aforementioned objectives, the Parties hereto agree as follows:

1 DEFINITIONS

- 1.1 "Contract Patent Rights" shall mean US patent application No. US 14/346,354, the European patent application No. EP 12 775 455.4 and the Indian patent application No. 3104/DELNP/2014 ("Means and methods for rhamnolipid production").
- 1.2 "Contract Products" shall mean the products, which were manufactured using the invention underlying the Contract Patent Rights, were developed and/or manufactured based thereon, which constitute an integral part of the invention, or which fall within the scope of the Contract Patent Rights.
- 1.3 "Improvements" shall mean research or development results owned by TU Dortmund and emerging from the working group of Univ.-Prof. Dr. Rolf Wichmann named "Laboratory of Biochemical Engineering" for which patent protection can independently be applied for, which are needed for the exploitation of Contract Patent Rights by AMPL and which are within the area of Rhamnolipids technology and its peripheral area" "Improvements" are not research or development results resulting from externally funded projects, other projects financed by third parties or projects carried out by TU DORTMUND together with third parties. "Improvements" are not research or development results resulting from projects with AMPL which are conducted under a separate Agreement, e. g. Research and Development Agreements between TU DORTMUND and AMPL or

Cooperation Agreements between TU DORTMUND and AMPL in public funded Projects. Improvements are only Improvements made by TU DORTMUND within five (5) years after signature of this Patent Transfer Agreement.

1.4 "Affiliated Company" shall mean any company or business entity which controls is controlled by, or is under common control with either of the Parties. For purposes of this definition, "control" shall mean the possession, directly or indirectly of the power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of an entity (other than a natural person), whether through the majority ownership of voting capital stock, by contract or otherwise.

2 OBJECT OF THE AGREEMENT

- 2.1 The UNIVERSITIES are the 100% owners of the Invention "Means and methods for rhamnolipid production" and the Contract Patent Rights.
- 2.2 The UNIVERSITIES hereby sell, assign and transfer to AMPL their ewnership rights, title and interest in the invention and in the Contract Patent Rights, as well as all respective rights and duties associated therewith.
- 2.3 This Contract Patent Right transfer includes all right, title and interest of UNIVERSITIES in all causes of action and enforcement rights for the Contract Patents, including all of its rights to pursue damages, injunctive relief and other remedies for past, current and future infringement of the Contract Patent Rights.
- 2.4 Ownership of the rights to the Invention and the ownership rights to the Contract Patent Rights shall be retained by the UNIVERSITIES until full payment of the single fixed remuneration in Article 5.2. The UNIVERSITIES agree to record AMPL as the owner of the Contract Patent Rights in the patent register following full payment of the single fixed remuneration, the UNIVERSITIES shall provide any documents, provide all necessary signatures and/or provide all necessary declarations required therefor.
- 2.5 AMPL hereby accepts the transfer.
- AMPL shall be responsible for maintaining the Contract Patent Rights to the best of its ability following signature of this Agreement. The UNIVERSITIES shall take those actions as instructed by AMPL to maintain the Contract Patent Rights in the palent register until AMPL is recorded in the patent register. AMPL shall bear the costs for maintaining and enforcing the Contract Patent Rights following signature of this Agreement in addition, AMPL shall pay UNIVERSITIES the costs arising UNIVERSITIES from the nationalisation and regionalisation of the PCT-patent application to the Contract Patent Rights in USA, Europe and India, costs which are afready accrued to them from the nationalisation and regionalisation of the PCTpatent application to the Contract Patent Rights in USA, Europe and India and costs resulting or in accordance from its actions according to this Article 2.6 sentence 2. AMPL shall pay the patent costs arising from the nationalisation of the Contract Patent Rights directly to the corresponding patent offices and patent attorney. In case only UNIVERSITIES are entitled to conduct payments because UNIVERSITIES are recorded in the patent register or UNIVERSITIES have already entrusted a patent attorney with nationalisation/regionalisation of the PCT patent application before the signature of this Agreement, AMPL shall pay UNIVERSITIES the costs, if

UNIVERSITIES are liable to tax on sales/purchases tax is also charged. If no tax was charged, but it turns out later that the invoice amount had to include tax, UNIVERSITIES reserve the right to charge AMPL for the tax not paid. AMPL resign for lapse of time in that case, i.e. AMPL shall not plead that AMPL is not obliged to pay the applicable tax due to statutory limitation. AMPL shall be solely responsible for pursuing third party infringers of the Contract Patent Rights and no obligation on the part of the UNIVERSITIES shall arise with respect thereto. While the UNIVERSITIES are not obligated to participate in pursuing third party infringers, the UNIVERSITIES must place AMPL in the position to do so at AMPL's expense.

2.7 AMPL shall guarantee the compliance with the rights of the inventors. AMPL shall especially guarantee that the inventors are named in patent applications/patents.

3 RIGHT TO USE

- 3.1 AMPL grants to the UNIVERSITIES a non-exclusive, royalty-free, perpetual, and worldwide right to use the Invention other than commercialisation of the patents and the Contract Patent Rights for teaching, research and development purposes, which grant shall include public funded research and development and all research and development financed by UNIVERSITIES on own costs. The inventors have the rights according to German Arbeitnehmererfindungsgesetz.
- 3.2 The UNIVERSITIES and the inventors have the right to publish the Invention and the Contract Patent Rights in conventional scientific form in media of their choice.

4 DOCUMENTS, FORMULAE ETC.

AMPL already has all documents necessary to use the Invention and the Contract Patent Rights.

5 REMUNERATION

- 5.1 For the transfer of rights according to Article 2 AMPL shall pay the remunerations in Articles 5.2-5.3 to the UNIVERSITIES. The remuneration to be paid by AMPL consists of a single fixed remuneration and of milestones.
- 5.2 The single fixed remuneration amounts to € 10,000,-. Payable within 30 days from the Effective Date (as defined below) of this Agreement.
- 5.3 The following payments are due for the following milestones:

€5,000,- upon the confirmation of first results at 5 litre level fermentation.

€10,000,- upon the up scaling to a 50 litre level at AMPL facilities.

€10,000, upon the up scaling to a 500 litre level at AMPL facilities.

€50,000,- upon the production of the first chemical product under a claim of the Contract Patent Rights (e.g. in the field of agriculture).

€25.000,- upon the production of any second chemical product under a claim of the Contract Patent Rights (e.g. in the field of cosmetics or pharmaceutics)

- Milestone payments are respectively due and payable on the first day of the month following the event. AMPL shall inform the UNIVERSITIES of the occurrence of a milestone completing event without undue delay. AMPL shall irrespective of any milestone completions, report to the UNIVERSITIES in writing of relevant circumstances relating to the completion of milestones as of February 28 and July 31 of every year. All milestone payments shall be due and payable upon the transfer of the Contract Patent Rights to a third party.
- 5.5 AMPL shall pay the UNIVERSITIES the remunerations in Articles 5.2-5.3 correspondent to their invention shares/shares to the Contractual Patent Rights (HHU 64,6% / TU Dortmund 35,4%). Each UNIVERSITY shall invoice its part of the remunerations to AMPL.
- 5.6 If AMPL uses the Invention /Contract Patent Rights or let third parties use it outside of the area of Rhamnolipids and therefore a striking disparity will arise with respect to the agreed-upon remuneration and the direct income or advantages from the use of the Invention/Contractual Patent Rights the Parties shall upon the demand of the UNIVERSITIES adapt the remuneration for the Invention/Contract Patent Rights so that the UNIVERSITIES are granted a higher share of the financial advantages which is equivalent to the market price.
- 5.7 AMPL shall observe all applicable laws and regulations. Especially AMPL is responsible for the observation of all applicable tax laws and regulations (e.g. reverse charge). If UNIVERSITIES are liable to tax on sales/purchases, tax is also charged. If no tax was charged, but it turns out later that the invoice amount had to include tax. UNIVERSITIES reserve the right to charge AMPL for the tax not paid. AMPL resign for lapse of time in that case, i.e. AMPL shall not plead that AMPL is not obliged to pay the applicable tax due to statutory limitaltion.
- 5.8 UNIVERSITIES shall also observe all applicable laws and regulations. UNIVERSITIES are responsible for the observation of all tax laws and regulations applicable to UNIVERSITIES. For the avoidance of doubt the Parties have the mutal understanding that UNIVERSITIES are not responsible for tax on sales/purchase (reverse charge).
- 5.9 The remuneration shall be payable in Euros. Invoices issued in a foreign currency shall be converted to Euros at the applicable purchase price for Euros listed on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange on the invoice date.
- 5.10 No claim to a refund of the remuneration can be made, even if this Agreement terminates for any reason.

6 CONFIDENTIALITY

6.1 "Confidential information" (hereinafter the "Information") shall mean this Agreement (in respect of its content) and all confidential or proprietary written, recorded electronic or oral information or data (including without limitation research, developmental, engineering, manufacturing, technical, marketing, sales, financial, operating, performance, cost, business, and process information or data, rade.

secrets, discoveries, ideas, designs, data, processes, developments, flow diagrams, and know-how,) which is (i) provided to a Party (the "Receiving Party") by the other Party (the "Disclosing Party") in the course of the exchange of such information or data between the Parties in connection with this Patent Transfer Agreement.

- 6.2 The Parties shall maintain as secret and not disclose any confidential information provided by the other Party and shall undertake all necessary measures to prevent third parties from obtaining access thereto. Information disclosed to AMPL by employees of PROvendis is herewith deemed to constitute Information disclosed by the UNIVERSITIES.
- 6.3 The Parties will only allow knowledge of the Information exchanged and access to the documents to those employees and persons who are either bound to maintain confidentiality based on their employment contracts or who have executed separate confidentiality agreements at least as strict as that entered into between the Parties.
- 6.4 The duty of confidentiality shall also apply to Affiliated Companies, licensees and/or customers of the Parties who receive access to the Information.
- 6.5 The duty to maintain confidentiality shall apply to all Information going beyond the state of the art when disclosed which is designated as confidential or which is to be considered as confidential based on the circumstances of disclosure irrespective of whether the Information was disclosed orally, in writing, in machine-readable form, as equipment, tests, samples, products or in some other manner.
- 6.6 The duty to maintain confidentiality shall not apply to Information for which the invoking Party proves that:
 - The receiving Party can prove that it knew and was entitled to the information prior to the time of its disclosure hereunder; or
 - The information was part of the public domain or was generally available prior to the time of its disclosure hereunder; or
 - The Information became a part of the public domain or generally available subsequent to its receipt through no act or fault on the part of the receiving Party; or
 - The Information essentially reflects Information which was obtained by the
 receiving Party at any time from a third party which had the right to
 disclose or make available the Information to the receiving Party; or
 - The Information must be disclosed to a court or to an administrative agency pursuant to mandatory legal requirements or an administrative or court order, in which case the receiving Party will inform the disclosing Party of such requirement without undue delay so as to allow the disclosing Party to contest the mandatory legal requirements or administrative or court order. Any disclosure shall thereby be limited to the absolute minimum.

7 REPRESENTATIONS, LIABILITY AND INDEMNIFICATION

- 7.1 UNIVERSITIES represents that:
 - 7.1.1 UNIVERSITIES are the true owners of all right, title and interest in and to the Contract Patent Rights, and UNIVERSITIES do not know of asserted or unasserted claims of ownership of the Contract Patent Rights by any party other than the UNIVERSITIES; and
 - 7.1.2 UNIVERSITIES do not know of any inventors of the Contract Patent Rights other than the named inventors of the Contract Patent Rights and do not know of asserted or unasserted claims of inventorship of the Contract Patent Rights by any person other than the named inventors of the Contract Patent Rights; and
 - 7.1.3 UNIVERSITIES filed a request for an international patent search report and received this international patent search report and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority which have been established with the European Patent Office on 7 January 2013 with the content as stated in Exhibit A; and
 - 7.1.4 on the Effective Date UNIVERSITIES have no knowledge of any third party rights in and to the Contract Patent Rights.
- 7.2 AMPL has knowledge of the Invention, Contract Patent Rights and of the contents and the prosecution status (file wrapper) of the Contract Patent Rights based on the information provided by the UNIVERSITIES. The UNIVERSITIES assume no liability for the patentability or for the legal status of the Contract Patent Rights or that no third party rights exist which prevent the use of the Contract Patent Rights or that no third party rights would be infringed by the use of the Contract Patent Rights, or for possible material defects of the Contract Patent Rights and the Contract Products.
- 7.3 UNIVERSITIES assume no liability for the technical realization, fechnical usability, commercial exploitation, manufacturing maturity, production profitability and/or for the competitiveness of the Contract Patent Rights or the Contract Product. The UNIVERSITIES also assume no liability for the absence of a third party prior right to use.
- 7.4 UNIVERSITIES assume no liability for cases of their own simple/normal negligence or for the simple/normal negligence of their legal representatives or agents. For indirect damages, consequential damages, lost profits and punitive damages the UNIVERSITIES only assume liability for cases of their own gross negligence or intent or for gross negligence or intent of their legal representatives or agents. In case of gross negligence damage claims are restricted to the contractual remuneration receipt by a UNIVERSITY at the moment of the

occurrence of a damage. UNIVERSITIES are not liable towards AMPL for damages caused by the other UNIVERSITY.

7.5 The UNIVERSITIES shall indemnify and hold AMPL harmless against any damages, losses or third party claims arising from a culpable violation of Article 7.1.3 or 7.1.4 which can be shown to be due to the negligence or fault of the UNIVERSITIES as stated in Article 7.4.

8 Defense of the Contract Patent Rights

AMPL shall notify the UNIVERSITIES without undue delay if a third party files a petition for a preliminary injunction or a damage claim against AMPL based on its use of the Contract Patent Rights. The UNIVERSITIES are entitled to join any litigation conducted by AMPL as a party.

9 RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL

- 9.1 TU DORTMUND hereby grants AMPL the right of first refusal for the acquisition of anyexclusive or non-exclusive license for "Improvements" to market conditions or for the transfer of the "Improvements" to market conditions in a separate agreement. AMPL and TU DORTMUND shall negotiate about the separate agreement within sixty (60) calendar days from the date of receiving the notification from TU DORTMUND that an "Improvement" has been made. In case AMPL and TU DORTMUND do not conclude the agreement within sixty (60) calendar days from the date of receiving the notification from TU DORTMUND that the "Improvement" has been made TU DORTMUND is free to dispose about the "Improvement" as it deems fit.
- 9.2 The right of first refusal is subject to the condition that TU DORTMUND is legally entitled to dispose over the "Improvements" and decides to market the "Improvements".

10 TERMINATION OF THE AGREEMENT

This Agreement shall enter into effect on the date the last Party signs this Agreement (Effective Date). UNIVERSITIES are entitled to terminate this Agreement in case of a delay of the payment of a remuneration according to Article 5 or in case AMPL infringes basic contractual obligations.

11 MISCELLANEOUS

11.1 To the extent a provision or section of this Agreement is invalid, unenforceable, void or contains a gap, whether in whole or in part, the remaining provisions or sections of this Agreement shall remain unaffected thereby. The provision or section which is invalid, unenforceable, void, or contains a gap shall be deemed to be replaced by a provision which has the closest result that the Parties were attempting to achieve by the invalid or unenforceable provision.

- 11.2 A Party may only assign its rights and duties under this Agreement with the prior written consent of the other contracting Party.
- 11.3 This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the law of the Federal Republic of Germany, without regard to the conflict of law principles thereof. The place of jurisdiction shall be Duesseldorf, Germany.
- 11.4 No collateral agreements exist. Changes and amendments of this Agreement require the written form, unless a stricter form is required by law. This also applies also to the change or amendment of this provision.
- 11.5 Documents and notices under this Agreement shall be served on or directed to the following contact persons at the addressee set forth below:

UNIVERSITIES

Provendis GmbH, Mr Alfred Schillert Schlossstrasse 11-15, 45468 Muelheim/R

AMPL

Amlika Mercantile Private Limited (AMPL). Sangam Gully, Dharavi, Sion, Munibal - 400017, India

Dortmund, dated 37/70/2014

TU DORTMUND

On behalf of the Chancellor

Andrea Bartkowski

For the local management:

Prof. Wichmann

Duesseldorf, dated <u>x / 4 / 0 / 0</u>

On behalf of HHU 😾 🦯 💮

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hed, dated 3th Car Joly

AMLIKA MERCANTILE PRIVATE LIMITED

On behalf of AMPL

Exhibit A

International patent search report and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY	PCT
Veinziert, Gerhord SCHIWECK, WEINZIERL 6 KOCH Landeberger Strasse 98 D-80339 Munich ALLEMAGNE 10. JAN. 2013	NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT AND THE WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL NOTIFE SEARCHING AUTHORITY, OR THE DECLARATION (A) 1) FIT Addity A 2014 (Loph Te + Skilling of Line Will A 2014) (POT Rule 44 1) Dues of missing
	(day/montiv/year) 7 January 2013 (07-01-2013)
Applicant's or agent's ble reference TUOI 6091 POT	FOR FURTHER ACTION — See paragraphs 1 and 4 below
International application No PCT/EP2012/068630	international filing data (day imports year) 21 September 2012 (21-03-2012)
Applicant HEINRICH-HEINE-UNIVERSITAET	
The applicant is hereby notified that the international search Authority have been established and are traininglish therowill	report and the written opinion of the international Searching 3.
Filling of amendments and statement under Article 19; The applicant is entitled, if he so wishes, to amend the claims When? The time titlet for liting such amendments is norm	of the Ireemational Application (see Fulls 46); tally two morelist from the date of transmittal of the
International Search Report Where? Directly to the International Bureau of WIPO, 34- 1211, Geneva 20, Switzerland, Forcemilis No. (4)	1-22) 338 32 70
For more detailed instructions, see PCT Applicants Gu The applicant is hereby notified that no international search Article 17(2)(a) to that affect and the written opinion of the international search.	reason will be established and that the declaration under
3 With regard to sely protest against payment of (an) additio	
the protest together with the decision thereon has been request to forward the texts of both the protest and the no decision has been made yet on the protest, the applications are the protest.	hanscriffed to the International Bureau together with any despision thereon to the designated Offices inout will be notified as soon as a decision is made.
4. Reminders	
The applicant may submit comments on an informal basis on the s international Bureau. The international Bureau will send a copy of international preliminary examination report has been of is to be e- priority date, these comments will also be inade available to the pr	spen comments to all designation compass or easts or stablished. Following the expiration of 30 months from the
Stordly after the expendion of 18 months from the priority date, the treamption of Boreau. If the applicable positives to avoid or positions, application, or of the priority claim, must reach the international Bit international publication (Pules 905er.1 and 905er.5).	ennikeanna, a aonas at warterarana di unu ilimitanuna
Within 18 mentins from the practing date, but only in respect of son examination must be filled if the applicant wishes to postgone the a date (in some Offices even 1964), otherwise, the applicant must, is note for entry into the national chase before those designated Office.	unio 20 months han the proofly date, perform the prescribed
in respect of other designeted Official, the lime limit of 30 manths months	(or mer) will apply even if no demand is filed within 19
For details about the applicable time limits, Office by Office, see w PCT Applicant's Guide, National Chapters	www.ipo.int/pot/en/texts/lime_limits himi and the
Name and mading address of the International Searching Authority	Authorized office?
Foregram Palent Ollica, P. S. 5818 Paleottoan ?	VAN EKELENBURG, Jacqueline
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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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Form PCT/ISA/210 (continuation of tirst sheet (1)) (July 2009)

PCT/EP2012/058630

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X Y	OCHSNER: "Production of Pseudon aeruginosa rhammolipid biosurfameterologous hosts". APPLIED AND ENVIRONMENTAL MICRONOL. 61, no. 9, 1 January 1995 (1995-01-01), par XP055005925, ISSN: 0099-2240 cited in the application abstract page 3504	ctants in s BIOLOGY.	1,3-5, 7-17, 20-33 20-33 2,6,18,
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International application No PCT/EP2012/068630

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X	NATIVIDAD CABRERA-VALLADARES ET AL: "Monorhammolipid; and 3-(3-hydroxyalkanoyloxy)alkanoic acids (HAAs) production using Escherichia coli as a heterologous bast". APPLIED MICROBIDLOGY AND BIOTECHNOLOGY. SPRINGER. BERLIN, OE, vol. 73, no. 1, 8 June 2006 (2006-06-08), pages 187-194, XPO19441/25, 155N: 1432-0614, DOI:	1,3-5. 7-17, 20-33
í	10.1007/500253-006-0468-5 abstract page 167; table 2	2,6,18, 19
¥	JEIRY TORIBIO ET AL: "Rhammolipids: Production in bacteria other than Pseudomonas aeruginosa", EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF LIPID SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, vol. 112, no. 10, 20 July 2010 (2010-07-20), pages 1082-1087, XP055020025, ISSN: "1438-7697, DOI: 10.1002/ejlt.200900256 abstract page 1086	2,18
Ą	CHOI M H ET AL: "Metabolic relationship between polyhydroxyolkanoic acid and rhammolipid synthesis in Pseudomones aeruginesa: Comparative <13°C NNR analysis of the products in wild-type and mutants", JOURNAL OF BIOTECHNOLOGY, ELSEVIER SCIENCE PUBLISHERS, AMSTERDAM, NL, vol. 151, no. 1, 10 January 2011 (2011-01-10), pages 30-42, XP027578398, ISSN: 0168-1656 [retrieved on 2010-12-29] cited in the application abstract	
Х,Р	ANDREAS WITTGENS ET AL: "Growth independent rhammolipid production from glucose using the non-pathogenic Pseudomonas putida KT2440", MICROBIAL CELL FACTORIES, BIOMED CENTRAL, LONDON, NL, vol. 10, no. 1. 17 October 2011 (2011-10-17), page 80. XP021093670, ISSN: 1475-2859, DOI: 10.1186/1475-2859-10-80 the whole document	4.000000000000000000000000000000000000

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>	WO 2012/013554 AI (EVONIK GOLDSCHMIDT GMBH [DE]: SCHAFFER STEFFEN [DE]; WESSEL MIRJA [DE]) 2 February 2012 (2012-02-02) the whole document	1-33
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information on potent family members

International application No PCT/EP2012/068630

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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No. PCT/EP2012/068630

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C	itations and explanations			
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Form PCT/ISA/ 237 (April 2007)

International application No.

PCT/EP2012/068630

Re item V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

Reference is made to the following documents:

- D1 OCHSNER: "Production of Pseudomonas aeruginosa rhamnolipid biosurfactants in heterologous hosts",

 APPLIED AND ENVIRONMENTAL MICROBIOLOGY,
 vol. 61, no. 9, 1 January 1995 (1995-01-01), page 3503, XP055005925, ISSN: 0099-2240 cited in the application
- NATIVIDAD CABRERA-VALLADARES ET AL: "Monorhamnolipids and 3-(3-hydroxyalkanoyloxy)alkanoic acids (HAAs) production using Escherichia coli as a heterologous host".

 APPLIED MICROBIOLOGY AND BIOTECHNOLOGY, SPRINGER, BERLIN, DE, vol. 73, no. 1, 8 June 2006 (2006-06-08), pages 187-194, XP019441725, ISSN: 1432-0614, DOI: 10.1007/S00253-006-0468-5
- JEIRY TORIBIO ET AL: "Rhamnolipids: Production in bacteria other than Pseudomonas aeruginosa",
 EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF LIPID SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,
 vol. 112, no. 10, 20 July 2010 (2010-07-20), pages 1082-1087,
 XP055020025,
 ISSN: 1438-7697. DOI: 10.1002/ejit.200900256
- OHOLM H ET AL: "Metabolic relationship between polyhydroxyalkanoic acid and rhamnolipid synthesis in Pseudomonas aeruginosa: Comparative 13C NMR analysis of the products in wild-type and mutants", JOURNAL OF BIOTECHNOLOGY, ELSEVIER SCIENCE PUBLISHERS, AMSTERDAM, NL, vol. 151, no. 1, 10 January 2011 (2011-01-10), pages 30-42, XP027578398, ISSN: 0168-1656 [retrieved on 2010-12-29] cited in the application
- Novelty (Art 33(2) PCT)

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No. PCT/EP2012/068630

	Box No. 1 Basis of the opini	Marie Control of the	
1.	With regard to the language, If	nis opinion has been e	istablished on the basis of:
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Form PCT8SA/237 (April 2007)

- 1.1 Document D1 discloses the production of *Pseudomanas aeroginosa* rhamnolipid biosurfactants in heterologous hosts (abstract). D1 discloses *Pseudomanas putida* KT2442 harboring promoterless rhIAB genes fused to the tac promoter on a plasmid and rhamnolipid synthesis using said strain (abstract). D1 further discloses *Pseudomanas fluorescens* and *Escherichia coli* harboring the rhIAB construct (abstract). D1 anticipates the subject matter of claims 1, 3, 4, 7-17, 20, 23-32.
- 1.2 E. coli is not able to produce poly (3-hydroxyalkanoates). D1 anticipates the subject matter of claim 5.
- 1.3 The fatty acid part of the rhamnolipid comprises 3-hydroxydecanoyl-3-hydroxydecanoate (page 3504, column 2, lines 4-7). D1 anticipates the subject matter of claims 21 and 22.
- 1.4 Claim 33 is a product-by-process claim and is, hence, a claim for the product per se irrespective of the method for obtaining said product. Since the method for producing the rhamnolipids according to claim 23 is disclosed in D1, the product produced by said method is considered to fall within the scope of claim 33.
- Document D2 discloses monorhamnolipids and 3-(3-hydroxyalkanoyloxy) alkanoic acids (HAAs) production using Escherichia coli as a heterologous host (abstract). D2 discloses E. coli expressing the P. aeroginosa rhIAB operon (page 187, column 1). The fatty acid dimer moiety of rhamnolipids have the same chain length as those produced by P. aeroginosa (page 187, column 1). Rhamnolipids were produced at 37 °C (table 2). D2 anticipates the subject matter of claims 1, 3-5, 8, 9, 12, 13-17, 20-33.
- The present application does not meet the requirements of Article 33(1) PCT because the subject matter of claims 1, 3-5, 7-17, 20-33, is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.
- 2 Inventive Step (Art 33(3) PCT)
- 2.1 Claims 2, 18 and 19 differ from closest prior art documents D1 and D2 in that the cell further comprises a rhIC gene.
- 2.2 There is no further technical effect associated with this difference.
- 2.3 The objective technical problem solved by the subject matter of claims 2, 18 and 19 is therefore considered to be the provision of an alternative strain for the production of rhamnolipids and the solution as a strain further comprising the rhIC gene. Said solution is obvious.

From P.C.1789.A237 (Supposte Street) (Sheet 2) (EPU-April 2005)

international application No.

PCT/EP2012/068630

- Document D3 reviews the production of rhamnolipids in bacteria other than Pseudomonas aeroginosa (abstract). D3 discloses the use of Burkholderia rhiA, rhiB and rhiC gene cluster for heterologous expression in nonpathogenic bacteria is an unexplored possibility which remains to be tested (page 1086). Hence, the skilled person reading D3 would construct such a strain in order to test this possibility and arrive at the subject matter of claim 2 without the use of inventive skill.
- 2.5 Claim 6 differs from the closest prior art documents D1 and D2 in that the host cell has a knock-out mutation in an endogenous sequence encoding poly(3-hydroxyalkanoic acid) synthase 1.
- 2.6 There is no further technical effect associated with this difference.
- 2.7 The objective technical problem solved by the subject matter of claim 2 is therefore considered to be the provision of an alternative strain for the production of rhamnolipids and the solution as a strain further comprising a knock-out mutation in an endogenous sequence encoding poly(3-hydroxyalkanoic acid) synthase 1. Said solution is obvious
- Document D4 discloses: "higher PHA accumulation was found in the rhamnolipid-negative mutants than in the wild-type strains, suggesting that 3-hydroxylatty acid precursors become more available for PHA synthesis when rhamnolipids synthesis is absent. However, compared to the wild-type strains, rhamnolipids production was not enhanced in the tour pha mutants of *P. aeruginosa* PA14 and PAO1 which indicates that rhamnolipids production in *P. aeruginosa* could be tightly regulated at the transcriptional level by a quorum sensing response (abstract). The skilled person would understand that uncoupling the rhamnolipid synthesis from quorum sensing such as done in DI and D2 might solve this problem and test this possibility without the use of inventive skill.
- 2.9 The present application does not meet the requirements of Article 33(1) PCT because the subject matter of claims 1-33 does not involve an Inventive Step in the sense of Article 33(3) PCT.

Possible steps after receipt of the international search report (ISR) and written opinion of the International Searching Authority (WO-ISA)

General information

For all international applications filed on or after 01/01/2004 the competent ISA will establish an ISR. It is accompanied by the WO-ISA. Unlike the former written opinion of the IPEA (Rule 66.2 PCT), the WO-ISA is not meant to be responded to, but to be taken into consideration for further procedural steps. This document explains about the possibilities.

under Art. 19 PCT

Amending claims. Within 2 months after the date of mailing of the ISR and the WO-ISA the applicant may file amended claims under Art. 19 PCT directly with the International Bureau of WIPO. The PCT reform of 2004 did not change this procedure. For further information please see Rule 46 PCT as well as form PCT/ISA/220 and the corresponding Notes to form PCT/ISA/220.

Filing a demand for international preliminary examination.

In principle, the WO-ISA will be considered as the written opinion of the IPEA. This should, in many cases, make it unnecessary to file a demand for international preliminary examination. If the applicant nevertheless wishes to file a demand this must be done before expiry of 3 months after the date of mailing of the ISR/WO-ISA or 22 months after priority date, whichever expires later (Fule 54bis PCT). Amendments under Art. 34 PCT can be filed with the IPEA as before, normally at the same time as filing the demand (Rule 66.1 (b) PCT).

If a demand for international preliminary examination is filed and no comments/amendments have been received the WO-ISA will be transformed by the IPEA into an IPRP (International Preliminary Report on Patentability) which would merely reflect the content of the WO-ISA. The demand can still be withdrawn (Art. 37 PCT).

Filing informal comments

After receipt of the ISP/WO-ISA the applicant may file informal comments on the WO-ISA directly with the International Bureau of WIPO. These will be communicated to the designated Offices together with the IPRP (International Preliminary Report on Patentability) at 30 months from the priority date. Please also refer to the next box.

End of the international phase

At the end of the international phase the International Bureau of WIFO will transform the WO-ISA or, if a demand was filed, the written opinion of the IPEA into the IPEP, which will then be transmitted together with possible informal comments to the designated Offices. The IPRP replaces the former IPER (international preliminary examination report).

Relevant PCT Rules and more information

Rule 43 PCT, Rule 43bis PCT, Rule 44 PCT, Rule 44bis PCT, PCT Newsletter 12/2003, OJ 11/2003, OJ 12/2003

> **PATENT REEL: 035273 FRAME: 0913**

RECORDED: 03/27/2015