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OCT 12 2010

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of : Paper No. 10
Michael J. Hogan et al. :
Application No. 08/908,759 : NOTICE
Patent No. 5,872,922 :
Filed: August 08, 1997 :
Attorney Docket No. **021556.0119**

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28.

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue patent under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **NOT ACCEPTED**.

The application file does not indicate a change of address has been filed in this case, although the address given on the petition differs from the address of record. A change of address should be filed in this case in accordance with MPEP 601.03. A courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the address noted on the petition. However, until otherwise instructed, all future correspondence regarding this application will be mailed solely to the address of record.

It appears that the petition was not properly signed by a person having authority to prosecute in the above-identified patent. Therefore, the request can not be accepted at this time.

Petitioner's attention is directed to 37 CFR 1.33(b), which states.

(b) Amendments and other papers. Amendments and other papers, except for written assertions pursuant to § 1.27(c)(2)(ii) of this part, filed in the application must be signed by:

(1) A registered patent attorney or patent agent of record appointed in compliance with § 1.32(b);

(2) A registered patent attorney or patent agent not of record who acts in a representative capacity under the provisions of § 1.34;
(3) An assignee as provided for under §3.71(b) of this chapter; or
(4) All of the applicants (§ 1.41(b)) for patent, unless there is an assignee of the entire interest and such assignee has taken action in the application in accordance with § 3.71 of this chapter.

Accordingly, the request cannot be accepted until it is signed by all inventors, an attorney /agent who is registered to practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, or the assignee of the entire interest. If the request is signed by an assignee, the assignee the assignee must comply with the requirements of 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-2783.

/Tredelle D. Jackson/
Paralegal Specialist
Office of Petitions

cc: **DENNEMEYER & CO LTD**
REGENT HOUSE HEATON LANE
STOCKPORT CHESHIRE
ENGLAND SK4 1BB

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SEP 21 2010

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

John A. Price
11 Flagship Drive
Palm Coast, FL 32137

In re Patent No. 5,887,590 :
Issued: March 30, 1999 :
Application No. 08/908,822 : ON PETITION
Filed: August 8, 1997 :
FOR: EYELID CLOSURE PATCH :

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(b), filed August 2, 2010.

The petition is **DISMISSED**.

If reconsideration of this decision is desired, a petition for reconsideration under 37 CFR § 1.378(e) must be filed within **TWO (2) MONTHS** from the mail date of this decision. No extension of this two month time limit can be granted under 37 CFR § 1.136(a) or (b). The petition for reconsideration should include an exhaustive attempt to provide the lacking items noted below, since, after a decision on the petition for reconsideration, no further reconsideration or review of the matter will be undertaken by the Commissioner. The renewed petition should be entitled "PETITION FOR RECONSIDERATION PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.378(e)" and MUST include the required petition fee of $400.00.

The patent issued March 30, 1999. The 3.5 year maintenance fee was timely paid. The 7.5 year maintenance fee could have been paid from March 30, 2006 to September 30, 2007 without a surcharge or from October 1, 2007 to March 30, 2007 with a surcharge. The maintenance fee, however, was not submitted. Accordingly, the patent expired March 30, 2007 for failure to timely submit the 7.5-year maintenance fee.

A petition to accept the unavoidably delayed payment of a maintenance fee under 37 CFR 1.378(b) must be accompanied by (1) the required maintenance fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(e) through (f); (2) the required surcharge set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(i)(1); and (3) a showing that the delay was unavoidable since reasonable care was taken to ensure that the maintenance fee would be paid timely and that the petition was filed promptly after the patentee was notified of, or otherwise became aware of, the expiration of the patent. The showing must enumerate the steps taken to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee, the date and the manner in which patentee became aware of the expiration of the patent, and the steps taken to file the petition promptly.

The instant petition fails to satisfy requirement (3) set forth above. Petitioner has failed to establish that the entire period of delay in payment of the maintenance fee was unavoidable.

A petition under 37 CFR 1.378(b) for the acceptance of an unavoidably delayed payment of maintenance fee is considered under the same standard as that for reviving an application unavoidably abandoned under 37 CFR 1.137(a). Ray v. Lehman, 55 F.3d 606, 608-09, 34 USPQ2d

1786, 1787 (Fed. Cir. 1995)(quoting In re Patent no. 4,409,763, 7 USPQ2d 1798, 1800 (Comm'r Rat. 1988), *aff'd sub nom.* Rydeen v. Quigg, 748 F.Supp. 900, 16 USPQ2d 1876 (D.D.C. 1990), *aff'd*, 937 F.2d 623(Fed. Cir. 1991)(table), *cert. denied*, 503 U.S. 1075(1992)). Decisions on reviving unavoidably abandoned applications have adopted the reasonably prudent person standard in determining if the delay was unavoidable. Ex parte Pratt, 1887 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 31, 32-33 (Comm'r Pat. 1887)(the term "unavoidable" "is applicable to ordinary human affairs, and requires no more or greater care or diligence than is generally used and observed by prudent and careful men in relation to their most important business"); In re Mattullath, 38 App. D.C. 497, 514-15 (D.C. Cir. 1912); Ex parte Henrich, 1913 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 139, 141 (Comm'r Pat. 1913). In addition, decisions on revival are made on a "case-by-case basis, taking all the facts and circumstances into account." Smith v. Mossinghoff, 671 F.2d 533, 538, 213 USPQ 977, 982 (D.C. Cir. 1982). A petition to revive an application as unavoidably abandoned cannot be granted where petitioner has failed to meet his or her burden of establishing the cause of the unavoidable delay. Haines v. Quigg, 673 F. Supp. 314, 5 USPQ2d 1130 (N.D. Ind. 1987).

FACTS

Patentee Price declares that he is the owner of the instant patent and that he entered into an exclusive patent license agree with KMI Surgical, LLC (KMI). Patentee further declares that he had no knowledge that the patent had expired and that he received no maintenance fee reminders from either the USPTO or any third party.

Declarant Best advises that as per Article 3, Section 3.1(e) of the License Agreement (copy provided at Exhibit C), KMI is obligated to "timely pay all patent maintenance fees under Section 3.1 of the Agreement."

Declarant Best indicates that as the operations manager for KMI, he is responsible for "docketing and alerting the President of KMI – Kristen M. Williams – when to pay the maintenance fees" for the patent.

Declarant Best further indicates that KMI originally used the Solomon Software docketing system for maintaining the due dates for paying the maintenance fee for the instant patent.

Declarant Best indicates that on or around 2005, KMI switched to Intuit, Inc. QuickBooks® for docketing and maintaining due dates for the patent maintenance fees.

Declarant Best states that on or around December 2005, he personally entered the due dates for paying the 7.5 and 11.5 year maintenance fees for the patent into KMI's new docketing system, verifying that the due dates were "correct, active, and appeared calendared to trigger an alert at appropriate dates".

Declarant Best states that the system failed to provide a reminder of the due date for the 7.5 year maintenance fee.

Declarant Best states that between July 15, 2010 and July 21, 2010, the system provided an alert to pay the 11.5 year maintenance fee, at which point Declarant Best states he advised the President of KMI, Kristen M. Williams to pay the 11.5 year maintenance fee.

Declarant Best states that Kristen M. Williams was unable to pay the 11.5 year maintenance fee because the patent had expired for failure to pay the 7.5 year maintenance fee.

Declarant Best indicates that upon further investigation, he discovered that, unbeknownst to him, the 7.5 year maintenance fee due date was "inactivated."

Declarant Best references the exhibits included with the petition as follow:

> Exhibit A is a copy of the License Agreement between patentee and KMI.
>
> Exhibit B is a copy of a credit card statement.
>
> Exhibit C is a copy of a printout dated December 31, 2005 showing that the reminder dates for the 7.5 and 11.5 year maintenance fees.
>
> Exhibit E is a copy of a printout dated June 28, 2006 wherein the reminder to pay the 7.5 year maintenance fee due date is omitted, but the 11.5 year maintenance fee due date is shown as due on or before September 30, 2010.
>
> Exhibit D is a copy of a printout dated July 21, 2010 showing an alert to pay the 11.5 year maintenance fee on or before September 30, 2010.
>
> Exhibit F is a copy of a screen shot showing that the 7.5 year maintenance fee due date was "inactivated."

Declarant Williams indicates that she is the president of KMI.

Declarant Williams indicates that Richard Best is tasked with operating and maintaining an automatic-docket system for reminding KMI when to file maintenance fees for the instant patent.

Declarant Williams further indicates that Richard Best is responsible for alerting her when pay these fees.

Declarant Williams indicates that between July 15 and July 21, 2010, Mr. Best prompted her to pay the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the patent and when she attempted to pay the maintenance fee, she discovered that the patent had expired to failure to pay the 7.5 year maintenance fee.

Declarant Williams indicates that prior to mid July 2010, KMI had no knowledge of the expiration of the patent and received no reminders from either the USPTO or any third party to pay the 7.5 year maintenance fee for the patent.

Declarant Williams further states that upon learning of the expiration of the patent, she took steps to file the instant petition and contacted a patent attorney to assist KMI in reinstating the patent.

DISCUSSION

The delay in the timely submission of the 7.5 year maintenance fee is seemingly predicated on a docketing error experienced by KMI. It is asserted that the KMI, as exclusive licensee of patentee, was solely responsible for timely remittance of maintenance fees for the patent. It is further asserted

that KMI utilized Intuit, Inc. QuickBooks® for the purpose of docketing the 7.5 and 11.5 year maintenance fee due dates for the patent. It is further asserted that Richard Best, a KMI employee, bore the sole responsibility for operating and maintaining the docketing system in place for reminding KMI of when to remit the maintenance. It is asserted that while the 7.5 year maintenance fee due date was docketed in the Intuit, Inc. QuickBooks® docketing system, when the time came, the docketing system failed to provide a reminder that the maintenance fee was due and the 7.5 year maintenance fee due date reminder was later found to have been "deactivated."

A delay resulting from an error (e.g., a docketing error) on the part of an employee in the performance of a clerical function may provide the basis for a showing of "unavoidable" delay, provided it is shown that: (A) the error was the cause of the delay at issue; (B) there was in place a business routine for performing the clerical function that could reasonably be relied upon to avoid errors in its performance; and (C) the employee was sufficiently trained and experienced with regard to the function and routine for its performance that reliance upon such employee represented the exercise of due care. See, In re Egbers, 6 USPQ2d 1869, 1872 (Comm'r Pat. 1988), rev 'd on other grounds sub nom., Theodor Groz & Sohne & Ernst Bechert Nadelfabrik KG v. Quigg, 10 USPQ2d 1787 (D.D.C. 1988); In re Katrapat, 6 USPQ2d 1863, 1867-68 (Comm'r Pat. 1988).

Petitioners have failed to establish that the docketing error complained of was the requisite cause of the failure to timely remit the maintenance fee.

No explanation or cause is given for the failure of the docketing system to provide notice regarding the 7.5 year maintenance fee due date. It is not clear if the docketing error complained of was the result of employee error in modifying in the docketing system to "deactivate" the 7.5 year maintenance fee due date reminder or if the docketing error resulted from a failure in the docketing system itself. It is unclear if anyone other than Richard Best had access to and authority over the docketing system. Accordingly, it cannot be found that the docketing system was the cause of the delay at issue.

The petition fails to set forth details concerning business routine for performing the docketing, such as manner by which entries are made into the system and by whose instruction entries are made. It is unclear how and by whom the performance ability of the docketing system was maintained. No details regarding the mechanics of the docketing system have been provided, such as manner and frequency in which the docketing reports were run. Accordingly, it cannot be found to have been reasonable to rely upon the docketing system to provide the 7.5 year maintenance fee due reminder. Moreover, no details concerning the training and level of supervisory oversight that was given Richard Best, the employee charged with maintaining the docketing system. Accordingly, reliance upon Richard Best has not been shown to represent the requisite level of due care

CONCLUSION

In view of the totality of evidence of record, including the exhibits submitted herewith, it cannot be found that the entire period of time, from the time that the maintenance fee was due until the filing of the instant petition, was unavoidable. It is noted that Exhibit F has not been given any weight as it is not legible.

Any renewed petition must establish that the entire period of delay from the time that the maintenance fee was due until the time of the filing of a grantable petition has been unavoidable. Petitioner is reminded that any renewed petition should entail an exhaustive effort to establish that

the failure to timely pay the maintenance fee was unavoidable as after reconsideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.378(e), no further reconsideration regarding unavoidable delay will be undertaken.

The file does not indicate a change of address has been submitted, although the address given on the petition differs from the address of record. If appropriate, a change of address should be filed in accordance with MPEP 601.03. A courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the address given on the petition; however, the Office will mail all future correspondence solely to the address of record.

Further correspondence regarding this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail:	**Mail Stop Petition** Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
By facsimile:	(571) 273-8300
By hand:	U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Customer Service Window Mail Stop Petition Randolph Building 401 Dulany Street Alexandria, VA 22314

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned at 571-272-3205.

/ALESIA M. BROWN/

Alesia M. Brown
Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

#6

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

John A. Price
11 Flagship Drive
Palm Coast, FL 32137

In re Patent No. 5,887,590 :
Issued: March 30, 1999 :
Application No. 08/908,822 : ON PETITION
Filed: August 8, 1997 :
FOR: EYELID CLOSURE PATCH :

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(b), filed August 2, 2010.

The petition is **DISMISSED**.

If reconsideration of this decision is desired, a petition for reconsideration under 37 CFR § 1.378(e) must be filed within **TWO (2) MONTHS** from the mail date of this decision. No extension of this two month time limit can be granted under 37 CFR § 1.136(a) or (b). The petition for reconsideration should include an exhaustive attempt to provide the lacking items noted below, since, after a decision on the petition for reconsideration, no further reconsideration or review of the matter will be undertaken by the Commissioner. The renewed petition should be entitled "PETITION FOR RECONSIDERATION PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.378(e)" and MUST include the required petition fee of $400.00.

The patent issued March 30, 1999. The 3.5 year maintenance fee was timely paid. The 7.5 year maintenance fee could have been paid from March 30, 2006 to September 30, 2007 without a surcharge or from October 1, 2007 to March 30, 2007 with a surcharge. The maintenance fee, however, was not submitted. Accordingly, the patent expired March 30, 2007 for failure to timely submit the 7.5-year maintenance fee.

A petition to accept the unavoidably delayed payment of a maintenance fee under 37 CFR 1.378(b) must be accompanied by (1) the required maintenance fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(e) through (f); (2) the required surcharge set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(i)(1); and (3) a showing that the delay was unavoidable since reasonable care was taken to ensure that the maintenance fee would be paid timely and that the petition was filed promptly after the patentee was notified of, or otherwise became aware of, the expiration of the patent. The showing must enumerate the steps taken to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee, the date and the manner in which patentee became aware of the expiration of the patent, and the steps taken to file the petition promptly.

The instant petition fails to satisfy requirement (3) set forth above. Petitioner has failed to establish that the entire period of delay in payment of the maintenance fee was unavoidable.

A petition under 37 CFR 1.378(b) for the acceptance of an unavoidably delayed payment of maintenance fee is considered under the same standard as that for reviving an application unavoidably abandoned under 37 CFR 1.137(a). Ray v. Lehman, 55 F.3d 606, 608-09, 34 USPQ2d

1786, 1787 (Fed. Cir. 1995)(quoting In re Patent no. 4,409,763, 7 USPQ2d 1798, 1800 (Comm'r Rat. 1988), *aff'd sub nom.* Rydeen v. Quigg, 748 F.Supp. 900, 16 USPQ2d 1876 (D.D.C. 1990), *aff'd*, 937 F.2d 623(Fed. Cir. 1991)(table), *cert. denied*, 503 U.S. 1075(1992)). Decisions on reviving unavoidably abandoned applications have adopted the reasonably prudent person standard in determining if the delay was unavoidable. Ex parte Pratt, 1887 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 31, 32-33 (Comm'r Pat. 1887)(the term "unavoidable" "is applicable to ordinary human affairs, and requires no more or greater care or diligence than is generally used and observed by prudent and careful men in relation to their most important business"); In re Mattullath, 38 App. D.C. 497, 514-15 (D.C. Cir. 1912); Ex parte Henrich, 1913 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 139, 141 (Comm'r Pat. 1913). In addition, decisions on revival are made on a "case-by-case basis, taking all the facts and circumstances into account." Smith v. Mossinghoff, 671 F.2d 533, 538, 213 USPQ 977, 982 (D.C. Cir. 1982). A petition to revive an application as unavoidably abandoned cannot be granted where petitioner has failed to meet his or her burden of establishing the cause of the unavoidable delay. Haines v. Quigg, 673 F. Supp. 314, 5 USPQ2d 1130 (N.D. Ind. 1987).

FACTS

Patentee Price declares that he is the owner of the instant patent and that he entered into an exclusive patent license agree with KMI Surgical, LLC (KMI). Patentee further declares that he had no knowledge that the patent had expired and that he received no maintenance fee reminders from either the USPTO or any third party.

Declarant Best advises that as per Article 3, Section 3.1(e) of the License Agreement (copy provided at Exhibit C), KMI is obligated to "timely pay all patent maintenance fees under Section 3.1 of the Agreement."

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Declarant Best indicates that upon further investigation, he discovered that, unbeknownst to him, the 7.5 year maintenance fee due date was "inactivated."

Declarant Best references the exhibits included with the petition as follow:

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Declarant Williams further indicates that Richard Best is responsible for alerting her when pay these fees.

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Declarant Williams indicates that prior to mid July 2010, KMI had no knowledge of the expiration of the patent and received no reminders from either the USPTO or any third party to pay the 7.5 year maintenance fee for the patent.

Declarant Williams further states that upon learning of the expiration of the patent, she took steps to file the instant petition and contacted a patent attorney to assist KMI in reinstating the patent.

DISCUSSION

The delay in the timely submission of the 7.5 year maintenance fee is seemingly predicated on a docketing error experienced by KMI. It is asserted that the KMI, as exclusive licensee of patentee, was solely responsible for timely remittance of maintenance fees for the patent. It is further asserted

that KMI utilized Intuit, Inc. QuickBooks® for the purpose of docketing the 7.5 and 11.5 year maintenance fee due dates for the patent. It is further asserted that Richard Best, a KMI employee, bore the sole responsibility for operating and maintaining the docketing system in place for reminding KMI of when to remit the maintenance. It is asserted that while the 7.5 year maintenance fee due date was docketed in the Intuit, Inc. QuickBooks® docketing system, when the time came, the docketing system failed to provide a reminder that the maintenance fee was due and the 7.5 year maintenance fee due date reminder was later found to have been "deactivated."

A delay resulting from an error (e.g., a docketing error) on the part of an employee in the performance of a clerical function may provide the basis for a showing of "unavoidable" delay, provided it is shown that: (A) the error was the cause of the delay at issue; (B) there was in place a business routine for performing the clerical function that could reasonably be relied upon to avoid errors in its performance; and (C) the employee was sufficiently trained and experienced with regard to the function and routine for its performance that reliance upon such employee represented the exercise of due care. See, In re Egbers, 6 USPQ2d 1869, 1872 (Comm'r Pat. 1988), rev 'd on other grounds sub nom., Theodor Groz & Sohne & Ernst Bechert Nadelfabrik KG v. Quigg, 10 USPQ2d 1787 (D.D.C. 1988); In re Katrapat, 6 USPQ2d 1863, 1867-68 (Comm'r Pat. 1988).

Petitioners have failed to establish that the docketing error complained of was the requisite cause of the failure to timely remit the maintenance fee.

No explanation or cause is given for the failure of the docketing system to provide notice regarding the 7.5 year maintenance fee due date. It is not clear if the docketing error complained of was the result of employee error in modifying in the docketing system to "deactivate" the 7.5 year maintenance fee due date reminder or if the docketing error resulted from a failure in the docketing system itself. It is unclear if anyone other than Richard Best had access to and authority over the docketing system. Accordingly, it cannot be found that the docketing system was the cause of the delay at issue.

The petition fails to set forth details concerning business routine for performing the docketing, such as manner by which entries are made into the system and by whose instruction entries are made. It is unclear how and by whom the performance ability of the docketing system was maintained. No details regarding the mechanics of the docketing system have been provided, such as manner and frequency in which the docketing reports were run. Accordingly, it cannot be found to have been reasonable to rely upon the docketing system to provide the 7.5 year maintenance fee due reminder. Moreover, no details concerning the training and level of supervisory oversight that was given Richard Best, the employee charged with maintaining the docketing system. Accordingly, reliance upon Richard Best has not been shown to represent the requisite level of due care

CONCLUSION

In view of the totality of evidence of record, including the exhibits submitted herewith, it cannot be found that the entire period of time, from the time that the maintenance fee was due until the filing of the instant petition, was unavoidable. It is noted that Exhibit F has not been given any weight as it is not legible.

Any renewed petition must establish that the entire period of delay from the time that the maintenance fee was due until the time of the filing of a grantable petition has been unavoidable. Petitioner is reminded that any renewed petition should entail an exhaustive effort to establish that

the failure to timely pay the maintenance fee was unavoidable as after reconsideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.378(e), no further reconsideration regarding unavoidable delay will be undertaken.

The file does not indicate a change of address has been submitted, although the address given on the petition differs from the address of record. If appropriate, a change of address should be filed in accordance with MPEP 601.03. A courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the address given on the petition; however, the Office will mail all future correspondence solely to the address of record.

Further correspondence regarding this matter should be addressed as follows:

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By facsimile:	(571) 273-8300
By hand:	U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Customer Service Window Mail Stop Petition Randolph Building 401 Dulany Street Alexandria, VA 22314

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned at 571-272-3205.

/ALESIA M. BROWN/

Alesia M. Brown
Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,887,590 :
Issue Date: March 30, 1999 :
Application No. 08/908,822 : DECISION ON PETITION
Filed: August 8, 1997 :
For: EYELID CLOSURE PATCH :

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(e), filed November 19, 2010, to accept an unavoidably delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The patent issued March 30, 1999. Accordingly, the second maintenance fee due could have been paid during the period from March 30, 2006 through September 30, 2007, or with a surcharge during the period from October 1, 2007 through March 30, 2007. This patent expired on March 30, 2007.

Petitioner has demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Director that the delay in timely paying the maintenance fee was unavoidable.

The 11.5 year maintenance fee, now required, has been charged to the authorized deposit account.

The maintenance fee is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned at 571-272-3205.

/ALESIA M. BROWN/

Alesia M. Brown
Attorney Advisor
Office of Petitions

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5806702	1998-09-15	08908840	1997-08-08	133-022

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	◉	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Christopher A. Johnson, Reg.No. 66,852/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-09-20
Name	Christopher A. Johnson	Registration Number	66852

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 5806702
Issue Date: September 15,1998
Application No. 08908840
Filed: August 8,1997
Attorney Docket No. 75328.00012

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed September 20,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of September 20,2011 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 5880793
Issue Date: March 9,1999
Application No. 08909104
Filed: August 12,1997
Attorney Docket No. 0364074P047

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed March 14,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of March 14,2011 .
This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5,880,793	1999-03-09	08/909,104	1997-08-12	40027.00.0018

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	◉	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

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I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Robert S. Rigg/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-03-14
Name	Robert S. Rigg	Registration Number	36991

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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Carl A. Chase
1601 San Pablo Ave.
Seaside, CA 93955

MAILED

FEB 17 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent of Carl A. Chase Jr. :
Patent No. 6,076,213 :
Issue Date: June 20, 2000 : Decision on Petition
Application No. 08/909,712 :
Filing Date: August 11, 1997 :
For: Portable Inflatable Massage :
Support Apparatus :

This is a decision on the petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.378(b), filed January 14, 2011, to reinstate the above-identified patent.

The petition is **DISMISSED**.

Facts

Patent No. 6,076,213 issued June 20, 2000.

The 3.5 year maintenance fee was timely paid on November 20, 2003.

The 7.5 year maintenance fee could have been paid from June 20, 2007, to December 20, 2007, or with a surcharge from December 21, 2007, to June 20, 2008. The fee was not timely paid. As a result, the patent expired June 21, 2008.

The instant petition was filed January 14, 2011. The petition includes $1,240 for the 7.5 year maintenance fee and $700 for the surcharge set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.20(i)(1).

The petition states, "Due to the fact I was unemployed from June, 2007 to May 2009 I was unable to make this payment."

Law

A grantable petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.378(b) must be accompanied by a showing to the satisfaction of the Director that the entire delay in paying the required maintenance fee from the

due date for the fee until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to this paragraph was unavoidable.

In order for a party to show unavoidable delay, the party must show "reasonable care was taken to ensure that the maintenance fee would be promptly paid."[1] The level of "reasonable care" required to be shown is the same as the level of "care or diligence ... generally used and observed by prudent and careful men in relation to their most important business."[2] When determining if a period of delay has been shown to have been unavoidable, the Office will take "all the facts and circumstances into account" and will decide each petition "on a case-by-case basis."[3]

35 U.S.C. § 41(c)(1) states, with emphasis added, "The Director may accept the payment of any maintenance fee . . . after the six month grace period if the delay is *shown to the satisfaction of the Director* to have been unavoidable." Therefore, petitioner has the burden of proof.

The Office and Congress have recognized the unavoidable standard can be very difficult to meet. During 1992, Congress considered the difficulty involved in reinstating a patent under the unavoidable. Congressional representatives described the unavoidable standard as inflexible, extremely hard to meet, too stringent and harsh.[4] Congress did NOT take steps to make the unavoidable standard more flexible, easier too meet, less stringent, or less harsh. Instead, Congress determined that it would allow patent owners the ability to reinstate a patent under an "unintentional" standard as long as the petition was filed within 24 months of the expiration of the patent. Congress chose to continue requiring proof of unavoidable delay for petitions filed after the 24 month time period.

Analysis

Petitioner appears to be asserting financial difficulties are the cause of the delay in the submission of the 7.5 year maintenance fee. A showing of "unavoidable" delay based upon financial difficulty must establish that petitioner lacked the financial resources to timely pay the fee at issue or to file a petition to reinstate earlier. Such a showing must be supported by a complete showing of the responsible person's financial condition during the entire period

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[1] 37 C.F.R. § 1.378(b).

[2] *In re Mattulath*, 38 App. D.C. 497, 514-15 (D.C. Cir. 1912). *See also Ray v. Lehman*, 55 F.3d 606, 34 U.S.P.Q.2d (BNA) 1786 (Fed. Cir. 1995) (citations omitted) ("[I]n determining whether a delay in paying a maintenance fee was unavoidable, one looks to whether the party responsible for payment of the maintenance fee exercised the due care of a reasonably prudent person.")

[3] *Smith v. Mossinghoff*, 671 F.2d 533, 538, 213 U.S.P.Q. (BNA) 977 (D.C. Cir. 1982).

[4] "[The unavoidable] standard has been found to be extremely hard to meet. Some patent owners have lost their patent rights due to this inflexible standard." 138 CONG. REC. S16613, 16614 (September 30, 1992) (Rep. DeConcini) (emphasis added). "The unavoidable standard has proved to be too stringent in many cases." 138 CONG. REC. H1115 (October 3, 1992) (Rep. Hughes) (emphasis added). "The unavoidable standard is 'too stringent. Some patent owners have lost their patent rights due to circumstances that do not warrant this harsh result, but that could not be considered 'unavoidable' under current law.'" 138 CONG. REC. E1688 (June 4, 1992) (extension of remarks of Rep. McCollum) (emphasis added).

between the last date the fee could have been timely paid (June 20, 2008) and the date the petition was filed (January 14, 2011), including income, expenses, assets, credit and obligations, which made the delay in payment of the maintenance fee unavoidable. The current record fails to provide financial information demonstrating Petitioner was unable to timely pay the fee and unable to file a petition to reinstate the patent on an earlier date. Therefore, the petition cannot be granted.

If a request for reconsideration is filed, the request should include a month by month analysis of income, expenses, and assets to establish the fact that petitioner could not have afforded to pay the maintenance fee on an earlier date. Petitioner should also provide copies of any documents or records that would confirm the financial difficulty.

A proper showing of unavoidable delay based on financial difficulty must demonstrate Petitioner treated the payment of the maintenance fee the same as he would treat his most important business. Therefore, if a request for reconsideration is filed, the request should fully discuss any expenses incurred between June 20, 2008, and January 14, 2011, which might be interpreted by the Office as an indication Petitioner did not treat the patent the same as he would treat his most important business.

Petitioner is cautioned to avoid submitting personal information in documents filed in a patent application that may contribute to identity theft. Personal information such as social security numbers, bank account numbers, or credit card numbers (other than a check or credit card authorization form PTO-2038 submitted for payment purposes) is never required by the USPTO to support a petition or an application. If this type of personal information is included in documents submitted to the USPTO, petitioners/applicants should consider redacting such personal information from the documents before submitting them to the USPTO. Petitioner/applicant is advised that the record of a patent application is available to the public after publication of the application (unless a non-publication request in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.213(a) is made in the application) or issuance of a patent. Furthermore, the record from an abandoned application may also be available to the public if the application is referenced in a published application or an issued patent (see 37 C.F.R. § 1.14). Checks and credit card authorization forms PTO-2038 submitted for payment purposes are not retained in the application file and therefore are not publicly available.

In view of the prior discussion, the showing of record is not sufficient to establish that the entire delay was unavoidable within the meaning of 37 C.F.R. § 1.378(b).

The Address of Record

The file does not indicate a change of address has been submitted, although the address given on the petition differs from the address of record. The instant decision is being mailed to the address given on the petition; however, the Office will mail all future correspondence solely to the current address of record unless a request to change the address is filed. A form which can be used to request a change to the address of record is enclosed.

Petitioner's Current Options

I. Petitioner may file a request for reconsideration.

Any request for reconsideration must be submitted within TWO (2) MONTHS from the mail date of this decision and include a non-refundable petition fee of $400. Extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) are NOT permitted. The reconsideration request should include a cover letter entitled "Renewed Petition under 37 CFR 1.378(b)." This is **not** a final agency action within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. § 704.

After a decision on the petition for reconsideration is issued, no further reconsideration or review of the matter will be undertaken by the Director. Therefore, it is extremely important that petitioner supply **any** and **all** relevant information and documentation with his request for reconsideration. The Commissioner's decision will be based solely on the administrative record in existence. Petitioner should remember that it is not enough that the delay was unavoidable; petitioner must prove that the delay was unavoidable. A petition will not be granted if petitioner provides insufficient evidence to "show" that the delay was unavoidable. Therefore, if a request for reconsideration is filed, it must establish that the entire delay in the submission of the maintenance fee was unavoidable.

II. Petitioner may request a refund of the maintenance fee and surcharge which accompanied the petition.

Since the petition is dismissed, petitioner may request a refund of the maintenance fee and surcharge. Petitioner is reminded that if a request for reconsideration is later filed along with the $400 fee, the $400 will not be refunded. A request for a refund should be sent to: Mail Stop 16, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. A copy of this decision should accompany any request for refund.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter may be submitted as follows:

By Internet: A request for reconsideration may be filed electronically using EFS Web.[5] Document Code "PET.OP" should be used if the request is filed electronically.

By mail: Mail Stop Petition
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By facsimile: (571) 273-8300
Attn: Office of Petitions

[5] General Information concerning EFS Web can be found at http://www.uspto.gov/patents/process/file/efs/index.jsp.

Telephone inquiries regarding this communication should be directed to Petitions Attorney Steven Brantley at (571) 272-3203.

Charles Steven Brantley
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

Enclosure: Form PTO/SB/123

PTO/SB/123 (11-08)
Approved for use through 11/30/2011. OMB 0651-0035
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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CHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS
Patent

Address to:
Mail Stop Post Issue
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Patent Number	
Issue Date	
Application Number	
Filing Date	
First Named Inventor	
Attorney Docket Number	

Please change the Correspondence Address for the above-identified patent to:

☐ The address associated with Customer Number: ____

OR

☐ **Firm *or* Individual Name**

Address

City	**State**	**ZIP**

Country

Telephone	**Email**

This form cannot be used to change the data associated with a Customer Number. To change the data associated with an existing Customer Number use "Request for Customer Number Data Change" (PTO/SB/124).

This form will not affect any "fee address" provided for the above-identified patent. To change a "fee address" use the "Fee Address Indication Form" (PTO/SB/47).

I am the:

☐ Patentee.

☐ Assignee of record of the entire interest. See 37 CFR 3.71.
Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is enclosed. (Form PTO/SB/96).

☐ Attorney or agent of record. Registration Number _____.

Signature

Typed or Printed Name

Date	Telephone

NOTE: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) are required. Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required, see below*.

☐ *Total of _____ forms are submitted.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.33. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 3 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Mail Stop Post Issue, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

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6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (*i.e.*, GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspection or an issued patent.
9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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United States Patent and Trademark Office
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

BARNES & THORNBURG LLP
11 SOUTH MERIDIAN
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204

MAILED
APR 08 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. **5,855,044**
Issue Date: January 5, 1999
Application No. 08/910,079
Filed: August 12, 1997
Attorney Docket No. **3393-US**

NOTICE

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28. On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. **See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).**

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This application is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this application must be paid at the large entity rate.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-7253.

/Monica A. Graves/
Petitions Examiner, Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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Paper No.

FRASER CLEMENS MARTIN & MILLER LLC
28366 KENSINGTON LANE
PERRYSBURG, OH 43551

MAILED
JAN 27 2012
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,788,650 :
Issue Date: August 4, 1998 :
Application No. 08/910,936 : ON PETITION
Filed: August 8, 1997 :
Patentee: Raymond Dotolo :

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c), filed December 22, 2011, to accept the delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **DISMISSED**.

This patent issued on August 4, 1998. Accordingly, this patent expired on August 4, 2010 for failure to pay the third maintenance fee. Since the petition was submitted within twenty-four months after the six – month grace period provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e), the petition was timely filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(c).

A petition to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee under 35 U.S.C. 41(c) and 37 CFR 1.378(c) must be accompanied by: (1) a statement that the delay was unintentional; (2) payment of the appropriate maintenance fee, unless previously submitted; (3) payment of the surcharge set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2).

The petition lacks item (1) above. In this regard, the petition is not signed, as required by 37 CFR 1.378(d), by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, the patentee, or the assignee or other party in interest as established by 37 CFR 3.73(b).[1] Consequently, the petition is considered not to contain a proper statement of unintentional delay and cannot be accepted.

[1] 37 CFR 3.73(b) provides that: (1) when an assignee seeks to take action in a matter before the Office, the assignee must establish its ownership of the property to the satisfaction of the Commissioner; (2) ownership is established by submitting to the Office, in the Office file related to the matter in which action is sought to be taken, documentary evidence of a chain of title from the original owner to the assignee (e.g., copy of an executed assignment submitted for recording) or by specifying (e.g., reel and frame number) where such evidence is recorded in the Office; (3) the submission establishing ownership must be signed by a party authorized to act on behalf of the assignee; and (4) documents submitted to establish ownership may be required to be recorded as a condition to permitting the assignee to take action in a matter pending before the Office.

If reconsideration of this decision is desired, a properly signed petition for reconsideration under 37 CFR 1.378(e) must be filed within TWO (2) MONTHS from the mail date of this decision. No extension of this 2-month time limit can be granted under 37 CFR 1.136(a) or (b). **Any such petition for reconsideration must be accompanied by the petition fee of $400 as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(f).** The petition for reconsideration must also include any lacking item(s) noted above, since, after a decision on the petition for reconsideration, no further reconsideration or review of the matter will be undertaken by the Director. For applicant's convenience a Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is attached.

The file does not indicate a change of address has been submitted, although the address given on the petition differs from the address of record. If appropriate, a change of address should be filed in accordance with MPEP 601.03. A courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the address given on the petition; however, the Office will mail all future correspondence solely to the address of record.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be delivered through one of the following mediums:

By mail:	Mail Stop PETITIONS Commissioner for Patents Post Office Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
By hand:	Customer Service Window Mail Stop Petitions Randolph Building 401 Dulany Street Alexandria, VA 22314
By fax:	(571) 273-8300 ATTN: Office of Petitions
By Internet:	EFS-Web[2]

If petitioner does not wish to pursue reinstatement of this expired patent, petitioner may request a refund of the $2,365 maintenance fee and the $1,640 surcharge fee submitted with the petition. The request should be made in writing and addressed to: Mail Stop 16, Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. A copy of this decision should accompany petitioner's request.

[2] www.uspto.gov/ebc/efs_help.html (for help using EFS-Web call the Patent Electronic Business Center at (866) 217-9197)

Any questions concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3204.

/SDB/

Sherry D. Brinkley
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

Attachment: Statement Under 37 CFR 3.73(b)

cc: DOUGLAS MENCHISE, ASSIGNEE
2963 GULF TO BAY BLVD. #300
CLEARWATER, FL 33759

PTO/SB/96 (07-09)
Approved for use through 07/31/2012. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 3.73(b)

Applicant/Patent Owner: _____

Application No./Patent No.: _____ Filed/Issue Date: _____

Titled:

_____, a _____

(Name of Assignee) (Type of Assignee, e.g., corporation, partnership, university, government agency, etc.

states that it is:

1. ☐ the assignee of the entire right, title, and interest in;

2. ☐ an assignee of less than the entire right, title, and interest in (The extent (by percentage) of its ownership interest is _____ %); or

3. ☐ the assignee of an undivided interest in the entirety of (a complete assignment from one of the joint inventors was made)

the patent application/patent identified above, by virtue of either:

A. ☐ An assignment from the inventor(s) of the patent application/patent identified above. The assignment was recorded in the United States Patent and Trademark Office at Reel _____, Frame _____, or for which a copy therefore is attached.

OR

B. ☐ A chain of title from the inventor(s), of the patent application/patent identified above, to the current assignee as follows:

1. From: _____ To: _____

The document was recorded in the United States Patent and Trademark Office at

Reel _____, Frame _____, or for which a copy thereof is attached.

2. From: _____ To: _____

The document was recorded in the United States Patent and Trademark Office at

Reel _____, Frame _____, or for which a copy thereof is attached.

3. From: _____ To: _____

The document was recorded in the United States Patent and Trademark Office at

Reel _____, Frame _____, or for which a copy thereof is attached.

☐ Additional documents in the chain of title are listed on a supplemental sheet(s).

☐ As required by 37 CFR 3.73(b)(1)(i), the documentary evidence of the chain of title from the original owner to the assignee was, or concurrently is being, submitted for recordation pursuant to 37 CFR 3.11.

[NOTE: A separate copy (*i.e.*, a true copy of the original assignment document(s)) must be submitted to Assignment Division in accordance with 37 CFR Part 3, to record the assignment in the records of the USPTO. See MPEP 302.08]

The undersigned (whose title is supplied below) is authorized to act on behalf of the assignee.

_____ _____

Signature Date

_____ _____

Printed or Typed Name Title

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 3.73(b). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

Privacy Act Statement

The **Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579)** requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether disclosure of these records is required by the Freedom of Information Act.
2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.
3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).
5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (*i.e.*, GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspection or an issued patent.
9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

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MAR 16 2012

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

FRASER CLEMENS MARTIN & MILLER LLC
28366 KENSINGTON LANE
PERRYSBURG, OH 43551

In re Patent No. 5,788,650 :
Issue Date: August 4, 1998 :
Application No. 08/910,936 : ON PETITION
Filed: August 8, 1997 :
Attorney Docket No. 113454 :

This is a decision on the renewed petition under 37 CFR 1.378(e), filed February 9, 2012, requesting reconsideration of a prior decision which refused to accept the delayed payment of a maintenance fee under 37 CFR 1.378(c) for the above identified patent.

The renewed petition is found to comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 41(c) and 37 CFR 1.378(c) (d) and (e). Accordingly, the petition is **GRANTED**.

The 11 ½ year maintenance fee in this case is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3204.

/SDB/

Sherry D. Brinkley
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

cc: MR. DOUGLAS MENCHISE
2963 GULF TO BAY BOULEVARD
SUITE 300
CLEARWATER, FL 33759

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5847110	1998-12-08	08/911,991	1997-08-15	

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity			Small Entity		
	Fee	Code		Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	◉	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Jeffrey C. Brown/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-02-28
Name	Jeffrey C. Brown	Registration Number	41643

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 5847110
Issue Date: December 8,1998
Application No. 08911991
Filed: August 15,1997
Attorney Docket No. 8873.8US01

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed February 28,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of February 28,2011 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5827726	1998-10-27	08913050	1997-09-05	30590-US

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity			Small Entity		
	Fee	Code		Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
◉	11 ½ year	(1553)	○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Olga Kay/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-09-06
Name	Olga Kay	Registration Number	57459

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

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5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 5827726
Issue Date: October 27,1998
Application No. 08913050
Filed: September 5,1997
Attorney Docket No. NEZU=4

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed September 6,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of September 6,2011 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 5814614
Issue Date: September 29,1998
Application No. 08914088
Filed: August 19,1997
Attorney Docket No.

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed November 16,2010 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of November 16,2010 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5814614	1998-09-29	08914088	1997-08-19	

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	◉	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

○ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

◉ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Sole Patentee			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature.			
Signature	/Kruck Theo/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2010-11-16
Name	Dr. Theo P.A. Kruck		

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

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3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

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5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

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RADER FISHMAN & GRAUER PLLC
39533 Woodward Avenue
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304

MAILED

SEP 08 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,961,617	:	
Issued: 10/05/1999	:	
Application No. 08/914,846	:	NOTICE
Filed: 08/18/1997	:	
Attorney Docket No. A64173AJTDJC	:	

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 filed August 10, 2011.

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue patent under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This patent is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this patent must be paid at the large entity rate.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3211.

C. T. Donnell

Christina Tartera Donnell
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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JOHN S. PRATT, ESQ
KILPATRICK TOWNSEND & STOCKTON LLP
1100 PEACHTREE STREET
SUITE 2800
ATLANTA GA 30309

MAILED

NOV 02 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,941,030 :
Issued : August 24, 1999 : ON PETITION
Application No. 08/915,402 :
Filed: August 20, 1997 :
Attorney Docket No. **FWP0018-CIP** :

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28. On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. **See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).**

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This application is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this application must be paid at the large entity rate.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3222.

/Kenya A. McLaughlin/

Kenya A. McLaughlin
Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6,018,953	2000-02-01	08/917,973	1997-08-27	

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	◉	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/deborah l. lu/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2012-03-30
Name	Deborah L. Lu	Registration Number	50940

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 6018953
Issue Date: February 1,2000
Application No. 08917973
Filed: August 27,1997
Attorney Docket No. 97-31

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed March 30,2012 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of March 30,2012 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5,973,112	1999-10-26	08918223	1997-08-25	960296.94835

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	◉	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Keith M. Baxter/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-12-12
Name	Keith M. Baxter	Registration Number	31233

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

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2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 5973112
Issue Date: October 26,1999
Application No. 08918223
Filed: August 25,1997
Attorney Docket No. 960296.94835

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed December 12,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of December 12,2011 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP - MINNEAPOLIS
ATTENTION: PATENT PROSECUTION DOCKETING DEPARTMENT
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PRACTICE GROUP - PT/23RD FL
50 SOUTH SIXTH STREET, SUITE 1500
MINNEAPOLIS MN 55402-1498

MAILED
NOV 22 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

Patent No. 5,901,720 :
Application No. 08/918,464 :
Filed: August 26, 1997 : ON PETITION
Issued: May 11, 1999 :
Attorney Docket No. S26.00.1 :

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c), filed October 26, 2011, to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The patent issued May 11, 1999. The last day of the grace period for paying the 11.5-year maintenance fee was May 11, 2011. Therefore, since this petition was filed within twenty-four months after the six-month grace period provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e), this petition was timely filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(c).

The maintenance fee is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

It is not apparent whether the statement of unintentional delay was signed by a person who would have been in a position of knowing that the delay in filing a timely response was unintentional. Nevertheless, in accordance with 37 CFR 10.18, the statement is accepted as constituting a certification of unintentional delay. However, in the event that petitioner has no knowledge that the delay in paying the maintenance fee was in fact unintentional, petitioner must make such an inquiry to ascertain that, in fact, the delay was unintentional. If petitioner discovers that the delay in paying the maintenance fee was intentional, petitioner must so notify the Office. Also, it is not apparent whether the person signing the instant petition was ever given a power of attorney or authorization of agent to prosecute this patent. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.34(a), the signature appearing on the petition shall constitute a representation to the United States Patent and Trademark Office that he/she is authorized to represent the particular party in whose behalf he/she acts. A courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the person signing the instant petition.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3206.

/Liana Walsh/
Liana Walsh
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

cc: BARTZ & BARTZ, P.A.
6950 FRANCE AVENUE SOUTH, STE. 119
EDINA, MN 55435

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

DLA PIPER LLP (US)
ATTN: PATENT GROUP
P.O. BOX 2758
RESTON VA 20195

MAILED

JAN 03 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,609,975 :
Issue Date: 26 August, 2003 :
Application No. 08/918,944 : DECISION ON PETITION
Filed: 25 August, 1997 :
Attorney Docket No. 099302 :

This is a decision on the petition filed on 15 April, 2010, properly treated as a petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.378(b)[1] requesting acceptance of payment of a maintenance fee for the above-referenced patent as having been delayed due to unavoidable delay.

NOTES:

Petitioner submitted a revocation/power of attorney, but failed to submit the required supporting certificate pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §3.73(b).

Thus, as of this writing

- *The power of attorney has not been accepted or entered; and*
- *The address of record (as set forth above) is different from that on the petition.*

A courtesy copy of this decision is being forwarded to the address on the petition, however, until a complete and proper revocation/power of attorney with the required supporting certificate pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §3.73(b), all correspondence will be directed to the correspondence of record (as set forth above).

Petitioner is reminded to include all filings herein complete information with narrative and documentary support.

[1] A grantable petition to accept a delayed maintenance fee payment under 37 C.F.R. §1.378(b) must be include
(1) the required maintenance fee set forth in §1.20(e) through (g);
(2) the surcharge set forth in §1.20(I)(1); and
(3) a showing that the delay was unavoidable since reasonable care was taken to ensure that the maintenance fee would be paid timely and that the petition was filed promptly after the patentee was notified of, or otherwise became aware of, the expiration of the patent. The showing must enumerate the steps taken to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee, the date and the manner in which patentee became aware of the expiration of the patent, and the steps taken to file the petition promptly.

The petition pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.378(b) is **DISMISSED**.

If reconsideration of this decision is desired, a petition for reconsideration under 37 C.F.R. §1.378(e) must be filed within TWO (2) MONTHS from the mail date of this decision.

No extension of this 2-month time limit can be granted under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) or (b).

A petition for reconsideration **must** be accompanied by the petition fee of $400.00 as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(f).

The petition for reconsideration **shall** include an exhaustive attempt to provide the lacking item(s) noted below, since, after a decision on the petition for reconsideration, the Director will undertake no further reconsideration or review of the matter.

This is **not** a final agency action within the meaning of 5 U.S.C.§704.

A petition to accept the delayed payment of a maintenance fee under 35 USC §41(c) and 37 C.F.R. §1.378(b) must be accompanied by:

> *(1) an adequate showing that the delay was unavoidable, since reasonable care was taken to ensure that the maintenance fee would be paid timely;*
>
> *(2) payment of the appropriate maintenance fee, unless previously submitted; and*
>
> *(3) payment of the surcharge set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.20(i)(1).*

The instant petition fails to satisfy requirement (1), listed/described above.

BACKGROUND

Patent No. 6,609,975 (the '975 patent) issued on 26 August, 2003. The first maintenance fee could have been paid during the period from 26 August, 2006, through midnight 26 February, 2007, or, with a surcharge, during the period from 27 February, 2007, through midnight 26 August, 2007. Accordingly, the patent expired after midnight 26 August, 2007, for failure to pay timely the first maintenance fee.

The instant petition (with fee) pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.378(b) was filed on 15 April, 2010.

STATUTE AND REGULATION

The grant of authority at 35 U.S.C. §41(c)(1) provides that:

> The Director may accept the payment of any maintenance fee required by subsection (b) of this section...after the six-month grace period if the delay is shown to the satisfaction of the Director to have been unavoidable.

The regulations 37 C.F.R. §1.378(b)(3) thus set forth that any petition to accept delayed payment of a maintenance fee must include:

> A showing that the delay was unavoidable since reasonable care was taken to ensure that the maintenance fee would be paid timely and that the petition was filed promptly after the patentee was notified of, or otherwise became aware of, the expiration of the patent. The showing must enumerate the steps taken to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee, the date, and the manner in which patentee became aware of the expiration of the patent, and the steps taken to file the petition promptly. (Emphasis supplied.)

Out of an abundance of caution, Petitioners always are reminded that those registered to practice and all others who make representations before the Office **must** inquire into the underlying facts of representations made to the Office and support averments with the appropriate documentation–since all owe to the Office the continuing duty of candor and duty to disclose.[2]

OPINION

The Director may accept late payment of the maintenance fee under 35 U.S.C. §41(c) and 37 C.F.R. §1.378(b) if the delay is shown to the satisfaction of the Director to have been "unavoidable."[3]

A late maintenance fee is considered under the same standard as that for reviving an abandoned application under 35 U.S.C. §133 because 35 U.S.C. §41(c)(1) uses the identical language, i.e., "unavoidable" delay.[4] Decisions reviving abandoned applications have adopted the reasonably prudent person standard in determining if the delay was unavoidable.[5] In addition, decisions on revival are made on a "case-by-case basis, taking all the facts and circumstances into account."[6]

---

[2] See supplement of 17 June, 1999. The Patent and Trademark Office is relying on Petitioner's duty of candor and good faith and accepting a statement made by Petitioner. See Changes to Patent Practice and Procedure, 62 Fed. Reg. at 53160 and 53178, 1203 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office at 88 and 103 (responses to comments 64 and 109)(Petitioner obligated under 37 C.F.R. §10.18 to inquire into the underlying facts and circumstances when providing statements to the Patent and Trademark Office).

[3] 35 U.S.C. §41(c)(1).

[4] *Ray v. Lehman*, 55 F.3d 606, 608-09, 34 USPQ2d 1786, 1787 (Fed. Cir. 1995)(quoting In re Patent No. 4,409,763, 7 USPQ2d 1798, 1800 (Comm'r Pat. 1988)).

[5] *Ex parte Pratt*, 1887 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 31, 32-33 (Comm'r Pat. 1887) (the term "unavoidable" "is applicable to ordinary human affairs, and requires no more or greater care or diligence than is generally used and observed by prudent and careful man in relation to their most important business"); *In re Mattullath*, 38 App. D.C. 497, 514-15 (D.C. Cir. 1912); *Ex parte Henrich*, 1913 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 139, 141 (Comm'r Pat. 1913).

[6] *Smith v. Mossinghoff*, 671 F.2d 533, 538, 213 USPQ 977, 982 (D.C. Cir. 1982).

Finally, a petition to revive an application or reinstate a patent as abandoned or expired due to unavoidable delay cannot be granted where a Petitioner has failed to meet his or her burden of establishing the cause of the unavoidable delay.[7]

Petitioner's Contentions
as to Unavoidable Delay

Petitioner Thomas H. Jackson (Reg. No. 29,808 (Petitioner)) sought relief on behalf of patentee/assignee Tony Cranford/Ten Stix Gaming Inc., pursuant to the regulations at 37 C.F.R. §1.378, averring unavoidable delay.

As noted above, Patent No. 6,609,975 (the 975 patent) issued on 26 August, 2003. The first maintenance fee could have been paid during the period from 26 August, 2006, through midnight 26 February, 2007, or, with a surcharge, during the period from 27 February, 2007, through midnight 26 August, 2007. Accordingly, the patent expired after midnight 26 August, 2007, for failure to pay timely the first maintenance fee.

The entirety of the showing in support of the petition appears to be in the form of two (2) Emails, a copy of a Notice of Expiration, and statements from:

- Tony Cranford (Mr. Cranford)—three (3) pages—averred to be the President of Ten Stix Gaming Inc,[8] that:

> ***
>
> Mr. Cranford, being unaware of the maintenance fee due [on or before 26 August, 2007] until February of 2010, Mr. Cranford, as soon as reasonably possible after learning of the expiration of the '975 patent, [submitted the] Petition.
>
> ***
>
> Mr. Cranford and his former partner [and co-inventor Thomas Sawyer], Mr. Sawyer, have not communicated on business matters since 2006. ***Mr. Cranford upon personal recollection and upon information and belief, never learned of any maintenance fee being due from his ex-partner, Mr. Sawyer (sic).[9]
>
> ***

[7] *Haines v. Quigg*, 673 F. Supp. 314, 5 USPQ2d 1130 (N.D. Ind. 1987).

[8] The 15 April, 2010, Petition indicates, at page 1, that the assignee Ten Stix Inc. is located at "12252 West Chenango Drive, Morrison, CO 80465 (formerly known as TEN STIX, INC. of 3101 Riverside Dr. Idaho Springs, C) 80452)"—which information raises a question of whether or not Tex Stix Inc conveyed change of address information to former Counsel at Arent Fox and/or Computer Patent Annuities/CPA Global and/or any other responsible party.

[9] The 15 April, 2010, Petition, at pages 2, , 4; the Cranford Declaration at pages 2 and 3. Notably, the Cranford Declaration, at page 2, also states that he "relocated Ten Stix to Morrison, CO, from Idaho Springs, CO, and then to Lakewood, CO. and back to Morrison, CO." Again, there is no indication that Mr. Cranford and/ or Ten Stix Inc notified Computer Patent Annuities/CPA Global or anyone else of any and/or all of these moves and so provide a timely notice of change of address.

- Thomas Jackson (Mr. Jackson/Counsel) —three (3) pages—averred to be with the PCT Law Group and "responsible for Ten Stix patent application preparation and prosecution since approximately November of 2008," that:

> ***
>
> Mr. Jackson *** received an e-mail from Mr. Cranford requesting the status of the '975 patent and, learning of the expiration of the'975 patent for failure to pay the 3½ year maintenance fee when due, reported the same by e-mail to Mr. Cranford. *** Upon his return to the office after an unprecedented snow storm in the Washington, DC, area in February 2010, Mr. Jackson conducted a thorough search of the PCT Law Group Offices (sic) to locate any business records comprising any correspondence or patent file related to the prosecution of the above-identified application resulting in issuance of US 6,609,975 or to its expiration. Mr. Jackson found no such file. Mr. Jackson requested Mr. Cranford to diligently search for any business records of Ten Stix directed to the '975 patent. *** Mr. Jackson further inquired of Wilburn Chesser, Esq., of Arent Fox LLP if any such file was in the possession of Arent Fox LLP. ***
>
> Moreover, Mr. Jackson, on February 16, 2010, made inquiry on behalf of Mr. Cranford and Ten Stix of CPA Global (formerly Computer Patent Annuities) with Mr. Cranford's permission, to determine if CPA Global could recover any business records related to the payment or lack thereof of a maintenance fee in re US Patent No. 6,609,975. *** Ms. Jennifer Lopez [(Ms. Lopez)] of CPA Global replied by e-mail of February 23, 2010. Her e-mail indicates that CPA transmitted four renewal notices to Ten Stix and, never receiving a reply, allowed the patent to lapse. The dates on the renewal notices are 22 Sep (sic) 2006; 22 Nov 2006; 22 Mar 2007 and 21 July 2007.[10], [11]
>
> ***

- Wilburn Chesser (Mr. Chesser) —three (3) pages—averred to be with Arent Fox LLP, who stated that:

> ***
>
> ... he has undertaken a thorough search of Arent Fox LLP records for correspondence or other documents related to the payment or lack thereof of a maintenance fee in re US Patent No. 6,609,975 and has located no such records. *** Mr, Chesser's recollection that on or about August 10, 2006, Mr. Chesser was requested by Mr. Cranford to transfer all Ten Stix files to James Bindseil, Esq., then at the law firm of Loew Hauptman Ham & Berner. ***
>
> Mr. Wilburn Chesser further states in his Affidavit that, upon the issuance of US Patent No. 6,609,975, in the August of 2003 time frame, it was the practice of the

[10] The 15 April, 2010, Petition, at page 4; the Jackson Declaration at pages 2 and 3.

[11] The 15 April, 2010, Petition, at page 4; the Jackson Declaration at pages 2 and 3—and, notably, there is no indication of the address and/or addresses to which Computer Patent Annuities/CPA Global sent the notices.

> firm of Arent Fox Kintner Plokin & Kahn PLLC, with whom Mr. Chesser was then associated, to rquest that maintenance fee responsibilities be handled by Computer Patent Annuities (later CPA Gloval), of Alexandria, Virginia. *** Mr. Chesser states in his Affidavit that to the best of his personal recollection, he had no knowledge of the expiration of US Patent No. 6,609,975 until learning of the expiration from Mr. Jackson's inquiry. *** Mr. Chesser's request to Computer Patent Annuities of Alexandria, VA , to assume maintenance fee responsibilities for the '975 patent is evidence by a Notice of Patent Expiration issued September 24, 2007, and address to Computer Patent Annuities.[12]
>
> ***

- James Bindseil (Mr. Bindseil) —two (2) pages—averred to be formerly of the law firm of Lowe Hauptman Ham & Berner (LHHB), later the law firm of Amin Turocy & Calvin, now Turocy & Watson (the Turocy Firm), that:

> ***
>
> ... he conducted an investigation including inquiries of [LHHB firm and the Turocy Firm for any files related to the '975 patent]. Mr. Bindseil testifies that neither firm has any files. *** Mr. Bindseil's recollection is that he initially received any (sic) Ten Stix file at approximately the 3.5 year maintenance fee due date or some time after August of 2006. *** Also, it is Mr. Bindseil's recollection and upon information and belief that the law firm of [LHHB] did not send out any letters to Mr. Cranford or Ten Stix for paying the first maintenance fee during the maintenance fee window calculated above. **** Mr. Bindseil understood from Mr. Chesser that LHHB was not responsible for payment. It was Mr. Bindseil's recollection that Computer Patent Annuities was responsible for handling annuity correspondence with Ten Stix.[13]
>
> ***

The E-mail between Mr. Jackson and:

- Mr. Cranford (1 page); and
- Ms. Lopez (5 pages)

are included. As noted in footnote, there is no indication as to the address/addresses used by Computer Patent Annuities/ CPA Global in its attempts to communicate with Mr. Cranford/Ten Stix. Moreover, there is no indication that Mr. Cranford/Ten Stix notified Mr. Chesser and/or Mr. Bindseil, and/or their respective firms, and/or any other heretofore unnamed/unidentified Counsel and/or Computer Patent Annuities/CPA Global of any change of address from Morrison to Idaho Springs, to Lakewood to Morrison, Colorado.

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[12] The 15 April, 2010, Petition, at pages 5-6; the Chesser Declaration at pages 1 and 2.

[13] The 15 April, 2010, Petition, at pages 6-7; the Bindseil Declaration at pages 1 and 2.

The showing indicates that—rather than unavoidable delay—the patentee/assignee Mr. Cranford/Ten Stix apparently ignored at least:

- the content of the patent document (setting forth the maintenance fee requirements) on issue; and

- the need to inform/advise Mr. Chesser and Mr. Bindseil and/or their respective firms and/or Computer Patent Annuities/CPA Global of Mr. Cranford's/Ten Stix's several moves from Morrison to Idaho Springs to Lakewood and to Morrison, Colorado.

Moreover, Petitioner's showings/statements/declarations suggest that the patentee/assignee Mr. Cranford/Ten Stix made it difficult if not impossible for Mr. Chesser and Mr. Bindseil and/or their respective firms and/or Computer Patent Annuities/CPA Global, to contact Mr. Cranford/Ten Stix for an extended period of time.

Such facts do not suggest diligence—at least a level of diligence as required herein—on the part of those who were supposed to attend to this matter—to wit: the patentee/assignee Mr. Cranford/Ten Stix.

The provisions of 35 U.S.C. §41(c)(1) do not require an affirmative finding that the delay was avoidable, but only an explanation as to why the Petitioner has failed to carry his or her burden to establish that the delay was unavoidable.[14] The provisions of 35 U.S.C. §133 do not require the Commissioner to affirmatively find that the delay was avoidable, but only to explain why the applicant's petition was unavailing.

Petitioner is reminded that it is the patentee's/assignee's burden under the statutes and regulations to make a showing to the satisfaction of the Director that the delay in payment of a maintenance fee is unavoidable.[15]

This the patentee/assignee has/have not done.

At bottom, the question is one of diligence.[16]

Because 35 U.S.C. § 41(b) requires the payment of fees at specified intervals to maintain a patent in force, rather than some response to a specific action by the Office under 35 USC § 133, a reasonably prudent person in the exercise of due care and diligence would have taken steps to ensure the timely payment of such maintenance fees.[17] That is, an adequate showing that the delay in payment of the maintenance fee at issue was "unavoidable" within the meaning of 35

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[14] *See Commissariat A. L'Energie Atomique v. Watson*, 274 F.2d 594, 597, 124 USPQ 126, 128 (D.C. Cir. 1960).

[15] *See Rydeen v. Quigg*, 748 F. Supp. 900, 16 USPQ2d 1876 (D.D.C. 1990), aff'd 937 F.2d 623 (Fed. Cir. 1991)(table), *cert. denied*, 502 U.S. 1075 (1992); *Ray v. Lehman, supra.*

[16] *See: Changes to Patent Practice and Procedure; Final Rule Notice*, 62 *Fed. Reg.* at 53158-59 (October 10, 1997), 1203 *Off. Gaz. Pat. Office* at 86-87 (October 21, 1997). *See also: Ray v. Lehman, supra.*

[17] *Ray*, 55 F.3d at 609, 34 USPQ2d at 1788.

U.S.C. § 41(c) and 37 C.F.R. §1.378(b)(3) requires a showing of the steps taken by the responsible party to ensure the timely payment of the third/last maintenance fee for this patent.[18] There are three periods to be considered during the evaluation of a petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.378(b):

(1) The delay in reply that originally resulted in expiration;

(2) The delay in filing an initial petition pursuant to §1.378(b) to reinstate the patent; and

(3) The delay in filing a grantable petition pursuant to §1.378(b) to reinstate the patent.[19]

At the outset and as of this writing, the showing is not persuasive with regards to the nature of the delay in reply that originally resulted in expiration or as to the filing of the initial petition (Items 1 and 2), which are the only periods pertinent at this time.

Petitioner must provide documentary foundations in support of a showing of unavoidable delay.

Thus, at this writing the statements presented in/with the petition fail to satisfy the showing required to establish unavoidable delay within the meaning of 37 C.F.R. §1.378(b).

A showing of diligence in matters before the Office is essential to support a finding of unavoidable delay herein.[20] There is not "sliding scale" based upon the priority given to this maintaining this patent in force, or more diligently seeking reinstatement, *vis-a-vis* other matters by Petitioner. The issue is solely whether the maintenance, or reinstatement, of the patent at issue was actually conducted with the care or diligence that is generally used and observed by prudent and careful persons in relation to their most important business.

At this writing the record fails to adequately evidence the exercise of due care and diligence observed by prudent and careful persons, in relation to their most important business, which is necessary to establish unavoidable delay.[21]

The record at this writing does not provide a clear showing that reasonable steps were taken to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee. In fact, the record indicates that no steps were taken by Patentee(s) and/or Assignee to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee.

The provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.378(b) preclude acceptance of the delayed payment of the maintenance fee due to unavoidable delay. The regulations at 37 C.F.R. §1.378(b)(3) state that any petition to accept delayed payment of a maintenance fee must include:

---

[18] *Id.*

[19] *See* Changes to Patent Practice and Procedure; Final Rule Notice, 62 Fed. Reg. 53131 at 53158 (October 10, 1997).

[20] *See Futures Technology, Ltd. v. Quigg*, 684 F. Supp. 430, 431, 7 USPQ2d 1588 (E.D. Va. 1988)(applicant's diligent inquiry into the status of the application is required to show unavoidable delay); *Douglas v. Manbeck*, 21 USPQ2d 1697, 1699-1700 (E.D. Pa. 1991), *aff'd*, 975 F.2d 869, 24 USPQ2d 1318 (Fed. Cir. 1992) (even representation by counsel does not relieve the applicant from his obligation to exercise diligence before the USPTO; applicant's lack of diligence extending two and one half years overcame and superseded any omissions by his counsel).

[21] *Pratt, supra.*

> A showing that the delay was unavoidable since reasonable care was taken to ensure that the maintenance fee would be paid timely and that the petition was filed promptly after the patentee was notified of, or otherwise became aware of, the expiration of the patent. The showing must enumerate the steps taken to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee, the date, and the manner in which patentee became aware of the expiration of the patent, and the steps taken to file the petition promptly.

In any future filing, this showing should include, but is not limited to, docket records, tickler reports, and file jacket entries for this application, and documents regarding the alleged cause of the delay and copies of any documents referred to in Petitioner's statement as to the cause of the unavoidable delay are required. All the causes which contributed to the failure to timely pay the maintenance fee must be presented and supported with appropriate evidence.[22] (In general, a Petitioner should identify the party(ies) responsible for making the payment: A showing must be made (with supporting documents) outlining the efforts made to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee--including scheduling and calendaring information, appointment of an individual with the authority and responsibility to pay the fee, and detailing of the causes for a failure in that process.)

Thus, as of this writing, the Office is unable to grant the relief sought.

In summary, the showing of record has been considered, but does not rise to the level of unavoidable delay. Rather, the showing of record is of possible a lack of diligence. (*See*: http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/mpep/documents/2500_2590.htm#sect2590)

CONCLUSION

For the reasons stated above, the delay in this case cannot be regarded as unavoidable within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §41(c)(1) and 37 C.F.R. §1.378(b).

It is noted that the fees paid by Petitioner incorrectly included a $65.00 payment that was not applicable and, thus, inappropriate – this fee is being refunded by credit card. Should Petitioner later find that the fee was not refunded, Petitioner may submit a request for refund to the Office of Finance and include therewith a copy of this decision.

Accordingly, the petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.378(b) is **dismissed**.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

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[22] The showing must also enumerate the date and the manner in which patentee became aware of the expiration of the patent, and the steps taken to file the petition promptly. Statements from all persons who contributed to the delay are also required.

Patent No. 6,609,975
Application No. 08/918,944

By Mail: Mail Stop PETITION
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By hand: U. S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Petitions
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

By facsimile: **(571) 273-8300**
Attn: Office of Petitions

Telephone inquiries regarding this decision may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3214—it is noted, however, that all practice before the Office is in writing (see: 37 C.F.R. §1.2[23]) and the proper authority for action on any matter in this regard are the statutes (35 U.S.C.), regulations (37 C.F.R.) and the commentary on policy (MPEP). Therefore, no telephone discussion may be controlling or considered authority for Petitioner's action(s).

/John J. Gillon, Jr./
John J. Gillon, Jr.
Senior Attorney
Office of Petitions

CC:
THOMAS H. JACKSON, ESQ.
PCT LAW GROUP
818 CONNECTICUT AVENUE NW/STE. 700
WASHINGTON, DC 20006

[23] The regulations at 37 C.F.R. §1.2 provide:

§1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.
All business with the Patent and Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of Petitioners or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5,856,415	1999-01-05	08/919,725	1997-08-28	43291.010200

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	◉	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Barry G. Magidoff/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-01-07
Name	Barry G. Magidoff	Registration Number	21064

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 5856415
Issue Date: January 5,1999
Application No. 08919725
Filed: August 28,1997
Attorney Docket No. 43291.010200

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed January 7,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of January 7,2011 .
This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
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In re Patent No. 5863627
Issue Date: January 26,1999
Application No. 08920062
Filed: August 26,1997
Attorney Docket No. 50011/003001

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed March 22,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of March 22,2011 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5,863,627	1999-01-26	08/920,062	1997-08-26	

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
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SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

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I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Thomas A. Turano/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-03-22
Name	Thomas A. Turano	Registration Number	35722

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

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6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

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8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 5760508
Issue Date: June 2,1998
Application No. 08920873
Filed: August 29,1997
Attorney Docket No. 292-72

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed September 29,2010 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of September 29,2010 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5,760,508	1998-06-02	08/920,873	1997-08-29	I1086-0001

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	◉	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

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I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Sandra P. Thompson, Phd/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2010-09-29
Name	Sandra P. Thompson	Registration Number	46264

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

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6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 5975798
Issue Date: November 2,1999
Application No. 08922042
Filed: September 2,1997
Attorney Docket No.

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed January 17,2012 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of January 17,2012 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5975798	1999-11-02	08922042	1997-09-02	

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

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NOT Small Entity			Small Entity		
	Fee	Code		Fee	Code
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SURCHARGE

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MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

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PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Jeffrey C. Brown/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2012-01-17
Name	Jeffrey C. Brown	Registration Number	41643

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

WOODCOCK WASHBURN LLP
CIRA CENTRE, 12TH FLOOR
2929 ARCH STREET
PHILADELPHIA PA 19104-2891

MAILED

MAR 29 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,781,650
Issue Date: 14 July, 1998
Application No. 08/922,117
Filed: 28 August, 1997
Attorney Docket No. **QN-0011

DECISION

This is a decision on the petition filed on 18 February, 2011, under 37 C.F.R. §1.27(g)(2) requesting that status as a Small Entity be removed.

NOTE:

In view of their duty of candor to the Office to properly inquire to ascertain the accuracy of representations made before the Office (*see*: 37 C.F.R. §1.4, §10.18, MPEP §410), Petitioners always are reminded of the responsibility to review their records and submit accurate information to the Office.

Petitioner's submission is **ACCEPTED**.

In accordance with the request, status as a Small Entity will be removed, and Petitioner is required to pay fees at the schedule set forth for not-small entities. **The additional fees were charged as authorized**.

The availability of applications and application papers online to applicants/practitioners who diligently associate their Customer Number with the respective application(s) now provides an applicant/practitioner on-demand information as to events/transactions in an application.

Out of an abundance of caution, Petitioners always are reminded that that those registered to practice and all others who make representations before the Office **must** inquire into the underlying facts of representations made to the Office and support averments with the appropriate documentation–since all owe to the Office the continuing duty to disclose.[1]

[1] See supplement of 17 June, 1999. The Patent and Trademark Office is relying on Petitioner's duty of candor and good faith and accepting a statement made by Petitioner. See Changes to Patent Practice and Procedure, 62 Fed. Reg. at 53160 and 53178, 1203 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office at 88

Patent No. 5,781,650
Application No. 08/922,117

The instant application is released to IFW Files Repository in due course.

Telephone inquiries regarding this decision may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3214—it is noted, however, that all practice before the Office is in writing (see: 37 C.F.R. §1.2[2]) and the proper authority for action on any matter in this regard are the statutes (35 U.S.C.), regulations (37 C.F.R.) and the commentary on policy (MPEP). Therefore, no telephone discussion may be controlling or considered authority for Petitioner's action(s).

/John J. Gillon, Jr./
John J. Gillon, Jr.
Senior Attorney
Office of Petitions

---

and 103 (responses to comments 64 and 109)(applicant obligated under 37 C.F.R. §10.18 to inquire into the underlying facts and circumstances when providing statements to the Patent and Trademark Office).

[2] The regulations at 37 C.F.R. §1.2 provide:

§1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent and Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

GOODWIN PROCTER LLP
PATENT ADMINISTRATOR
53 STATE STREET
EXCHANGE PLACE
BOSTON MA 02109-2881

MAILED

JAN 25 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 7,181,427 :
Issue Date: February 20, 2007 :
Application No. 08/922,462 : NOTICE
Filed: September 3, 1997 :
Attorney Docket No. DLT-002NP :

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 filed December 8, 2010. On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. **See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).**

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989).** Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby accepted. The petition is **GRANTED.**

This application is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this application must be paid at the large entity rate.

This file is being forwarded to Files Repository.

Telephone inquiries related to this decision should be directed to the Kimberly Inabinet at (571) 272-4618.

/Carl Friedman/
Carl Friedman
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

Interlok Key Management, LLC
1110 Crossroads
Houston TX 77079

MAILED
NOV 21 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,466,780 :
Issue Date: October 15, 2002 :
Application No. 08/922,884 : ON PETITION
Filed: September 3, 1997 :
Attorney Docket No. :

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c), filed October 11, 2011, to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

This patent expired at midnight October 15, 2010, for failure to pay the 7½ year maintenance fee. Since this petition was submitted within twenty-four months after the six-month grace period provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e), the petition was timely filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(c).

A petition to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee under 37 CFR 1.378(c) must be accompanied by (1) a statement that the delay was unintentional, (2) payment of the appropriate maintenance fee, unless previously submitted, and (3) payment of the surcharge set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2).

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

The Power of Attorney filed on October 11, 2011, has been accepted and the attorneys' have been revoked. The correspondence address has been changed and petitioner will receive correspondence regarding this patent. However, this does not change the fee address in the patent. Therefore, petitioner will not receive future correspondence related to maintenance fees for the patent unless a "Fee Address" Indication Form (see PTO/SB/47) and Request for Customer Number (see PTO/SB/125) are submitted.

Since the petition was submitted after the six-month grace period the $75 surcharge is unnecessary. Therefore, petitioner may request for a refund of $75 by writing to the following address: Mail Stop 16, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. A copy of this decision should accompany petitioner's request.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to JoAnne Burke at (571) 272-4584.

JoAnne Burke
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING OR 371(C) DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTY. DOCKET NO./TITLE
08/922,884	09/03/1997	JOHN M. GEISELMAN	

CONFIRMATION NO. 2036

24945
STREETS & STEELE
13100 WORTHAM CENTER DRIVE, SUITE 245
HOUSTON, TX 77065

POWER OF ATTORNEY NOTICE

OC000000050982797

Date Mailed: 11/16/2011

NOTICE REGARDING CHANGE OF POWER OF ATTORNEY

This is in response to the Power of Attorney filed 10/11/2011.

- The Power of Attorney to you in this application has been revoked by the assignee who has intervened as provided by 37 CFR 3.71. Future correspondence will be mailed to the new address of record(37 CFR 1.33).

/jlburke/

Office of Data Management, Application Assistance Unit (571) 272-4000, or (571) 272-4200, or 1-888-786-0101

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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M HENRY HEINES
TOWNSEND AND TOWNSEND AND CREW
TWO EMBARCADERO CENTER 8TH FLOOR
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94111-3834

MAILED
JUN 06 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
Johann Seka et al. :
Application No. 08/922,966 : NOTICE
Patent No. 5,985,276 :
Filed: September 03, 1997 :
Attorney Docket No. **80297**

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 filed May 12, 2011.

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This application is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this application must be paid at the large entity rate.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-2783.

/Tredelle D. Jackson/
Paralegal Specialist
Office of Petitions

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5963303	1999-10-05	08923694	1997-09-04	JR-2012-Allen3

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	◉	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/jdritchison/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2012-03-07
Name	JOHN D RITCHISON	Registration Number	37222

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

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The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 5963303
Issue Date: October 5,1999
Application No. 08923694
Filed: September 4,1997
Attorney Docket No.

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed March 7,2012 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of March 7,2012 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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WILLIAM H VELKE
P O BOX 154
277 CAMPBELLVILLE ROAD
CAMPBELLVILLE L0P1B-0 CA CANADA

MAILED
JUN 03 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,888,060 :
Issue Date: March 30, 1999 :
Application No. 08/925,494 : ON PETITION
Filed: September 8, 1997 :
Attorney Docket No. :

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c), filed May 18, 2011, to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

This patent expired at midnight March 30, 2011, for failure to pay the 11½ year maintenance fee. Since this petition was submitted within twenty-four months after the six-month grace period provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e), the petition was timely filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(c).

The petition is hereby **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to JoAnne Burke at (571) 272-4584.

JoAnne Burke
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

DELLETT AND WALTERS
310 S W FOURTH AVENUE STE 1101
PORTLAND, OR 97204

MAILED
OCT 03 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,053,336 :
Issue Date: April 25, 2000 :
Application No. 08/925,920 : NOTICE
Filed: September 9, 1997 :
Attorney Docket No. S-307 :

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28. On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. **See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).**

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This application is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this application must be paid at the large entity rate.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-1642.

/AMW/
April M. Wise
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6285659	2001-09-04	08926514	1997-09-10	

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity			Small Entity		
	Fee	Code		Fee	Code
◯	3 ½ year	(1551)	◯	3 ½ year	(2551)
◉	7 ½ year	(1552)	◯	7 ½ year	(2552)
◯	11 ½ year	(1553)	◯	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

◯ A sole patentee

◯ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

◯ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

◯ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Kendal M. Sheets/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2010-09-03
Name	Kendal M. Sheets	Registration Number	47077

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 6285659
Issue Date: September 4,2001
Application No. 08926514
Filed: September 10,1997
Attorney Docket No. 30019-43US01

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed September 3,2010 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 7.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of September 3,2010 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5,855,322	1999-01-05	08/927,221	1997-09-10	97818.00001 - 57556/139

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	◉	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Mark D. Giarratana/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-03-08
Name	Mark D. Giarratana	Registration Number	32615

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
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In re Patent No. 5855322
Issue Date: January 5,1999
Application No. 08927221
Filed: September 10,1997
Attorney Docket No. 57556/139

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed March 8,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of March 8,2011 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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STITES & HARBISON PLLC
1199 NORTH FAIRFAX STREET
SUITE 900
ALEXANDRIA VA 22314

MAILED

NOV 07 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent of	:	
Lubomyr I. Kuzmak	:	
Patent No. RE36176	:	
Issue Date: 03/30/1999	:	
Original Patent No. 5,449,368	:	
Original Issue Date: 09/12/1995	:	
Application No 08/927494	:	DECISION
Filing or 371(c) Date: 09/11/1997	:	ON PETITION
Title of Invention:	:	
LAPAROSCOPIC ADJUSTABLE	:	
GASTRIC BANDING DEVICE AND	:	
METHOD FOR IMPLANTATION AND	:	
REMOVAL THEREOF	:	

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR § 1.378(b), to reinstate the above-identified patent based upon an unavoidably delayed payment of the maintenance fee, filed October 17, 2011.

The petition is **DISMISSED**.

Any further petition to revive the above-identified application must be submitted within TWO (2) MONTHS from the mail date of this decision. Extensions of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) are permitted. The reconsideration request should include a cover letter entitled "Petition under 37 CFR 1.378(b)." This is **not** final agency action within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. § 704.

Background

The patent is a reissue of U.S. Patent No. 5,449,368, issued September 12, 1995. Patentee could have paid the seven and one half (7½) year maintenance fee between September 12, 2002, and March 12, 2003, without a surcharge, or within the six (6) month grace period between March 13, 2003 and September 12, 2003. Patentee failed to do so; accordingly, the patent became expired on September 13, 2003.

Moreover, Patentee could have paid the eleven and one half (11½) year maintenance fee between September 12, 2006, and March 12, 2007, without a surcharge, or within the six (6) month grace period between March 13, 2007 and September 12, 2007. Patentee failed to do so.

The present petition

Petitioner files the present petition to reinstate the above-identified patent based upon an unavoidably delayed payment of the maintenance fee and the three and one half (3½) year maintenance fee.

Initially it is noted that the petition requires a surcharge of $700.00. The surcharge and the balance of the seven and one half (7½) year maintenance fee ($2,850.00 - $1,130.00 = $1,720.00), and the eleven and one half (11½) year maintenance fee, $4,730.00, for a total of $7,150.00 ($700.00 + $1,720.00 + $4,730.00), have been charged to petitioner's deposit account.

It is also noted that the present patent was assigned in an assignment recorded in this Office on December 18, 2001. However, petitioner herein is not identified as the assignee of the present patent, nor has petitioner provided any showing that she is otherwise authorized to act on behalf of the assignee.

Finally, no showing as to why the payment of the maintenance fee(s) was unavoidably delayed is provided with the present petition.

Applicable Law, Rules and MPEP

37 CFR 1.378(b) provides that a patent may be reinstated at any time following expiration of the patent for failure to timely pay a maintenance fee. A petition to accept late payment of a maintenance fee, where the delay was unavoidable, must include:

> (A) the required maintenance fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g);
> (B) the surcharge set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(i)(1); and
> (C) a showing that the delay was unavoidable since reasonable care was taken to ensure that the maintenance fee would be paid timely and that the petition was filed promptly after the patentee was notified of, or otherwise became aware of, the expiration of the patent.

The required showing must enumerate the steps taken to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee, the date and the manner in which patentee became aware of the expiration of the patent, and the steps taken to file the petition promptly. Furthermore, an adequate showing requires a statement by all persons with direct knowledge of the cause of the delay, setting forth the facts as they know them. Copies of all documentary evidence referred to in a statement should be furnished as exhibits to the statement.

As language in 35 U.S.C. § 41(c)(1) is identical to that in 35 U.S.C. § 133 (i.e., "unavoidable" delay), a late maintenance fee for the unavoidable delay standard is considered under the same standard for reviving an abandoned application under 35 U.S.C. § 133. See Ray v. Lehman, 55 F.3d 606, 608-09, 34 USPQ2d 1786, 1787 (Fed. Cir. 1995) (quoting In re Patent No. 4,409,763,

7 USPQ2d 1798, 1800 (Comm'r Pat. 1988), aff 'd sub nom. Rydeen v. Quigg, 748 F. Supp. 900, 16 USPQ2d 1876 (D.D.C. 1990), aff 'd, 937 F.2d 623 (Fed. Cir. 1991) (table), cert. denied, 502 U.S. 1075 (1992)). See MPEP § 711.03(c) for a general discussion of the "unavoidable" delay standard.

Because 35 U.S.C. § 41(c) requires the payment of fees at specified intervals to maintain a patent in force, rather than some response to a specific action by the Office under 35 U.S.C. § 133, a reasonably prudent person in the exercise of due care and diligence would have taken steps to ensure the timely payment of such maintenance fees. Ray, 55 F.3d at 609, 34 USPQ2d at 1788. That is, an adequate showing that the delay in payment of the maintenance fee at issue was "unavoidable" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 41(c) and 37 CFR 1.378(b)(3) requires a showing of the steps taken to ensure the timely payment of the maintenance fees for this patent. Id. Thus, where the record fails to disclose that the patentee took reasonable steps, or discloses that the patentee took no steps, to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee, 35 U.S.C. 41(c) and 37 CFR 1.378(b)(3) preclude acceptance of the delayed payment of the maintenance fee under 37 CFR 1.378(b).

In view of the requirement to enumerate the steps taken to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee, the patentee's lack of knowledge of the need to pay the maintenance fee and the failure to receive the Maintenance Fee Reminder does not constitute unavoidable delay. See Patent No. 4,409,763, supra. See also Final Rule entitled "Final Rules for Patent Maintenance Fees," published in the Federal Register at 49 Fed. Reg. 34716, 34722-23 (August 31, 1984), and republished in the Official Gazette at 1046 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 28, 34 (September 25, 1984). Under the statutes and rules, the Office has no duty to notify patentees of the requirement to pay maintenance fees or to notify patentees when the maintenance fees are due. It is solely the responsibility of the patentee to assure that the maintenance fee is timely paid to prevent expiration of the patent. The lack of knowledge of the requirement to pay a maintenance fee and the failure to receive the Maintenance Fee Reminder will not shift the burden of monitoring the time for paying a maintenance fee from the patentee to the Office. Thus, evidence that despite reasonable care on behalf of the patentee and/or the patentee's agents, and reasonable steps to ensure timely payment, the maintenance fee was unavoidably not paid, could be submitted in support of an argument that the delay in payment was unavoidable.

Moreover, the Patent and Trademark Office must rely on the actions or inactions of duly authorized and voluntarily chosen representatives of the applicant, and applicant is bound by the consequences of those actions or inactions. Link v. Wabash, 370 U.S. 626, 633-34 (1962); Huston v. Ladner, 973 F.2d 1564, 1567, 23 USPQ2d 1910, 1913 (Fed. Cir. 1992); see also Haines v. Quigg, 673 F. Supp. 314, 317, 5 USPQ2d 1130, 1132 (D.N. Ind. 1987). Specifically, petitioner's delay caused by the actions or inactions of his voluntarily chosen representative does not constitute unavoidable delay within the meaning of 35 USC 133 or 37 CFR 1.137(a). Haines v. Quigg, 673 F. Supp. 314, 5 USPQ2d 1130 (D. Ind. 1987); Smith v. Diamond, 209 USPQ 1091 (D.D.C. 1981); Potter v. Dann, 201 USPQ 574 (D.D.C. 1978); Ex parte Murray, 1891 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 130, 131 (Comm'r Pat. 1891). In re Mattullath, 38 App. D.C. 497, 514-15 (1912)(quoting Ex parte Pratt, 1887 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 31, 32-33 (1887)); see also Winkler v. Ladd, 221 F. Supp. 550, 552, 138 USPQ 666, 167-68 (D.D.C. 1963), aff'd, 143 USPQ 172 (D.C. Cir. 1963); Ex parte Henrich, 1913 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 139, 141 (1913).

Opinion

As indicated above, the person signing the petition has not demonstrated that she is authorized to act in this patent. Petitioner's attention is directed to 37 CFR 1.33(b), which states.

> (b) Amendments and other papers. Amendments and other papers, except for written assertions pursuant to § 1.27(c)(2)(ii) of this part, filed in the application must be signed by:
> (1) A registered patent attorney or patent agent of record appointed in compliance with § 1.32(b);
> (2) A registered patent attorney or patent agent not of record who acts in a representative capacity under the provisions of § 1.34;
> (3) An assignee as provided for under §3.71(b) of this chapter; or
> (4) All of the applicants (§ 1.41(b)) for patent, unless there is an assignee of the entire interest and such assignee has taken action in the application in accordance with § 3.71 of this chapter.

An unsigned amendment (or other paper) or one not properly signed by a person having authority to prosecute the application is not entered. This applies, for instance, where the amendment (or other paper) is signed by only one of two applicants and the one signing has not been given a power of attorney by the other applicant.

Therefore, as petitioner herein has not shown that she is an assignee of the entire interest and has complied with the provisions of 37 CFR 3.73(b), the petition is considered to not contain a proper statement of unavoidable delay.

As to a showing of unavoidable delay, the applicable law requires a showing that the delay in paying the maintenance fee was unavoidable despite reasonable care being taken to ensure that the maintenance fee would be timely paid. The required showing must enumerate the steps taken to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee, the date and the manner in which patentee became aware of the expiration of the patent, and the steps taken to file the petition promptly. Petitioner has not provided a showing as to any steps that were in place to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fees, or the date and the manner in which petitioner became aware of the expiration of the patent, and the steps taken to file the petition promptly. Where, as here, the record fails to disclose that the patentee took reasonable steps, or discloses that the patentee took no steps, to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee, 35 U.S.C. 41(c) and 37 CFR 1.378(b)(3) preclude acceptance of the delayed payment of the maintenance fee under 37 CFR 1.378(b).

Petitioner is also advised that under the statutes and rules, petitioner must account for the entire delay, from the time the maintenance fee was due, to the filing of a grantable petition. Here, the patent expired on September 13, 2003, for failing to pay the maintenance fee. Petitioner must account for the entire delay, from September 14, 2003, to the filing of the petition, and demonstrate that despite having steps that were in place to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fees, the maintenance fee was unavoidably delayed for the entire period of delay.

Furthermore, an adequate showing requires a statement by all persons with direct knowledge of the cause of the delay, setting forth the facts as they know them. Copies of all documentary evidence referred to in a statement should be furnished as exhibits to the statement.

Conclusion

Patentee has failed to submit a properly executed petition, and has failed to demonstrate that the entire delay in payment of the maintenance fees was unavoidable.

Correspondence address

A review of the petition reveals that the address appearing on the petition differs from the correspondence address of record. Applicant is advised that, in patented files: requests for changes of correspondence address, powers of attorney, revocations of powers of attorney, withdrawal of attorney and submissions under 37 CFR 1.501: Designation of, or changes to, a fee address, should be addressed to Mail Stop M Correspondence.

A change of address should be filed in this case in accordance with MPEP 601.03. A courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the address noted on the petition. However, until otherwise instructed, all future correspondence regarding this application will be mailed solely to the address of record.

Petitioner's current options

I. Petitioner may file a request for reconsideration.

If reconsideration of this decision is desired, a petition for reconsideration must be filed within TWO (2) MONTHS from the mail date of this decision.[1] The petition for reconsideration should be entitled "Petition for Reconsideration under 37 CFR 1.378(b)." Any petition for reconsideration of this decision must be accompanied by a non-refundable petition fee of $400 as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(h).

After a decision on the petition for reconsideration, no further reconsideration or review of the matter will be undertaken by the Commissioner. Therefore, it is extremely important that petitioner supply **any** and **all** relevant information and documentation with his request for reconsideration. The Commissioner's decision will be based solely on the administrative record in existence. Petitioner should remember that it is not enough that the delay was unavoidable; petitioner must prove that the delay was unavoidable. A petition will not be granted if petitioner provides insufficient evidence to 'show' that the delay was unavoidable. Therefore, if a request for reconsideration is filed, it must establish that the entire delay in the submission of the maintenance fee was unavoidable.

II. Petitioner may request a refund of the maintenance fee and surcharge which accompanied the petition.

---

[1] No extension of this two-month time limit can be granted under 37 CFR 1.136(a) or (b). This is **not** a final agency action within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. § 704.

Petitioner may request a refund of the maintenance fee and surcharge by writing to the Office of Finance, Refund Section, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC, 20231. A copy of this decision should accompany petitioner's request.

A review of the petition reveals that the address appearing on the petition differs from the correspondence address of record. Applicant is advised that, in patented files: requests for changes of correspondence address, powers of attorney, revocations of powers of attorney, withdrawal of attorney and submissions under 37 CFR 1.501: Designation of, or changes to, a fee address, should be addressed to Mail Stop M Correspondence.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail: Mail Stop PETITIONS
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By FAX: (571) 273-8300
Attn: Office of Petitions

By hand: Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3232.

/DLW/

Derek L. Woods
Attorney
Office of Petitions

CC: DOROTHY STRADFORD
P.O. BOX 1222
NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ 08933

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 5970856
Issue Date: October 26,1999
Application No. 08927685
Filed: September 11,1997
Attorney Docket No. 52065/129

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed February 24,2012 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of February 24,2012 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5,970,856	1999-10-26	08927685	1997-09-11	052065-0129

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity			Small Entity		
	Fee	Code		Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
◉	11 ½ year	(1553)	○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Stephen B. Maebius/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2012-02-24
Name	Stephen B. Maebius	Registration Number	35264

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 5923229
Issue Date: July 13,1999
Application No. 08928340
Filed: September 12,1997
Attorney Docket No. 030649-009

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed September 28,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of September 28,2011 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5923229	1999-07-13	08928340	1997-09-12	GRAW103

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity			Small Entity		
	Fee	Code		Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	◉	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Robert L. Shaver/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-09-27
Name	Robert L. Shaver	Registration Number	42145

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

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2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

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4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6,308,602	2001-10-30	08/929,012	1997-09-08	105006.61164C1

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
◉	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Michael H. Jacobs/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2010-12-21
Name	Michael H. Jacobs	Registration Number	41870

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

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The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

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3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re Patent No. 6308602
Issue Date: October 30,2001
Application No. 08929012
Filed: September 8,1997
Attorney Docket No. G48-1024-1FW

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed December 21,2010 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 7.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of December 21,2010 .
This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re Patent No. 5861938
Issue Date: January 19,1999
Application No. 08929880
Filed: September 15,1997
Attorney Docket No. 058301-002100

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed February 24,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of February 24,2011 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5,861,938	1999-01-19	08929880	1997-09-15	058301-002100

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity

	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)
◉	11 ½ year	(1553)

Small Entity

	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Joey C. Yao - Reg. No. 63,810/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-02-24
Name	Joey C. Yao	Registration Number	63810

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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Organogenesis, Inc.
150 Dan Road
Canton MA 02021

MAILED

JUN 06 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,228,607 :
Issue Date: May 8, 2001 :
Application No. 08/930,534 : ON PETITION
Filed: February 25, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No. **A31369PCTUSA** :

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c), filed May 6, 2011, to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

This patent expired at midnight May 8, 2009, for failure to pay the 7½ year maintenance fee. Since this petition was submitted within twenty-four months after the six-month grace period provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e), the petition was timely filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(c).

The maintenance fee is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to JoAnne Burke at (571) 272-4584.

JoAnne Burke
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6,664,359	2003-12-16	08/930,771	1997-10-02	51093US002

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity

	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)
◉	7 ½ year	(1552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)

Small Entity

	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Jean A. Lown/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2012-02-15
Name	Jean A. Lown	Registration Number	48428

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

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4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

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6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 6664359
Issue Date: December 16,2003
Application No. 08930771
Filed: October 2,1997
Attorney Docket No. 51093USA4C

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed February 15,2012 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 7.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of February 15,2012 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5,935,855	1999-08-10	08/930,970	1998-02-26	72684/INTERT

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity			Small Entity		
	Fee	Code		Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	◉	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/William J. McNichol/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-10-13
Name	William J. McNichol	Registration Number	31179

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

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5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 5935855
Issue Date: August 10,1999
Application No. 08930970
Filed: February 26,1998
Attorney Docket No. 72684/INTERT

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed October 13,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of October 13,2011 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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THORPE NORTH & WESTERN, LLP.
P.O. BOX 1219
SANDY, UT 84091-1219

MAILED

NOV 05 2010

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,891,216 :
Issue Date: April 6, 1999 :
Application No. 08/931,426 : NOTICE
Filed: September 16, 1997 :
Attorney Docket No. None :

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28, filed on October 19, 2010.

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue patent under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **DISMISSED**.

The request under 37 CFR 1.28 cannot be accepted at this time since it appears that the petition is signed on the behalf of the assignee and fails to comply with the requirements of 37 CFR 3.73(b).

37 CFR 3.73(b) provides that: (1) when an assignee seeks to take action in a matter before the Office, the assignee must establish its ownership of the property to the satisfaction of the Commissioner; (2) ownership is established by submitting to the Office, in the Office file related to the matter in which action is sought to be taken, documentary evidence of a chain of title from the original owner to the assignee (e.g., copy of an executed assignment submitted for recording) or by specifying (e.g., reel and frame number) where such evidence is recorded in the Office; (3) the submission establishing ownership must be signed by a party authorized to act on behalf of the assignee; and (4) documents submitted to establish ownership may be required to be recorded as a condition to permitting the assignee to take action in a matter pending before the Office.

Accordingly, the request cannot be accepted until it is signed by all inventors, an attorney or agent registered to practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office or the assignee of the entire interest under 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By Mail: Mail Stop PETITION
Commissioner for Patents
Post Office Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By Hand: U. S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Petitions
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

The centralized facsimile number is (571) 273-8300.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-6059.

A. Kelley

Alicia Kelley
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

cc: DAVID COOPER
DENNEMEYER & CO LTD
REGENT HOUSE HEATON LANE
STOCKPORT CHESHIRE
ENGLAND SK4 1BB

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
08/932,428	09/17/1997	STEVEN R.J. BRUECK	28516.1100	5307

7590 08/20/2010

HOWARD I SOBELMAN
SNELL & WILMER
ONE ARIZONA CENTER
400 EAST VAN BUREN
PHOENIX, AZ 850040001

EXAMINER	
HOLLOMAN, JILL N	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1756	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
08/20/2010	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
P.O. BOX 1450
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

8/20/10

In re Patent No. 6,042,998	:	
Issue Date: March 28, 2000	:	**DECISION GRANTING**
Appl No.: 08/932,428	:	**PETITION**
Filed: September 17, 1997	:	*37 CFR 1.324*
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR EXTENDING SPATIAL FREQUENCIES IN PHOTOLITHOGRAPHY IMAGES	:	

This is a decision on the petition filed May 22, 2008 to correct inventorship under 37 CFR 1.324.

The petition is granted.

The patented file is being forwarded to Certificate of Corrections Branch for issuance of a certificate naming only the actual inventor or inventors.

Mark F. Huff
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1795
Technology Center 1700

HOWARD I SOBELMAN
SNELL & WILMER
ONE ARIZONA CENTER
400 EAST VAN BUREN
PHOENIX, AZ 85004-0001

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5,905,570	1999-05-18	08/933,340	1997-09-18	68112/L617

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity			Small Entity		
	Fee	Code		Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
◉	11 ½ year	(1553)	○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/David W. Klinger/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-11-07
Name	David W. Klinger	Registration Number	60705

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 5905570
Issue Date: May 18,1999
Application No. 08933340
Filed: September 18,1997
Attorney Docket No. 22870.009

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed November 7,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of November 7,2011 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6618335	2003-09-09	08933825	1997-09-19	

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity			Small Entity		
	Fee	Code		Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
◉	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Marvin Motsenbocker/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2012-03-23
Name	Marvin A. Motsenbocker	Registration Number	36614

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

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1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

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4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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In re Patent No. 6618335
Issue Date: September 9,2003
Application No. 08933825
Filed: September 19,1997
Attorney Docket No. 402/497

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed March 23,2012 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 7.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of March 23,2012 .
This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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LEOPOLD PRESSER
SCULLY SCOTT MURPHY & PRESSER
400 GARDEN CITY PLAZA
GARDEN CITY NY 11530

MAILED

SEP 07 2010

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,355,861	: DECISION GRANTING PETITION
Issue Date: March 12, 2002	: UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) AND
Application No. 08/934,254	: REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF
Filed: September 19, 1997	: CORRECTION
Attorney Docket No. 8383ZYXWVU	:

This is a decision on the petition, filed April 27, 2010, which is being treated as a petition under 37 CFR 1.78 seeking to add a claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 to nonprovisional Application No. 08/366,779, filed December 30, 1994, by way of a certificate of correction.

The petition is **granted**.

This application was filed before November 29, 2000. In applications filed before November 29, 2000, it is the version of 37 CFR 1.78 which was in effect as of November 29, 2000 that applies.

A review of the file record fails to disclose that a claim for the benefit of priority to the above-noted, prior-filed nonprovisional application was made during the prosecution of the instant application.

A petition under 37 CFR 1.78 along with submission of a Certificate of Correction, is the appropriate avenue of relief to accept a late claim for the benefit of priority to a prior-filed nonprovisional application after issuance of the application into a patent. *See* MPEP 1481.03(II).

As the petition for acceptance of an unintentionally delayed claim for the benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 to the above-noted, prior-filed nonprovisional application satisfies the conditions of 37 CFR 1.78, the petition is granted.

A corrected Filing Receipt, which includes the priority claim to the above-noted, prior-filed nonprovisional application, accompanies this decision on petition.

Petitioner is advised that the granting of this petition and the mailing of a corrected Filing Receipt should not be viewed as an indication that a determination has been made that this application is entitled to claim benefit of the prior-filed application. A determination that

applicant is entitled to claim benefit of the prior-filed application will be made by the Examiner prior to the mailing of a certificate of correction.

Any inquiries concerning this decision may be directed to Carl Friedman at (571) 272-6842.

This application is being referred to the Certificates of Correction Branch for processing the request for a certificate of correction in accordance with this decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3).

Carl Friedman
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

ATTACHMENT: Corrected Filing Receipt

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING or 371(c) DATE	GRP ART UNIT	FIL FEE REC'D	ATTY.DOCKET.NO	TOT CLAIMS	IND CLAIMS
08/934,254	09/19/1997	1638	3616	8383ZYXWVU	128	4

CONFIRMATION NO. 7246

CORRECTED FILING RECEIPT

LEOPOLD PRESSER
SCULLY SCOTT MURPHY & PRESSER
400 GARDEN CITY PLAZA
GARDEN CITY, NY 11530

OC000000043353110

Date Mailed: 09/07/2010

Receipt is acknowledged of this non-provisional patent application. The application will be taken up for examination in due course. Applicant will be notified as to the results of the examination. Any correspondence concerning the application must include the following identification information: the U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER, FILING DATE, NAME OF APPLICANT, and TITLE OF INVENTION. Fees transmitted by check or draft are subject to collection. Please verify the accuracy of the data presented on this receipt. **If an error is noted on this Filing Receipt, please submit a written request for a Filing Receipt Correction. Please provide a copy of this Filing Receipt with the changes noted thereon. If you received a "Notice to File Missing Parts" for this application, please submit any corrections to this Filing Receipt with your reply to the Notice. When the USPTO processes the reply to the Notice, the USPTO will generate another Filing Receipt incorporating the requested corrections**

Applicant(s)

TERRY L. THOMAS, COLLEGE STATION, TX;

Power of Attorney:
Leopold Presser--19827

Domestic Priority data as claimed by applicant

This application is a CIP of 08/789,936 01/28/1997 PAT 5,789,220
which is a CIP of 08/307,382 09/14/1994 PAT 5,552,306
which is a CON of 07/959,952 10/13/1992 ABN
which is a CIP of 07/817,919 01/08/1992 ABN
which is a CIP of 07/774,475 10/10/1991 ABN
and said 08/789,936 01/28/1997
is a CON of 08/366,779 12/30/1994 PAT 5,614,393
which is a CIP of 08/307,382 09/14/1994 PAT 5,552,306
which is a CON of 07/959,952 10/13/1992 ABN
which is a CIP of 07/817,919 01/08/1992 ABN
which is a CIP of 07/774,475 10/10/1991 ABN

Foreign Applications

If Required, Foreign Filing License Granted: 11/18/1997
The country code and number of your priority application, to be used for filing abroad under the Paris Convention, is **US 08/934,254**
Projected Publication Date: None, application is not eligible for pre-grant publication
Non-Publication Request: No

Early Publication Request: No
Title

PRODUCTION OF GAMMA LINOLENIC ACID BY A DELTA 6 DESATURASE

Preliminary Class

800

PROTECTING YOUR INVENTION OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

Since the rights granted by a U.S. patent extend only throughout the territory of the United States and have no effect in a foreign country, an inventor who wishes patent protection in another country must apply for a patent in a specific country or in regional patent offices. Applicants may wish to consider the filing of an international application under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT). An international (PCT) application generally has the same effect as a regular national patent application in each PCT-member country. The PCT process **simplifies** the filing of patent applications on the same invention in member countries, but **does not result** in a grant of "an international patent" and does not eliminate the need of applicants to file additional documents and fees in countries where patent protection is desired.

Almost every country has its own patent law, and a person desiring a patent in a particular country must make an application for patent in that country in accordance with its particular laws. Since the laws of many countries differ in various respects from the patent law of the United States, applicants are advised to seek guidance from specific foreign countries to ensure that patent rights are not lost prematurely.

Applicants also are advised that in the case of inventions made in the United States, the Director of the USPTO must issue a license before applicants can apply for a patent in a foreign country. The filing of a U.S. patent application serves as a request for a foreign filing license. The application's filing receipt contains further information and guidance as to the status of applicant's license for foreign filing.

Applicants may wish to consult the USPTO booklet, "General Information Concerning Patents" (specifically, the section entitled "Treaties and Foreign Patents") for more information on timeframes and deadlines for filing foreign patent applications. The guide is available either by contacting the USPTO Contact Center at 800-786-9199, or it can be viewed on the USPTO website at http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/doc/general/index.html.

For information on preventing theft of your intellectual property (patents, trademarks and copyrights), you may wish to consult the U.S. Government website, http://www.stopfakes.gov. Part of a Department of Commerce initiative, this website includes self-help "toolkits" giving innovators guidance on how to protect intellectual property in specific countries such as China, Korea and Mexico. For questions regarding patent enforcement issues, applicants may call the U.S. Government hotline at 1-866-999-HALT (1-866-999-4158).

LICENSE FOR FOREIGN FILING UNDER

Title 35, United States Code, Section 184

Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, 5.11 & 5.15

GRANTED

The applicant has been granted a license under 35 U.S.C. 184, if the phrase "IF REQUIRED, FOREIGN FILING LICENSE GRANTED" followed by a date appears on this form. Such licenses are issued in all applications where

the conditions for issuance of a license have been met, regardless of whether or not a license may be required as set forth in 37 CFR 5.15. The scope and limitations of this license are set forth in 37 CFR 5.15(a) unless an earlier license has been issued under 37 CFR 5.15(b). The license is subject to revocation upon written notification. The date indicated is the effective date of the license, unless an earlier license of similar scope has been granted under 37 CFR 5.13 or 5.14.

This license is to be retained by the licensee and may be used at any time on or after the effective date thereof unless it is revoked. This license is automatically transferred to any related applications(s) filed under 37 CFR 1.53(d). This license is not retroactive.

The grant of a license does not in any way lessen the responsibility of a licensee for the security of the subject matter as imposed by any Government contract or the provisions of existing laws relating to espionage and the national security or the export of technical data. Licensees should apprise themselves of current regulations especially with respect to certain countries, of other agencies, particularly the Office of Defense Trade Controls, Department of State (with respect to Arms, Munitions and Implements of War (22 CFR 121-128)); the Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce (15 CFR parts 730-774); the Office of Foreign AssetsControl, Department of Treasury (31 CFR Parts 500+) and the Department of Energy.

NOT GRANTED

No license under 35 U.S.C. 184 has been granted at this time, if the phrase "IF REQUIRED, FOREIGN FILING LICENSE GRANTED" DOES NOT appear on this form. Applicant may still petition for a license under 37 CFR 5.12, if a license is desired before the expiration of 6 months from the filing date of the application. If 6 months has lapsed from the filing date of this application and the licensee has not received any indication of a secrecy order under 35 U.S.C. 181, the licensee may foreign file the application pursuant to 37 CFR 5.15(b).

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5,885,954	1999-03-23	08/934,962	1997-09-22	TPC-004

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	◉	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/JDLR/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-09-22
Name	John de la Rosa	Registration Number	34317

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 5885954
Issue Date: March 23,1999
Application No. 08934962
Filed: September 22,1997
Attorney Docket No. 176004

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed September 22,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of September 22,2011 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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NIXON & VANDERHYE, PC
901 NORTH GLEBE ROAD, 11TH FLOOR
ARLINGTON VA 22203

MAILED

SEP 24 2010

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

ON PETITION

In re Patent No. 6,391,336 :
Issue Date: May 21, 2002 :
Application No. 08/935,300 :
Filed: September 22, 1997
Title of Invention: **INORGANIC-POLYMER COMPLEXES FOR THE CONTROLLED RELEASE OF COMPOUNDS INCLUDING MEDICINALS**

This is a decision on the petition filed August 17, 2010 under 37 CFR 1.378(c)[1], to accept the delayed payment of the maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED.**

The patent issued on May 21, 2002. The second maintenance fee due could have been paid during the period from May 21, 2009 to November 23, 2009 or, with a surcharge during the period from November 24, 2009 to May 21, 2010. Accordingly, this patent expired on May 21, 2010 for failure to timely remit the second maintenance fee.

Accordingly, the maintenance fee in this case is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is hereby reinstated as of the mail date of this decision. Fees in the amount of $1240.00 for the second maintenance fee and $1,640.00 for the surcharge have been charged to the credit card provided.

Also, please note, the fee address has been changed. If petitioner desires to receive future correspondence regarding any Maintenance Fee Reminder which **may** be mailed concerning this patent, a Fee Address should be submitted to Maintenance Fee Division.

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned Petitions Attorney at (571) 272-3212.

Patricia Faison-Ball

Patricia Faison-Ball
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

cc:
GARFIELD P. ROYER
4580F MACK AVENUE
FREDERICK, MD 21703

[1] 37 CFR 1.378(c) provides that a petition to accept an unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee must be filed within twenty-four months of the six-month grace period provided in § 1.362(e) and must include:
(1) The required maintenance fee set forth in § 1.20(e) through (g);
(2) The surcharge set forth in § 1.20(l)(2); and
(3) A statement that the delay in payment of the maintenance fee was unintentional.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6422941	2002-07-23	08935762	1997-09-23	VRFC004

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	◉	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

○ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

◉ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

The Assignee of record of the entire interest			
Under 37 CFR 3.71 an assignee becomes of record by filing a statement in compliance with 37 CFR 3.73(b). Signature requirements are set forth in 37 CFR 1.4(d), and the undersigned certifies that he / she is empowered to act on behalf of the assignee of the entire interest			
Signature	/Craig Thorner/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2007-09-28
Name	Craig Thorner		
Enter Reel and Frame Number		Remove	
Reel Number	009120	Frame Number	0762
Click ADD for additional Reel Number and Frame Number		Add	

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

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2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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In re Patent No. 6422941
Issue Date: July 23,2002
Application No. 08935762
Filed: September 23,1997
Attorney Docket No. VRFC004

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed September 28,2010 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 7.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of September 28,2010 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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MAILED
JAN 23 2012
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

CPA GLOBAL
2318 MILL RD
SUITE 12 FLOOR
ALEXANDRIA VA 22314

In re
Weiguo Lu
Application No. 08/936,607
Filed: September 24, 1997
Patent No. 5,981,239
Issued: November 9, 1999

DECISION

This is a decision on the fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28(c), filed December 22, 2011.

The fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 of $2675 for the 11.5 year maintenance fee is hereby accepted.

The change of status to large entity has been entered.

$2675 has been charged to Deposit Account No. 50-4623, as authorized.

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3207.

Cliff Congo
Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

IAN FINCHAM
MCFADDEN, FINCHAM
SUITE 606 - 225 METCALFE STREET
OTTAWA, ONTARIO K2P1P-9 CA
CANADA

MAILED
JAN 12 2012
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of	:	
Arnold Kastner	:	
Application No. 08/936812	:	
Filing or 371(c) Date: 09/24/1997	:	ON PETITION
Patent No. 6116245	:	
Issue Date: 09/12/2000	:	
Title of Invention:	:	
APPARATUS FOR PACKAGING	:	
TUBULAR ARTICLES	:	

This is a notice regarding request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28. On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. **See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).**

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989).** Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED.**

This application is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this application must be paid at the large entity rate.

A review of the petition reveals that the address appearing on the petition differs from the correspondence address of record. Applicant is advised that, in patented files: requests for changes of correspondence address, powers of attorney, revocations of powers of attorney, withdrawal of attorney and submissions under 37 CFR 1.501: Designation of, or changes to, a fee address, should be addressed to Mail Stop M Correspondence.

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3232.

/DLW/

Derek L. Woods
Attorney
Office of Petitions

CC: Andrus Sceales Starke and Sawall
100 E Wisconsin Ave, Suite 1100
Milwaukee, WI 53202

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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Paper No.

JAMES E BRUNTON
PO BOX 29000
700 NORTH BRAND BLVD
SUITE 1190
GLENDALE CA 91209-9000

MAILED
NOV 02 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,058,854 :
Tarnay et al. :
Issue Date: May 9, 2000 :
Application No. 08/937,014 : NOTICE REGARDING DEFICIENCY
Filed: September 24, 1997 :
Atty Docket No. 97014 :

This is a notice regarding your letter received October 18, 2011, notifying the Office of loss of entitlement to small entity status and requesting acceptance of a fee deficiency submission as provided for in 37 CFR 1.28.

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. 1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989). Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

The instant request included an itemization and payment of the deficiency in payment of fees.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

Payment of the deficiency has been treated under § 1.27(g)(2) as a notification of a loss of entitlement to small entity status.

Telephone inquiries related to this decision should be directed to the undersigned at 571-272-3219.

Nancy Johnson
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

Paper No.

SHELDON MAK & ANDERSON PC
100 Corson Street
3rd Floor
Pasadena, CA 91103

MAILED
DEC 05 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,058,854 :
Tarnay et al. :
Issue Date: May 9, 2000 : **RE-MAILED**
Application No. 08/937,014 : NOTICE REGARDING DEFICIENCY
Filed: September 24, 1997 :
Atty Docket No. 97014 :

This is a notice regarding your letter received October 18, 2011, notifying the Office of loss of entitlement to small entity status and requesting acceptance of a fee deficiency submission as provided for in 37 CFR 1.28.

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. 1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989). Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

The instant request included an itemization and payment of the deficiency in payment of fees.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

Payment of the deficiency has been treated under § 1.27(g)(2) as a notification of a loss of entitlement to small entity status.

Telephone inquiries related to this decision should be directed to the undersigned at 571-272-3219.

Nancy Johnson
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 5951349
Issue Date: September 14,1999
Application No. 08937308
Filed: October 2,1997
Attorney Docket No. H201104

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed September 28,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of September 28,2011 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5951349	1999-09-14	08937308	1997-10-02	H-201104

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity			Small Entity		
	Fee	Code		Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
◉	11 ½ year	(1553)	○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/James M. Chan/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-09-28
Name	James M. Chan	Registration Number	51183

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

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2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

JOHN T PEOPLES
14 BLUE JAY COURT
WARREN NJ 07059

MAILED

JUN 15 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,905,261	:	
Issued: May 18, 1999	:	
Application No. 08/937,715	:	ON PETITION
Filed: September 25, 1997	:	
Attorney Docket No. SCHOTLAND-IS	:	

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 filed May 12, 2011.

On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. **See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).**

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This patent is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this patent must be paid at the large entity rate.

It is not apparent whether the person signing the instant petition was ever given a power of attorney or authorization of agent regarding this patent. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.34(a), the signature appearing on the petition shall constitute a representation to the United States Patent and Trademark Office that he/she is authorized to represent the particular party in whose behalf he/she acts. While, a courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the address given on the petition, the Office will mail all future correspondence solely to the address of record.

Telephone inquires concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-7751.

/Joan Olszewski/
Joan Olszewski
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

cc: Kevin Oliver
Perkinelmer Health Sciences, Inc.
940 Winter Street
Waltham, MA 02451

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
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BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.
TEN SOUTH WACKER DRIVE
SUITE 3000
CHICAGO, IL 60606

MAILED
NOV 17 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,932,290 :
Issue Date: August 3, 1999 :
Application No. 08/938,039 : NOTICE
Filed: September 26, 1997 :
Attorney Docket No. 83364

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28. On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. **See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).**

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989).** Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED.**

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to Irvin Dingle at (571) 272-3210.

Irvin Dingle
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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PAUL J. WHITE, ASSOC. GENERAL COUNSEL
NATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY LABORATORY (NREL)
1617 COLE BOULEVARFD
MS 1734
GOLDEN CO 80401-3393

MAILED
APR 21 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,948,176 :
Kannan V. Ramanathan et al :
Application No. 08/939,844 : NOTICE
Filed: September 29, 1997 :
Attorney Docket No. NREL97-10 :

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 on February 2, 2011.

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue patent under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This patent is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this patent must be paid at the large entity rate.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3208.

/KOC/
Karen Creasy
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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DIW Mar-12

TOD R NISSLE
PO BOX 55630
PHOENIX AZ 85078

MAILED
MAR 30 2012
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,971,242	:	
Issue Date: 10/26/1999	:	DECISION ON PETITION
Application No. 08/939,927	:	
Filed: 09/29/1997	:	
For: VEHICLE ACCESSORY HOLDER	:	

This is a decision on the petition, filed on January 5, 2012, under 37 CFR 1.378(b), that the Office accept the unavoidably delayed payment of maintenance fees for the above-referenced patent.

The petition is **granted**.

In light of the showing of record, it is concluded that the delay was unavoidable since reasonable care was taken to ensure that the maintenance fees would be timely paid.

Accordingly, the third maintenance fees in this case is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is hereby reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

It is noted that the amount due for the third maintenance fee (small entity) is $2,365.00, and the surcharge required by § 1.20(i)(1) is $700.00, resulting in a total of $3,065.00 On January 5,

2012, petitioner submitted $3,140.00. The $75.00 overpayment is unnecessary. A refund check will be scheduled.

The address in the petition is different than the correspondence address. A courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the address in the petition. All future correspondence, however, will be mailed solely to the address of record. A change of correspondence address should be filed if the correspondence address needs to be updated.

Telephone inquiries should be directed to the undersigned at 571-272-3231.

DWood

Douglas I. Wood
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

Conferee: Anthony Knight
Director, Office of Petitions

Encl: PTO/SB/123

Cf: LINDA J. ANDERSON
3311 E. OREGON AV
PHOENIX AZ 85018

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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In re Patent No. 5878116
Issue Date: March 2,1999
Application No. 08940119
Filed: September 29,1997
Attorney Docket No. 3096P1658-FW

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed April 11,2012 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of April 11,2012 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5878116	1999-03-02	08940119	1997-09-29	3096P1658

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	◉	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Jeffrey D. Moy/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2012-04-11
Name	Jeffrey D. Moy	Registration Number	39307

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

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DEC 09 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

Alfred F. Hoyte, Jr.
7734 16h St. NW
Washington DC 20012

In re Patent No. 6,342,127
Issue Date: January 29, 2002
Application No. 08/940,203
Filed: September 29, 1997
For: DISTILLATION DEVICE

DECISION ON PETITION
UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(b)

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(b), filed November 22, 2011.

The petition under 37 CFR 1.378(b) for reinstatement of expired patent is hereby **DISMISSED**.

If reconsideration of this decision is desired, a petition for reconsideration under 37 CFR 1.378(e) must be filed within TWO (2) MONTHS from the mail date of this decision. No extension of this 2-month time limit can be granted under 37 CFR 1.136(a) or (b). **Any such petition for reconsideration must be accompanied by the petition fee of $400 as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(f).** The petition for reconsideration should include an exhaustive attempt to provide the lacking item(s) noted below, since, after a decision on the petition for reconsideration, no further reconsideration or review of the matter will be undertaken by the Director.

The patent issued January 29, 2002. The 3.5 year maintenance fee could have been paid from January 29, 2005 through July 29, 2005 without a surcharge, or with a surcharge during the period from July 30, 2005 through January 29, 2006. Accordingly, the patent expired on January 30, 2006 for failure to timely submit the second maintenance fee.

A petition to accept the delayed payment of a maintenance fee under 35 U.S.C. § 41(c) and 37 CFR 1.378(b) must be accompanied by (1) an adequate showing that the delay was unavoidable, since reasonable care was taken to ensure that the maintenance fee would be paid timely and that the petition was filed promptly after the patentee was notified of, or otherwise became aware of, the expiration of the patent, (2) payment of the appropriate maintenance fee, unless previously submitted, and (3) payment of the surcharge set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(i)(1).

This petition lacks item requirement (1) set forth above.

The Director may accept late payment of the maintenance fee if the delay is shown to the satisfaction of the Director to have been "unavoidable". 35 U.S.C. § 41(c)(1).

Petitioner asserts that the petition to reinstate the petition was filed "within two months of the day the patent was found to be lapsed." Petitioner further states that "[t]his patent became lapsed unavoidably. Petitioner Possidento had relied on his former Patent attorney, John Halvonik, to

keep him abreast of the scheduling of maintenance fees for the above mentioned patent. Halvonik's registration was suspended from 11/06 to the present. Possidento was unaware that Mr Havlonik's registration was suspended and did not receive correspondence from the PTO as his (applicant's) address was not listed as the correspondence address. Possidento did not receive notice regarding the issue fee from Halvonik. Accordingly, Mr. Possidento was not aware that the patent had lapsed."

Acceptance of late payment of a maintenance fee is considered under the same standard as that for reviving an abandoned application under 35 U.S.C. § 133 because 35 U.S.C. § 41(c)(1) uses the identical language, i.e. "unavoidable delay". Ray v. Lehman, 55 F.3d 606, 608-09, 34 USPQ2d 1786, 1787 (Fed. Cir. 1995)(quoting In re Patent No. 4,409,763, 7 USPQ2d 1798, 1800 (Comm'r Pat. 1988)). Decisions on reviving abandoned applications have adopted the "reasonably prudent person" standard in determining if the delay in responding to an Office action was unavoidable. Ex parte Pratt, 1887 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 31, 32-33 (Comm'r Pat. 1887)(the term "unavoidable" "is applicable to ordinary human affairs, and requires no more or greater care or diligence than is generally used and observed by prudent and careful men in relation to their most important business"); In re Mattullath, 38 App. D.C. 497, 514-515 (D.C. Cir. 1912); and Ex parte Henrich, 1913 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 139, 141. In addition, decisions on revival are made on a "case-by-case basis, taking all the facts and circumstances into account." Smith v. Mossinghoff, 671 F.2d 533, 538, 213 USPQ 977, 982 (D.C. Cir. 1982). Finally, a petition to revive an application as unavoidably abandoned cannot be granted where a petitioner has failed to meet his or her burden of establishing the cause of the unavoidable delay. Haines v. Quigg, 673 F. Supp. 314, 316-17, 5 USPQ2d 1130, 1131-32 (N.D. Ind. 1987).

In essence, patentee must show that he was aware of the need to pay the maintenance fee, and to that end was tracking it, or had engaged someone to track it before the expiration, but when the fee came due, was "unavoidably" prevented from making the maintenance fee payment from the time the payment was due until the filing of a grantable petition. Petitioner has failed to meet this burden.

The patentee fails to assert when and how he first became aware that the patent was expired. Patentee further fails to set forth what actions were taken thereafter in response to learning of the expiration of the patent.

To the extent that Attorney Halvonik was engaged by patentee to track the maintenance fee due date of the instant patent, there is nothing in the record that establishes that the attorney had steps in place to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee. Thus, it cannot be found that it was reasonable for patentee to rely upon Attorney Halvonik for the purpose of tracking the maintenance fee due date.

Did patentee, who bears the ultimate responsibility for ensuring timely payment of the maintenance fee, make any inquiries of Attorney Halvonik or even the Patent and Trademark Office to determine when and if the maintenance fee was due?

As to petitioner's assertion of non-receipt of any USPTO notice that the maintenance fee was due, petitioner is reminded per MPEP 2575 that:

> "Under the statutes and the regulations, the Office has no duty to notify patentees when their maintenance fees are due. It is the responsibility of the patentee to ensure that the maintenance fees are paid to prevent expiration of the patent. The Office will, however, provide some notices as reminders that maintenance fees are due, but the notices, errors in

> the notices or in their delivery, or the lack or tardiness of notices will in no way relieve a patentee from the responsibility to make timely payment of each maintenance fee to prevent the patent from expiring by operation of law. The notices provided by the Office are courtesies in nature and intended to aid patentees. The Office's provision of notices in no way shifts the burden of monitoring the time for paying maintenance fees on patents from the patentee to the Office."

In other words, failure to receive a Maintenance Fee Reminder will not relieve the patentee of the obligation to timely pay the appropriate maintenance fee to prevent expiration of the patent, nor will it constitute unavoidable delay if the patentee seeks to reinstate the patent under 37 CFR 1.378(b). See, In re Patent No. 4,409,763, 7 USPQ2d 1798 (Comm'r Pat. 1988), aff 'd sub nom. Rydeen v. Quigg, 748 F. Supp. 900, 16 USPQ2d 1876 (D.D.C. 1990), aff 'd, 937 F.2d 623 (Fed. Cir. 1991) (table), cert. denied, 502 U.S. 1075 (1992).

In determining whether a delay in paying a maintenance fee was unavoidable, one looks to whether the party responsible for payment of the maintenance fee exercised the due care of a reasonably prudent person. Ray, 55 F3d at 608-609, 34 USPQ2D at 1787. It is incumbent upon the patent owner to implement steps to schedule and pay the fee, or obligate another to do so. See California Medical Products v. Technol. Med. Prod., 921 F.Supp 1219, 1259 (D. Del. 1995). That is, 37 CFR 1.378(b)(3) requires a showing of the steps in place to pay the maintenance fee, and the record currently lacks a sufficient showing that any steps were emplaced by petitioner or anyone else. In the absence of a showing that patentee or anyone else was engaged in tracking the maintenance fee due dates, and that party had in fact been tracking the due dates with a reliable tracking system, such as would be used by prudent and careful men in relation to their most important business, petitioner cannot reasonably show that the delay was unavoidable delay. In re Katrapat, 6 USPQ2d 1863, 1867-1868 (Comm'r Pat. 1988); California, supra. Put otherwise, the lack of communication between patentee and Attorney Halvonik is immaterial in the absence of a showing that there were steps in place to ensure timely payment of the fee.

Petitioner has not provided any documentary evidence demonstrating the nature and extent of contractual obligations of the attorneys to establish that the attorney was contractually bound to track the maintenance fee on behalf of patentee. Petitioner has failed to demonstrate that patentee or Attorney Halvonik had implemented steps to schedule and pay the maintenance fee.

Petitioner seemingly attributes the delay in timely submission of the maintenance fee to the suspension of Attorney Halvonik in November 2006. However, the maintenance fee was already expired at the time of suspension. Accordingly, a nexus cannot be found between the expiration of the patent and the suspension of the attorney.

Ultimately patentee bears the responsibility for timely remittance of the maintenance fee. The petition fails to establish that patentee was unavoidably delayed in making the payment from the time that the maintenance fee was due until the filing of a grantable petition. Accordingly, the Office is precluded from accepting the maintenance fee and surcharge. If reconsideration of this decision is not desired, petitioner may request a refund of this fee by writing to the Finance Office, Refund Section. A copy of this decision should accompany any request for refund.

Petitioner must establish that patentee was aware of the need to pay the maintenance fee, and was tracking it, or had engaged someone to track it before the expiration, but when the fee came due, was "unavoidably" prevented from making the maintenance fee payment due until the filing of a

grantable petition. Petitioner must establish a nexus between the events complained of and the failure to timely remit the maintenance fee.

Any renewed petition must establish that the entire period of delay from the time that the maintenance fee was due until the time of the filing of a grantable petition has been unavoidable. Petitioner is reminded that any renewed petition should entail an exhaustive effort to establish that the failure to timely pay the maintenance fee was unavoidable as after reconsideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.378(e), no further reconsideration regarding unavoidable delay will be undertaken.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail: Mail Stop PETITIONS
Commissioner for Patents
Post Office Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By hand: Customer Service Window
Mail Stop Petitions
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

By fax: (571) 273-8300
ATTN: Office of Petitions

The requested revocation of power of attorney/change of address has been entered into the record.

Any questions concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3205.

/ALESIA M. BROWN/

Alesia M. Brown
Attorney Advisor
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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In re Patent No. 5868784
Issue Date: February 9,1999
Application No. 08940486
Filed: September 30,1997
Attorney Docket No. I-5430

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed February 15,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of February 15,2011 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5868784	1999-02-09	08940486	1997-09-30	A-14731

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	◉	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/James F. Porcello/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-02-15
Name	James F. Porcello	Registration Number	29425

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

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1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

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6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 5894873
Issue Date: April 20,1999
Application No. 08940820
Filed: September 30,1997
Attorney Docket No. 5056-01

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed June 23,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of June 23,2011 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5,894,873	1999-04-20	08/940,820	1997-09-30	TIB991086US

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
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○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	◉	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

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Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Kurt R. Denniston/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-06-23
Name	Kurt R. Denniston	Registration Number	59605

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

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6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 6263401
Issue Date: July 17,2001
Application No. 08940834
Filed: September 30,1997
Attorney Docket No. 002379.P051

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed October 4,2010 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 7.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of October 4,2010 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6263401	2001-07-17	08940834	1997-09-30	002379.P051

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SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity			Small Entity		
	Fee	Code		Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
◉	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

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MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

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STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

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I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

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○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Kendal M. Sheets/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2010-10-01
Name	Kendal M. Sheets	Registration Number	47077

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231

Date: June 14, 2011

Patent No. : 6,337,114 B2
Application No.: 08/941,605
Issued : January 8, 2002
Inventor : Eric Wood

Re: Request for Certificate of Correction

Consideration has been given your request for the issuance of a certificate of correction, for the above-identified patent under the provision of Rule 1.322 or R 1.323.

Respecting the alleged error, on the title page item (62), is an editing change made in accordance with the style of the Invention Patent Manual. Therefore, no correction(s) is in order here under United States Codes (U.S.C.) 254 or 255 the Code of Federal Regulation (C.F.R.) R 1.322 or R 1.323.

In view of the foregoing, the change will read as followings:
9009073

Further correspondence concerning this matter should be filed and directed to Decisions and Certificates of Correction Branch. Any response must be filed within a four week period.

A ceritificat will issue to correct the remaining errors noted in your request.

Eva James
For Mary Diggs
Certificates of Correction Branch
571-272-3422 or 703-756-1580

Kurt F. James, Senniger Powers
100 North Broadway, 17th Floor
St. Louis, MO 63102

ej

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6293712	2001-09-25	08941885	1997-09-30	002379.P050

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NOT Small Entity

	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)
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○	11 ½ year	(1553)

Small Entity

	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(2551)
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SURCHARGE

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MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

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STATEMENT

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○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

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Signature	/Kendal M. Sheets/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2010-10-01
Name	Kendal M. Sheets	Registration Number	47077

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 6293712
Issue Date: September 25,2001
Application No. 08941885
Filed: September 30,1997
Attorney Docket No. 002379.P050

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed October 4,2010 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 7.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of October 4,2010 .
This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

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Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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AUG 05 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

CHADBOURNE & PARKE LLP
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK NY 10112

In re Patent No. 6,418,415 :
Issued: July 9, 2002 :
Application No.: 08/943,266 : NOTICE
Filed: October 3, 1997 :
Attorney Docket No: **17200-023US** :

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28. On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. **See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).**

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This application is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this application must be paid at the large entity rate.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3222.

/Kenya A. McLaughlin/

Kenya A. McLaughlin
Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6130968	2000-10-10	08943766	1997-10-03	47336-Willat

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity			Small Entity		
	Fee	Code		Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	◉	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Stuart O. Lowry, Reg. No. 26563/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2010-10-06
Name	Stuart O. Lowry	Registration Number	26563

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

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2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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In re Patent No. 6130968
Issue Date: October 10,2000
Application No. 08943766
Filed: October 3,1997
Attorney Docket No.

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed October 6,2010 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 7.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of October 6,2010 .
This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
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In re Patent No. 5884924
Issue Date: March 23,1999
Application No. 08944262
Filed: October 6,1997
Attorney Docket No. FIPPINGER

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed February 14,2012 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of February 14,2012 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5,884,924	1999-03-23	08/944,262	1997-10-06	42565-0001

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity			Small Entity		
	Fee	Code		Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
◉	11 ½ year	(1553)	○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Albin H. Gess, Reg. No. 25,726/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2012-02-14
Name	Albin H. Gess	Registration Number	25726

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

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2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

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1401 CITRUS CENTER
255 SOUTH ORANGE AVENUE
P.O. BOX 3791
ORLANDO FL 32802-3791

MAILED
SEP 21 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of	:	
Dean Devolpi	:	
Application No. 08/944282	:	
Filing or 371(c) Date: 10/06/1997	:	ON PETITION
Patent No. 5949325	:	
Issue Date: 09/07/1999	:	
Title of Invention:	:	
JOYSTICK POINTING DEVICE	:	

This is a notice regarding request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28. On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. **See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).**

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This application is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this application must be paid at the large entity rate.

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3232.

/DLW/

Derek L. Woods
Attorney
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

RONALD R SANTUCCI
711 THIRD AVENUE
NEW YORK NY 10017-4049

MAILED
JUL 29 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,848,973 :
Issued: December 15, 1998 :
Application No. 08/944,347 : ON PETITION
Filed: October 6, 1997 :
Attorney Docket No. 3048-14 :

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c), filed July 12, 2011, to accept the delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

This patent expired on December 16, 2010 for failure to pay the eleven and one-half year maintenance fee. Since this petition was submitted within twenty-four months after the six-month grace period provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e), the petition was timely filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(c).

The maintenance fee is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

It is not apparent whether the statement of unintentional delay was signed by a person who would have been in a position of knowing that the delay in filing a timely response was unintentional. Nevertheless, in accordance with 37 CFR 10.18, the statement is accepted as constituting a certification of unintentional delay. However, in the event that petitioner has no knowledge that the delay in paying the maintenance fee was in fact unintentional, petitioner must make such an inquiry to ascertain that, in fact, the delay was unintentional. If petitioner discovers that the delay in paying the maintenance fee was intentional, petitioner must so notify the Office. Further, it is not apparent whether the person signing the instant petition was ever given a power of attorney or authorization of agent to prosecute this patent. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.34(a), the signature appearing on the petition shall constitute a representation to the United States Patent and Trademark Office that he/she is authorized to represent the particular party in whose behalf he/she acts. While, a courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the address given on the petition, the Office will mail all future correspondence solely to the address of record.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-7751.

/Joan Olszewski/
Joan Olszewski
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

cc: James R. Miner
Hunton & Williams LLP – IP Dept.
2200 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20037-1701

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 5931472
Issue Date: August 3,1999
Application No. 08944804
Filed: October 6,1997
Attorney Docket No. GAMBOL97-01.

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed December 13,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of December 13,2011 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5931472	1999-08-03	08944804	1997-10-06	

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	◉	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Robert Ryan Morishita/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-12-13
Name	Robert Ryan Morishita	Registration Number	42907

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

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NEWARK NJ 07102-5310

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SEP 26 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,069,262
Issue Date: May 30, 2000
Application No. 08/944,812
Filed: October 6, 1997
Attorney Docket No. FINETEX-3.0-

NOTICE

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 filed September 8, 2011. On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. **See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).**

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby accepted. The petition is **GRANTED**.

This application is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this application must be paid at the large entity rate.

This file is being forwarded to Files Repository.

Telephone inquiries related to this decision should be directed to the Kimberly Inabinet at (571) 272-4618.

/Kimberly Inabinet/
Kimberly Inabinet
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

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Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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MAILED
JUN 20 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

STEVEN J. STAIHAR
1141 N. EDISON STREET
SUITE C
P.O. BOX 6125
KENNEWICK WA 99336

In re Patent No. 6,257,498	:	
Issue Date: July 10, 2001	:	
Application No. 08/946,325	:	ON PETITION
Filed: October 7, 1997	:	
Attorney Docket No. SI8.P02	:	

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c), filed May 26, 2011, to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

This patent expired on July 11, 2009, for failure to pay the seven and one-half year maintenance fee. Since this petition was submitted within twenty-four months after the six-month grace period provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e), the petition was timely filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(c).

The maintenance fee is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

The application file does not indicate a change of address has been filed in this case, although the address given on the petition differs from the address of record. A change of address should be filed in this case in accordance with MPEP 601.03. A courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the address noted on the petition. However, until otherwise instructed, all future correspondence regarding this application will be mailed solely to the address of record.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to Kimberly Inabinet at (571) 272-4618.

The patent file is being forwarded to Files Repository.

/Kimberly Inabinet/

Kimberly Inabinet
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

cc: James R. Siebol
4300 West Birchfield Road
Yakima, WA 98901

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Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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In re Patent No. 6252578
Issue Date: June 26,2001
Application No. 08946326
Filed: October 7,1997
Attorney Docket No. CT-272

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed October 4,2010 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 7.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of October 4,2010 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6252578	2001-06-26	08946326	1997-10-07	CT-272

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
◉	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Kendal M. Sheets/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2010-10-01
Name	Kendal M. Sheets	Registration Number	47077

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

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The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re Patent No. 5975911
Issue Date: November 2,1999
Application No. 08946729
Filed: October 8,1997
Attorney Docket No. TO1:01

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed February 10,2012 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of February 10,2012 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5975911	1999-11-02	08946729	1997-10-08	

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	◉	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

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I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

○ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

◉ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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Sole Patentee			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature.			
Signature	/normantuck/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2012-02-10
Name	norman tuck		

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

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2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

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5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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CANTOR COLBURN LLP- BAKER HUGHES INCORPORATED
20 Church Street
22nd Floor
Hartford CT 06103

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AUG 30 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,098,717
Issue Date: August 8, 2000
Application No. 08/947,069
Filed: October 8, 1997
Attorney Docket No. LIH1-52247(BAO0808G)

NOTICE

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 filed June 7, 2011.

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This patent is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this patent must be paid at the large entity rate.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3215.

Charlema Grant
Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

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MAILED

JUN 02 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,885,912 :
Issue Date: March 23, 1999 :
Application No. 08,947,184 : ON PETITION
Filed: October 8, 1997 :
Attorney Docket No. **G-97-103** :

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c), filed May 19, 2011, to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

There is no indication that the petition is signed by a registered patent attorney or patent agent of record. However, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.34, the signature of Mary Jo Redman appearing on the correspondence shall constitute a representation to the United States Patent and Trademark Office that he is authorized to represent the particular party in whose behalf he acts. If, Mary Jo Redman desires to receive correspondence regarding this file, the appropriate power of attorney documents must be submitted. A courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to Mary Jo Redman, the petitioner herein. However, until otherwise instructed, all future correspondence regarding this application file will be directed solely to the above-noted correspondence address of record.

This patent expired at midnight March 23, 2011, for failure to pay the 11½ year maintenance fee. Since this petition was submitted within twenty-four months after the six-month grace period provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e), the petition was timely filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(c).

The petition is hereby **GRANTED**.

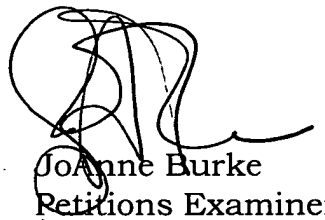
The maintenance fee is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

A petition to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee under 37 CFR 1.378(c) must be accompanied by (1) a statement that the delay was unintentional, (2) payment of the appropriate maintenance fee, unless previously submitted, and (3) payment of the surcharge set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2).

It is not apparent whether the person signing the statement of unintentional delay was in a position to have firsthand or direct knowledge of the facts and circumstances of the delay at issue. Nevertheless, such statement is being treated as having been made as the result of a reasonable inquiry into the facts and circumstances of such delay. In the event that such an inquiry has not been made, petitioner must make such an inquiry. If such inquiry results in the discovery that the delay in paying the maintenance fee under 37 CFR 1.378(c) was intentional, petitioner must notify the Office.

Petitioner will not receive future correspondence related to maintenance fees for the patent unless a "Fee Address" Indication Form (see PTO/SB/47) and Request for Customer Number (see PTO/SB/125) are submitted.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to JoAnne Burke at (571) 272-4584.



JoAnne Burke
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

cc: Mary Jo Redman
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In re Patent No. 5909688
Issue Date: June 1,1999
Application No. 08948085
Filed: October 9,1997
Attorney Docket No. 826.1236-C

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed August 3,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of August 3,2011 .
This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5,909,688	1999-06-01	08/948,085	1997-10-09	0826.1236C

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity			Small Entity		
	Fee	Code		Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
◉	11 ½ year	(1553)	○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Paul I. Kravetz/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-08-03
Name	Paul I. Kravetz	Registration Number	35230

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

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HAYNES AND BOONE LLP
2033 GATEWAY PLACE
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SAN JOSE CA 95110

MAILED

DEC 27 2010

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,966,329 :
Issue Date: 12 October 1999 :
Application No. 08/948,147 : DECISION ON PETITION
Filed: 9 October 1997 :
Attorney Docket No. M-7871-US :
Patentee(s): Hsu, et al. :

This is a decision on the petitions filed on 6 August 2009, properly treated as a petition pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.378(b) and (e) requesting acceptance of payment of a maintenance fee for the above-referenced patent as having been unavoidably delayed.

The petition pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.378(b) and (e) is **DENIED**.

A petition to accept the delayed payment of a maintenance fee under 35 U.S.C. §41(c) and 37 C.F.R. §1.378(b) must be accompanied by:

(1) an adequate showing that the delay was unavoidable, since reasonable care was taken to ensure that the maintenance fee would be timely paid;

(2) payment of the appropriate maintenance fee, unless previously submitted; and

(3) payment of the surcharge set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.20(i)(1).

The instant petition fails to satisfy the showing requirement (1) described above.

BACKGROUND

The patent issued on 12 October 1999. The first maintenance fee could have been paid during the period from 12 October 2002, through 12 April 2003, or with a surcharge, during the period from 13 April 2003, through 12 October 2003.

Accordingly, the patent expired after midnight 12 October 2003 for failure to timely pay the first maintenance fee.

The renewed petition pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.378(b) was filed on 6 August 2009. The fees for the renewed petition were charged as authorized to Deposit Account 08-1394.

STATUTE AND REGULATION

The grant of authority at 35 U.S.C. §41(c)(1) provides that:

> The Director may accept the payment of any maintenance fee required by subsection (b) of this section...after the six-month grace period if the delay is shown to the satisfaction of the Director to have been unavoidable.

The regulations 37 C.F.R. §1.378(b)(3) thus set forth that any petition to accept delayed payment of a maintenance fee must include:

> A showing that the delay was unavoidable since reasonable care was taken to ensure that the maintenance fee would be paid timely and that the petition was filed promptly after the patentee was notified of, or otherwise became aware of, the expiration of the patent. The showing must enumerate the steps taken to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee, the date, and the manner in which patentee became aware of the expiration of the patent, and the steps taken to file the petition promptly. (Emphasis supplied.)

OPINION

The Director may accept late payment of the maintenance fee under 35 U.S.C. §41(c) and 37 C.F.R. §1.378(b) if the delay is shown to the satisfaction of the Director to have been "unavoidable."

A late maintenance fee is considered under the same standard as that for reviving an abandoned application under 35 U.S.C. §133 because 35 U.S.C. §41(c)(1) uses the identical language, i.e., "unavoidable" delay. *Ray v. Lehman*, 55 F.3d 606, 608-09, 34 USPQ2d 1786, 1787 (Fed. Cir. 1995)(quoting *In re Patent No. 4,409,763*, 7 USPQ2d 1798, 1800 (Comm'r Pat. 1988)). Decisions reviving abandoned applications have adopted the reasonably prudent person standard in determining if the delay was unavoidable. In addition, decisions on revival are made on a "case-by-case basis, taking all the facts and circumstances into account." *Ex parte Pratt*, 1887 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 31, 32-33 (Comm'r Pat. 1887) (the term "unavoidable" "is applicable to ordinary human affairs, and requires no more or greater care or diligence than is generally used and observed by prudent and careful man in relation to their most important business"); *In re Mattullath*, 38 App. D.C. 497, 514-15 (D.C. Cir. 1912); *Ex parte Henrich*, 1913 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 139, 141 (Comm'r Pat. 1913). Finally, a petition to revive an application as unavoidably abandoned cannot be granted where a Petitioner has failed to meet his or her burden of

establishing the cause of the unavoidable delay. *Haines v. Quigg*, 673 F. Supp. 314, 5 USPQ2d 1130 (N.D. Ind. 1987).

In essence, Petitioner must show that he was aware of the need to pay the maintenance fee, and to that end was tracking it, or had engaged someone to track it before the expiration, but when the fee came due, was "unavoidably" prevented from making the maintenance fee payment until the petition was filed. In determining whether a delay in paying a maintenance fee was unavoidable, one looks to whether the party responsible for payment of the maintenance fee exercised the due care of a reasonably prudent person. *Ray*, 55 F3d at 608-609, 34 USPQ2D at 1787. It is incumbent upon the patent owner to implement steps to schedule and pay the fee, or obligate another to do so. *See: California Medical Products v. Technol. Med. Prod.*, 921 F.Supp 1219, 1259 (D. Del. 1995).

Moreover, the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §41(c)(1) do not require an affirmative finding that the delay was avoidable, but only an explanation as to why the Petitioner has failed to carry his or her burden to establish that the delay was unavoidable. See *Commissariat A. L'Energie Atomique v. Watson*, 274 F.2d 594, 597, 124 USPQ 126, 128 (D.C. Cir. 1960). The provisions of 35 U.S.C. §133 do not require the Commissioner to affirmatively find that the delay was avoidable, but only to explain why the applicant's petition was unavailing. Thus, it is the patentee's burden under the statutes and regulations to make a showing to the satisfaction of the Director that the delay in payment of a maintenance fee is unavoidable. See *Rydeen v. Quigg*, 748 F. Supp. 900, 16 USPQ2d 1876 (D.D.C. 1990), aff'd 937 F.2d 623 (Fed. Cir. 1991)(table), *cert. denied*, 502 U.S. 1075 (1992); *Ray v. Lehman, supra.*

Because 35 U.S.C. § 41(b) requires the payment of fees at specified intervals to maintain a patent in force, rather than some response to a specific action by the Office under 35 U.S.C. § 133, a reasonably prudent person in the exercise of due care and diligence would have taken steps to ensure the timely payment of such maintenance fees. *Ray*, 55 F.3d at 609, 34 USPQ2d at 1788. That is, an adequate showing that the delay in payment of the maintenance fee at issue was "unavoidable" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 41(c) and 37 C.F.R. §1.378(b)(3) requires a showing of the steps taken by the responsible party to ensure the timely payment of the maintenance fee for this patent. *Id.*

There are three periods to be considered during the evaluation of a petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.378(b):

(1) The delay in reply that originally resulted in expiration;

(2) The delay in filing an initial petition pursuant to §1.378(b) to reinstate the patent; and

(3) The delay in filing a grantable petition pursuant to §1.378(b) to reinstate the patent See Changes to Patent Practice and Procedure; Final Rule Notice, 62 Fed. Reg. 53131 at 53158 (October 10, 1997).

Period (1) - Delay that originally resulted in expiration

Prior Counsel originally submitted the matter as a petition pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.377 averring that the Office had refused to accept the payment of the first maintenance fee. That petition was dismissed on 24 June 2008, because prior Counsel provided only an averment that the maintenance fee was intended to be sent, but made no showing whatsoever that the papers ever were received by the Office (e.g., a date-stamped receipt card pursuant to MPEP §503) and that:

- The Office subsequently refused to accept the payment; or
- The papers were misplaced in the Office after their receipt.

In the decision of 24 June 2008, Petitioner was given two (2) months to respond. Petitioner instead responded in four (4) months, on 2 October 2008—Petitioner asserted that the petition was not a renewal of the prior petition. At that time, Petitioner sought relief pursuant to:

- The regulations at 37 C.F.R. §1.378, averring unavoidable delay;
- The regulations at 37 C.F.R. §1.182, seeking relief otherwise not available; and
- The regulations at 37 C.F.R. §1.183, seeking waiver of applicable regulations.

The sum and substance of Petitioner's argument is that prior Counsel sent payment to the Office in April 2003, notably, Petitioner presented no evidence (e.g., a date-stamped receipt card, *see*: MPEP §503) that the Office ever:

- received the payment;
- acknowledged receipt of the payment; or
- charged the payment as averred to the then-authorized Deposit Account (50-2257).

The decision of June 24, 2008 stated that: "The showing of record as of this writing is inadequate to establish improper refusal of the maintenance fee by the Office within the meaning of 37 CFR § 1.377, and absent completion of a documentary showing as to the instant matter regarding the patentee/assignee planning for and seeking to timely pay the first maintenance fee, a petition cannot be granted under the provisions of 37 CFR § 1.377." Simply put, the record lacks sufficient evidence to establish the cause of the delay that resulted in the expiration of the patent.

Period (2) - Delay in filing an initial petition

Thus, in addition to Petitioner's failure to evidence that the Office received the payment, acknowledged receipt of the payment, and charged the payment as averred to the then-authorized Deposit Account, the record is silent as to a showing that the MacPherson Firm had in place any

program to support a staff properly trained to effectively operate the software so as to provide a reasonably effective system for calendaring and servicing of the maintenance fees for the '329 patent—and, specifically, the first maintenance fee for the '329 patent.

As a result:

- "One of the docketing staff members—as to which one, Ms. Kolden cannot identify from the record—mistakenly calendared and 'Application Postcard Rec'd' docket item, rather than the intended 'MF 3.5 Postcard Rec'd?' docket item *** [which] was used at the Firm to calendar an expected receipt of a return receipt postcard ***." (Petition of 6 August 2009, at page 5 and Kolden Declaration at paragraphs 21-22.)

- "Because of the docketing error (sic), Alan MacPherson, Esq. and Colleen Eastman (i.e., the attorney and staff member of the Firm responsible for the '329 patent, respectively) were not alerted to the fact that the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not have received the 3.5 Year Maintenance Fee Transmittal. As a result of the docketing error (sic), the [MacPherson] Firm did not become aware of a problem with the 3.5 year Maintenance Fee Transmittal until the Notice Non-Acceptance of the Patent Maintenance Fee, dated February 20, 2007, was received." (Petition of 6 August 2009, at page 5 and Kolden Declaration at paragraphs 23-24.)

While the MacPherson Firm may have purchased the IP Master software and obtained docketing services from Remarque Docketing and IP services, when it came to the actual service of the '329 patent, the facts of record do not demonstrate that a system was in place that included a docketing system (e.g., docketing software) and properly trained and supervised personnel that together made possible the accurate input of data to properly maintain the'329 patent.

Petitioner never addressed the issue that there was no review by the MacPherson firm of its Deposit Account between April 2003 and late February 2007, which review would have reflected that funds—which were received from the client and transferred to the MacPherson Firm Deposit Account—never were charged by the Office.

A delay resulting from an error (e.g., a docketing error) on the part of an employee in the performance of a clerical function may provide the basis for a showing of "unavoidable" delay, provided it is shown that: (A) the error was the cause of the delay at issue; (B) there was in place a business routine for performing the clerical function that could reasonably be relied upon to avoid errors in its performance; and (C) the employee was sufficiently trained and experienced with regard to the function and routine for its performance that reliance upon such employee represented the exercise of due care. See *In re Egbers*, 6 USPQ2d 1869, 1872 (Comm'r Pat. 1988), rev 'd on other grounds sub nom., *Theodor Groz & Sohne & Ernst Bechert Nadelfabrik KG v. Quigg*, 10 USPQ2d 1787 (D.D.C. 1988); *In re Katrapat*, 6 USPQ2d 1863, 1867-68 (Comm'r Pat. 1988).

The showing as to Period (2) is lacking in that the employee who made the docketing error has not been identified. Thus, it cannot be said that the employee was sufficiently trained or properly

supervised. Petitioner has not established the facts to show that the delay in the second period was unavoidable.

Period (3) - Delay in filing a grantable petition

It is noted that on request for reconsideration Petitioner submitted, *inter alia*, a three (3) page document (Exhibit AA attached to the petition) apparently printed from the website of an entity identified as Remarque Docketing and IP Services (Remarque) (http://www.remarque.com/). Petitioner indicates that it was from this entity that former Counsel's office (the MacPherson Firm) purchased docketing services. The record, as established by petitioner, details the training provided in the third of three pages ("About US"). The exhibit states that:

> Remarque was cofounded by Evelyn A. Martin, an IP paralegal, and F. David LaRiviere, a patent attorney. Their combined experience brings both depth and scope to this specialized legal staffing service. Evelyn Martin personally trains Remarque's professionals in all aspect of IP management. Our staff understands your IP needs and can identify any potential problems before they occur. Maximize your IP assets with Remarque Docketing & IP Services.

Petitioner has not provided any specifics as to the training provided to those described as "Remarque professionals." It is noted in passing that a review of the USPTO website did not evidence a registration to practice before the Office for an attorney or agent in the name of F. David LaRiviere.

On request for reconsideration, Petitioner identified, in addition to former Counsel Mr. MacPherson (deceased):

- Chelie Kolden (Ms. Kolden): the MacPherson Firm administrator between 17 April 2002, and 31 January 2009;

- Paula Nunez (Ms. Nunez): a "professional consultant from [the] commercial docketing and IP service, Remarque Docketing and IP Services"; (Petition of 6 August 2009, at page 4)

- Regina DeAnda (Ms. DeAnda): whom "Ms. Kolden invited *** to join the firm based on her own observation and favorable input by others knowledgeable of Ms. DeAnda's work"; (Petition of 6 August 2009, at pages 4-5.) and

- Colleen Eastman (Ms. Eastman), the person identified as "the staff member of the [MacPherson] Firm responsible for the '329 patent." (Petition of 6 August 2009, at page 5).

On request for reconsideration Petitioner suggested that documentary and narrative evidence of unavoidable delay with regard to failing to pay by midnight 12 October 2003, the maintenance fee (and surcharge) for the '329 patent are the following:

- Ms. Kolden was the MacPherson "Firm Administrator *** [and] the head of many administrative function within the Firm, including calendaring or 'docketing' of due dates relating to matters before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office *** [and therefore] Ms. Kolden is knowledgeable about the procedures in place that should have avoided the error resulting in the delay ***." (Petition of 6 August 2009, at page 2 and Kolden Declaration at paragraphs 1 and 4.)

- "[S]ince the founding of the [MacPherson] Firm [to its merger] into the current Haynes and Boone law firm, the [MacPherson] Firm had in place a computer program, known as 'IP Master,' which maintain[ed] the Firm's docket *** [and] two persons—Ms. Paula Nunez, an outside docketing professional, and Ms. Regina DeAnda—were responsible for the Firms docketing duties." (Petition of 6 August 2009, at page 2-3 and Kolden Declaration at paragraph 5.)

- One of the docket staff members - as to which one, Ms. Kolden cannot identify from record - mistakenly calendared an "Application Postcard Rec'd?" docket item, rather than the intended "MF 3.5 Postcard Rec'd?" docket item (Kolden Declaration, ¶ 21, Exhibit BB). The "Application Postcard Rec'd?" docket item was used at the Firm to calendar an expected receipt of a return receipt postcard accompanying the transmittal of a new patent application, rather than to calendar the expected receipt of a return receipt postcard accompanying a 3.5 year maintenance fee transmittal (Kolden Declaration, ¶ 22).

Petitioner states that this docketing error prevented the MacPherson firm from discovering that the maintenance fee had not been received by the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Petitioner submitted no statements from Ms. Nunez, Ms. DeAnda or Ms. Eastman. (Petition of 6 August 2009, at page 5.) Petitioner also did not provide any evidence as to the training Ms. DeAnda received at the Skjerven Firm and the MacPherson Firm and how, if in any way, that training might serve in the operation and support of the IP Master software in use by the MacPherson Firm and in cooperation with Remarque Docketing and IP Services from which the MacPherson Firm obtained docketing services. Further, it is not clear from the record that Ms. Nunez, the Remarque Professional, was sufficiently trained and supervised. Finally, it is not clear from the record, who committed the docketing error.

Finally, even if a breach of duty by Counsel was the cause of the failure to maintain the patent and/or demonstrate unavoidable delay, those actions or inactions are imputed to the patent owner, who selected Counsel. *Link v. Wabash Railroad Co.,* 370 U.S. 626, 633-634, 82 S.Ct. 1386, 1390-91 (1962). Thus, in the absence of a clear showing that the attorney/agent acted to deceive the client, the neglect of a party's attorney is imputed to and binds the party by the consequences. *See Huston v. Ladner*, 973 F.2d 1564, 23 USPQ2d 1910 (Fed Cir. 1992); *Herman*

Rosenberg and Parker-Kalon Corp. v. Carr Fastener Co., 10 USPQ 106 (2d Cir. 1931). Were the Office to hold that an attorney's negligence constitutes good cause for failing to meet the Office's requirements, the Rules of Practice would become meaningless.

CONCLUSION

The prior decision which refused to accept under 37 C.F.R. §1.378(b) the delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent has been reconsidered. For the above stated reasons, the delay in this case has not been shown by petitioner to have been unavoidable within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §41(c)(1) and 37 C.F.R. §1.378(b).

The petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.378(e) is **denied**.

This decision may be regarded as a **final agency action** within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. §704 for purposes of seeking judicial review. (*See*: MPEP §1002.02.)

Since this patent will not be reinstated, a refund check covering, the maintenance fee and surcharge fee, less the $400.00 fee for the present request for reconsideration, has been scheduled.

Telephone inquiries regarding this decision should be directed to John J. Gillon, Jr., attorney, at 571-272-3214.

Anthony Knight
Director
Office of Petitions

HAYES AND BOONE, LLP
IP SECTION
2323 VICTORY AVENUE
SUITE 700
DALLAS TX 75219

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5,896,190	1999-04-20	08/948,228	1997-10-09	OSI_Laserscan

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☒ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity

	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)
◉	11 ½ year	(1553)

Small Entity

	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/sona dalal/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-04-26
Name	Sona Dalal	Registration Number	50777

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 5896190
Issue Date: April 20,1999
Application No. 08948228
Filed: October 9,1997
Attorney Docket No. OSIDE.228

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed April 26,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of April 26,2011 .
This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

MARK S. GRANGER
132 NORTHWOODS BLVD
COLUMBUS OH 43295-4726

MAILED

APR 25 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
Mark S. GRANGER :
Application No. 08/949,262 : NOTICE UNDER 37 CFR. 1.28(c)
Patent No. 5,887,842 :
Filed: October 13, 1997 :
Attorney Docket No. **GRN-2-001-3**

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28.

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue patent under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This patent is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this patent must be paid at the large entity rate.

There is no indication that the person signing the petition was ever given a power of attorney to prosecute the application. If the person signing the petition desires to receive future correspondence regarding this application, the appropriate power of attorney documents must be submitted. While a courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the person signing the petition, all future correspondence will be directed to the address currently of record until appropriate instructions are received.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to Michelle R. Eason at (571) 272-4231.

Thurman K. Page
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

Cc: **WILLIAM S. NABORS**
HAHN LOESER & PARKS, LLP
ONE GOJO PLAZA, SUITE 300
AKRON, OHIO 44311-1076

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of: GRANGER, Mark S.

Serial No.: 08/949,262

Filed: 10/16/1997

Confirmation No.: 7909

Patent No.: 5,887,842 **Issue Date:** 03/30/1999

Title: SIGN POST WITH STRESS-DEFINED BREAKAWAY SPLICE

2011 MAR 31 PM 4:12
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DIVISION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

NOTIFICATION OF ERROR IN CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS AND ITEMIZATION OF DEFICIENCY AS REQUIRED BY 37 C.F.R. §§1.28(C)(1) AND (C)(2).

Applicant no longer is a small entity under 37 C.F.R. §1.27. The applicant established small entity status in good faith and subsequently paid the small entity fees in good faith, but became a large entity after the patent issued. It was recently discovered that the 4th year, 8th year and 12th year maintenance fees were erroneously paid as a small entity. Therefore, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.28(c), applicant hereby submits a submission and itemization, as required by 37 C.F.R. §§1.28 (c)(1) and (c)(2), and deficiency payment, as required by 37 C.F.R. §1.28(c)(2).

Please charge the total deficiency payment of **$4,075.00** to Deposit Account Number 15-0450.

The itemization of the deficiency is found in the table on the following page.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees due as a result of or in connection with the filing of this paper to Deposit Account No. 15-0450.

04/05/2011 DALLEN 00000006 150450 5887842
01 FC:1599 4075.00 DA

ITEMIZATION OF FEES PAID

37 CFR 1.28 (c) (2)

Type of Fee Paid	Date of Payment	Current Large Entity Fee	Small Entity Fee Actually Paid	The Deficiency Owed Amount
4th Year Maintenance Fee	08/26/2007	$980	$440	$540
8th Year Maintenance Fee	11/21/2009	$2,480	$1,150	$1330
8th Year Maintenance Fee Surcharge	11/21/2009	$130	$45	$85
12th Year Maintenance Fee	12/02/2010	$4,110	$2,055	$2,055
12th Year Maintenance Fee Srucharge	12/02/2010	$130	$65	$65
				Total Deficiency $4075

Respectfully submitted,

HAHN LOESER & PARKS, LLP

/William S. Nabors/

William S. Nabors
Reg. No. 56,419

Date: March 30, 2011

One GOJO Plaza, Suite 300
Akron, Ohio 44311-1076
Tel: 330-864-5550
Fax: 330-864-7986
patents@hahnlaw.com

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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MCANDREWS, HELD & MALLOY, LTD.
500 WEST MADISON STREET - 34TH FLOOR
CHICAGO, IL 60661

MAILED

SEP 26 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,844,507 :
Issued: December 1, 1998 :
Application No. 08/950,880 : ON PETITION
Filed: October 15, 1997 :
Attorney Docket No: 24085US01 :

This is a decision regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission and loss of small entity status filed August 9, 2011 under 37 CFR 1.28.

On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc.. 154 F.33d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. 1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989). Therefore nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby accepted and the petition is **GRANTED**. Status as a small entity has also been removed.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the Office of Petitions Staff at (571) 272-3282.

Patricia Faison-Ball

Patricia Faison-Ball
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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COHEN & GRIGSBY, P.C.
625 LIBERTY AVENUE
PITTSBURGH PA 15222-3152

MAILED
JUL 14 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,979,652 :
Issued: November 09, 1999 :
Application No. 08/951,398 : ON PETITION
Filed: October 16, 1997 :
Attorney Docket No. 55013 :

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 filed June 13, 2011.

On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. **See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).**

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This patent is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this patent must be paid at the large entity rate.

Additionally, it is noted that petitioner has submitted the issue date of the above-identified patent as October 16, 1997 instead of the correct issue date of November 9, 1999.

Telephone inquires concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-7751.

/Joan Olszewski/
Joan Olszewski
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5,861,939	1999-01-19	08951535	1997-10-16	058301-003000

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
◉	11 ½ year	(1553)	○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Joey C. Yao - Reg. No. 63,810/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-02-24
Name	Joey C. Yao	Registration Number	63810

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 5861939
Issue Date: January 19,1999
Application No. 08951535
Filed: October 16,1997
Attorney Docket No. 058301-003000

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed February 24,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of February 24,2011 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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QUARLES & BRADY LLP
411 E. WISCONSIN AVENUE
SUITE 2040
MILWAUKEE, WI 53202-4497

MAILED

FEB 17 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,921,928 :
Issue Date: July 13, 1999 :
Application No. 08/951,991 : NOTICE
Filed: October 16, 1997 :
Attorney Docket No. 630666.90245 :

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28. On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. **See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).**

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This application is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this application must be paid at the large entity rate.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-1642.

/AMW/
April M. Wise
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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BROWDY AND NEIMARK, PLLC
1625 K STREET, N.W.
SUITE 1100
WASHINGTON DC 20006

MAILED
JUL 14 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,211,336 :
Issued: April 3, 2001 :
Application No. 08/952,127 : ON PETITION
Filed: February 26, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No. 2290.00047 :

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 filed June 22, 2011.

On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. **See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).**

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989).** Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED.**

This patent is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this patent must be paid at the large entity rate.

Telephone inquires concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-7751.

/Joan Olszewski/
Joan Olszewski
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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In re Patent No. 5902829
Issue Date: May 11,1999
Application No. 08952806
Filed: January 26,1998
Attorney Docket No. 510-5868/PCT

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed June 22,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of June 22,2011 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5,902,829	1999-05-11	08/952,806	1998-01-26	3717519-00001

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity			Small Entity		
	Fee	Code		Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
◉	11 ½ year	(1553)	○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

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Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Rachel A. Lynch/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-06-22
Name	Rachel A. Lynch	Registration Number	61705

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5,927,623	1999-07-27	08953777	1997-10-17	TERP 0217 PUS

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity			Small Entity		
	Fee	Code		Fee	Code
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SURCHARGE

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MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

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I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Mark E. Stuenkel/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-09-14
Name	Mark E. Stuenkel	Registration Number	44364

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

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4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

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6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 5927623
Issue Date: July 27,1999
Application No. 08953777
Filed: October 17,1997
Attorney Docket No. 29096/34275

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed September 14,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of September 14,2011 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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LAUBSCHER & LAUBSCHER, P.C.
1160 SPA ROAD
SUITE 2B
ANNAPOLIS MD 21403

MAILED

FEB 28 2012

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,929,760 :
Issue Date: 27 July, 1999 :
Application No. 08/953,815 : DECISION
Filed: 20 October, 1997 :
Attorney Docket No. 25799

This is a decision on the petition filed on 28 December, 2011, under 37 C.F.R. §1.27(g)(2) requesting that status as a Small Entity be removed.

NOTE:

In view of their duty of candor to the Office to properly inquire to ascertain the accuracy of representations made before the Office (*see*: 37 C.F.R. §1.4, §11.18, MPEP §410), Petitioners always are reminded of the responsibility to review their records and submit accurate information to the Office.

Petitioner's submission is **ACCEPTED**.

In accordance with the request, status as a Small Entity will be removed, and Petitioner is required to pay fees at the schedule set forth for not-small entities. **The additional fees were charged as authorized.**

The availability of applications and application papers online to applicants/practitioners who diligently associate their Customer Number with the respective application(s) now provides an applicant/practitioner on-demand information as to events/transactions in an application.

Out of an abundance of caution, Petitioners always are reminded that that those registered to practice and all others who make representations before the Office **must** inquire into the underlying facts of representations made to the Office and support averments with the appropriate documentation–since all owe to the Office the continuing duty to disclose.[1]

[1] See supplement of 17 June, 1999. The Patent and Trademark Office is relying on Petitioner's duty of candor and good faith and accepting a statement made by Petitioner. See Changes to Patent Practice and Procedure, 62 Fed. Reg. at 53160 and 53178, 1203 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office at 88

Patent No. 5,929,760
Application No. 08/953,815

The instant application is released to the IFW Files Repository in due course.

Telephone inquiries regarding this decision may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3214—it is noted, however, that all practice before the Office is in writing (see: 37 C.F.R. §1.2[2]) and the proper authority for action on any matter in this regard are the statutes (35 U.S.C.), regulations (37 C.F.R.) and the commentary on policy (MPEP). Therefore, no telephone discussion may be controlling or considered authority for Petitioner's action(s).

/John J. Gillon, Jr./
John J. Gillon, Jr.
Senior Attorney
Office of Petitions

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and 103 (responses to comments 64 and 109)(applicant obligated under 37 C.F.R. §10.18 to inquire into the underlying facts and circumstances when providing statements to the Patent and Trademark Office).

[2] The regulations at 37 C.F.R. §1.2 provide:

§1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent and Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

ST JUDE MEDICAL ATRIAL FIBRILLATION DIVISION
LEGAL DEPARTMENT
ONE ST JUDE MEDICAL DRIVE
ST PAUL MN 55117-9913

MAILED
JAN 23 2012
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re
Hosheng Tu
Application No. 08/954,001
Filed: October 20, 1997
Patent No. 5,954,649
Issued: September 21, 1999

DECISION

This is a decision on the fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28(c), filed December 22, 2011.

The fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 of $1700 for the 7.5 year maintenance fee is hereby accepted.

The change of status to large entity has been entered.

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3207.

Cliff Congo
Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

RICHARD T OGAWA
TOWNSEND AND TOWNSEND AND CREW
TWO EMBARCADERO CENTER
8TH FLOOR
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94111-3834

MAILED
JUN 06 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
Mukesh C. Shah et al. :
Application No. 08/954,301 : NOTICE
Patent No. 5,884,216 :
Filed: October 20, 1997 :
Attorney Docket No. **15517-000131**

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 May 09, 2011.

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue patent under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **NOT ACCEPTED**.

It appears that the petition was not properly signed by a person having authority to prosecute in the above-identified patent. Therefore, the request can not be accepted at this time.

Petitioner's attention is directed to 37 CFR 1.33(b), which states.

(b) Amendments and other papers. Amendments and other papers, except for written assertions pursuant to § 1.27(c)(2)(ii) of this part, filed in the application must be signed by:

(1) A registered patent attorney or patent agent of record appointed in compliance with § 1.32(b);
(2) A registered patent attorney or patent agent not of record who acts in a representative capacity under the provisions of § 1.34;
(3) An assignee as provided for under §3.71(b) of this chapter; or

(4) All of the applicants (§ 1.41(b)) for patent, unless there is an assignee of the entire interest and such assignee has taken action in the application in accordance with § 3.71 of this chapter.

Accordingly, the request cannot be accepted until it is signed by all inventors, an attorney /agent who is registered to practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, or the assignee of the entire interest. If the request is signed by an assignee, the assignee the assignee must comply with the requirements of 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-2783.

/Tredelle D. Jackson/
Paralegal Specialist
Office of Petitions

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6188739	2001-02-13	08954914	1997-10-21	30019.49US01

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

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◉	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
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SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

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I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

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Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Kendal M. Sheets/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2010-09-30
Name	Kendal M. Sheets	Registration Number	47077

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

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2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 6188739
Issue Date: February 13,2001
Application No. 08954914
Filed: October 21,1997
Attorney Docket No. 30019.49US01

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed October 4,2010 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 7.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of October 4,2010 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5909285	1999-06-01	08955198	1997-10-21	27758-005CIP

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	◉	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

○ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

◉ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

A Joint Patentee and I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature.			
Signature	/#####/example/Paul D. Crawford/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-06-02
Name	Paul D. Crawford		

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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P.O. Box 1450
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In re Patent No. 5909285
Issue Date: June 1,1999
Application No. 08955198
Filed: October 21,1997
Attorney Docket No. 2775-005CIP

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed June 2,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of June 2,2011 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5790129	1998-08-04	08955716	1997-10-22	600-2-FWC

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
◯	3 ½ year	(1551)	◯	3 ½ year	(2551)
◯	7 ½ year	(1552)	◯	7 ½ year	(2552)
◯	11 ½ year	(1553)	◉	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◯ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

◉ A sole patentee

◯ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

◯ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

◯ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Sole Patentee			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature.			
Signature	/Jinny K Porto/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-02-27
Name	Jinny K Porto		

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

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5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

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9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 5790129
Issue Date: August 4,1998
Application No. 08955716
Filed: October 22,1997
Attorney Docket No. 600-2-FWC

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed February 27,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of February 27,2011 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 6201805
Issue Date: March 13,2001
Application No. 08955834
Filed: October 21,1997
Attorney Docket No. 24/1

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed October 4,2010 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 7.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of October 4,2010 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6201805	2001-03-13	08955834	1997-10-21	24/1

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity

	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)
◉	7 ½ year	(1552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)

Small Entity

	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Kendal M. Sheets/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2010-09-30
Name	Kendal M. Sheets	Registration Number	47077

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

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5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

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FEB 17 2012

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,087,134 :
Issued: July 11, 2000 :
Application No. 08/956,349 : ON PETITION
Filed: October 23, 1997 :
Attorney Docket No: **92101-572231** :
(000610US)

This is a decision regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission and loss of small entity status filed January 27, 2012, filed under 37 CFR 1.28.

On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc.. 154 F.33d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. 1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989). Therefore nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby accepted and the petition is **GRANTED**. Status as a small entity has also been removed.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the Office of Petitions Staff at (571) 272-3282.

Patricia Faison-Ball
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.
SUITE 800
WASHINGTON, DC 20037

MAILED

APR 29 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,949,847	:	
Issue Date: September 7, 1999	:	
Application No. 08/956,646	:	NOTICE
Filed: October 23, 1997	:	
Attorney Docket No. 113/61355US	:	

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission filed March 18, 2011, under 37 CFR 1.28.

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue patent under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This patent is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this patent must be paid at the large entity rate.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-6059.

Alicia Kelley
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5916181	1999-06-29	08957073	1997-10-24	

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	◉	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/WILLIAM G. KRATZ, JR./	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-10-07
Name	WILLIAM G. KRATZ, JR.	Registration Number	22631

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 5916181
Issue Date: June 29,1999
Application No. 08957073
Filed: October 24,1997
Attorney Docket No. 52726.000003

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed October 7,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of October 7,2011 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

SPE RESPONSE FOR CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

Paper No.: _____

DATE : 08-16-2010

TO SPE OF : ART UNIT ~~1615~~ 3992

SUBJECT : Request for Certificate of Correction for Appl. No: 08957512 Patent No: 6308317 C1

Please respond to this request for a certificate of correction within 7 days.

FOR IFW FILES:

Please review the requested changes/corrections as shown in the **COCIN** document(s) in the IFW application image. No new matter should be introduced, nor should the scope or meaning of the claims be changed.

Please complete the response (see below) and forward the completed response to scanning using document code **COCX**.

FOR PAPER FILES:

Please review the requested changes/corrections as shown in the attached certificate of correction. Please complete this form (see below) and forward it with the file to:

Certificates of Correction Branch (Co f C)
Randolph Square – 9D10-A
Palm Location 7580

Eva James
Certificates of Correction Branch
703-756-1583 _____

Thank You For Your Assistance

The request for issuing the above-identified correction(s) is hereby:
Note your decision on the appropriate box.

☐ **Approved**	All changes apply.
☐ **Approved in Part**	Specify below which changes **do not** apply.
☒ **Denied**	State the reasons for denial below.

Comments: should these claims be enter? No

The requested changes are not of a clerical nature, a typographical error, or a mistake of minor character

ERIC S. KEASEL
CRU SPE-AU 3992

SPE RESPONSE FOR CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

DATE : ~~08-16-2010~~ 1-3-2011

Paper No.: _____

TO SPE OF : ART UNIT ~~1615~~ 3992

SUBJECT : Request for Certificate of Correction for Appl. No: 08957512 Patent No: 6308317 C1

Please respond to this request for a certificate of correction within 7 days.

FOR IFW FILES:

Please review the requested changes/corrections as shown in the **COCIN** document(s) in the IFW application image. No new matter should be introduced, nor should the scope or meaning of the claims be changed.

Please complete the response (see below) and forward the completed response to scanning using document code **COCX**.

FOR PAPER FILES:

Please review the requested changes/corrections as shown in the attached certificate of correction. Please complete this form (see below) and forward it with the file to:

Certificates of Correction Branch (Co f C)
Randolph Square – 9D10-A
Palm Location 7580

Eva James
Certificates of Correction Branch
703-756-1583

Thank You For Your Assistance

The request for issuing the above-identified correction(s) is hereby:
Note your decision on the appropriate box.

- ☐ **Approved** — All changes apply.
- ☐ **Approved in Part** — Specify below which changes do not apply.
- ☒ **Denied** — State the reasons for denial below.

Comments: should these claims be enter? No

The requested changes are not of a clerical nature, a typographical error, or a mistake of minor character)

ERIC S. KEASEL
CRU SPE-AU 3992

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

1-5-2012

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

Patent No. : 6,308,317 B2
Serial No. : 08/957,512
Inventor(s) : Wilkinson; Timothy J. Guthery, et. al.
Issued : October 23, 2001

Re: Request for Certificate of Correction

Consideration has been given your request for the issuance of a certificate of correction for the above-identified patent under the provisions of Rule(s) 1.322.

Respecting the alleged errors to the claims, the requested changes are not of a clerical nature, a typographical error, or a mistake of minor character. (Per say Spec-AU 3992) Eric S. Keasel.

In view of the foregoing, your request is hereby denied.

Further correspondence concerning this matter should be filed and directed to Decisions and Certificates of Correction Branch. Any response must be filed within a four week period with the sum of $100.00

Eva James
For Mary Diggs
Decisions & Certificate
of Correction Branch
(571-272-3422 or 703-756-1580)

Pehr Hansson
3616 Far West Blvd #117-314
Austin, TX 78731

ej

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

EVELYN M. SOMMER
570 LEXINGTON AVENUE, 17TH FLOOR
NEW YORK NY 10022

MAILED
OCT 07 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,080,495 :
Issued: June 27, 2000 : ON PETITION
Application No. 08/958,340 :
Filed: October 27, 1997 :
Attorney Docket No. LAMINATORS

This is a decision in response to the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(b), filed on July 11, 2011, to accept the delayed payment of the maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition under 37 CFR 1.378(b) is **dismissed**.

If reconsideration of this decision is desired, a petition for reconsideration under 37 CFR 1.378(e) must be filed within TWO (2) MONTHS from the mail date of this decision. No extension of this two-month time limit can be granted under 37 CFR 1.136(a) or (b). Any such petition for reconsideration must be accompanied by the petition fee of $400.00 as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(f). The petition for reconsideration should include an exhaustive attempt to provide the lacking item(s) noted below because the Director will not undertaken any further reconsideration or review of the matter after a decision on the petition for reconsideration.

The patent issued on June 27, 2000. The first maintenance fee could have been paid during the period from June 27, 2003 through Monday, December 29, 2003 or with a surcharge during the period from Tuesday, December 30, 2003 through Monday, June 28, 2004. Accordingly, this patent expired on June 28, 2004, for failure to timely remit the first maintenance fee.

On July 11, 2011, petitioners submitted the present petition under 37 CFR 1.378(b), which set forth the following pertinent facts surrounding the delay in paying the maintenance fee.

> [] Shortly after the issue date, February 29, 2000, all of the patent files in [patent practitioner Evelyn M. Sommer's] possession were transferred, at the request of the CEO of Laminators, Inc., David Thompson, Sr., to another law firm, who to the best of her recall was Bums, Doane, Swecker & Mathis, resident in Washington,

D.C., who, she was later informed, was thereafter followed by the law firm of Buchanan, Ingersoll & Rooney, and thereafter, she believes, Oblon, Spivak, McClelland, Maier & Neustadt. Evelyn M. Sommer was told that the Bums, Doane, Swecker & Mathis law firm would handle all patent work for Laminators, Inc. and that her services were no longer required. She was not advised of the subsequent transfers of the company's patent files.

[] Ms. Sommer did not hear from John T. Wright, [the inventor and presently the Vice President of Research and Development] or anyone else at Laminators, Inc. from that time forward until about 7-8 years ago, when she was contacted by John T. Wright concerning an invention made by his son. She met with him one time and did not hear from him again nor did she contact him until she wrote to him following receipt from the Patent Office of a Maintenance Fee Reminder on about February 14, 2011, in connection with U.S. Patent No. 6,588,165 (Exhibit "D"), which she had received at her office.

[] In the interim (since her replacement as attorney for Laminators, Inc.'s patent matters) her office had moved at least three times: from 300 Park Avenue, New York, to 250 Park Avenue, New York, then to 570 Lexington Avenue, New York. Changes of address were recorded at the Patent Office in all instances. No other correspondence, from the Patent Office or otherwise, concerning Laminators, Inc.'s matters have been forwarded to her.

[] Ms. Sommer notified John T. Wright of the need to pay a maintenance fee in U.S. Patent No. 6,588,165 (Exhibit "C") and received in return authorization to pay the fee due which was paid on March 16, 2011. She also received from John T. Wright an e-mail dated March 21, 2011 (copy attached as Exhibit "A") in which he advised that David Thompson, St. had retired and had sold his interest in Laminators, Inc. to his sons. Prior to retiring, David Thompson Sr. had been responsible for transferring all of the company's patent work to Bums, Doane, Swecker & Mathis, thereafter to Buchanan, Ingersoll & Rooney, and thereafter to Oblon, Spivak, McClelland, Maier & Neustadt. David Thompson, Sr. had also requested John T. Wright to transfer all of the company patent records including all original patents in his possession to the accounting department at Laminators, Inc. for safe keeping.

[] John T. Wright has advised that the accounting department at Laminators, Inc. had changed hands twice. (Exhibit "A"). When John T. Wright checked with the present accounting department, he found that they were in possession of only one small patent file which did not contain any copies of issued patents, patent deeds or relevant information.

[] David Thompson, Jr., one of the new owners of Laminators, Inc., requested that John T. Wright contact [Ms. Sommer] as soon as he could find her. Evelyn M.

> Sommer' s letter regarding the maintenance fee due in U.S. Patent No. 6,588,165 provided her contact information and by e-mails dated March 7 and March 21,2011, John T. Wright then requested that she take certain actions on their behalf.
>
> [] Over at least a substantial part of the past 7-8 years, Laminators, Inc. has been engaged in patent litigation (Case No. 2:09-cv-814, S.D. of Ohio) involving U.S. Patent No. 6,505,454 by an outside law firm and during this time has had their patent prosecution and maintenance handled by at least 3 different firms as set forth above in ¶ 7. During this period of time, David Thompson, Sr. had John T. Wright transfer all of the company's patent files to the accounting department, which, as noted above in ¶ 7, changed hands twice, substantially no patent records being retained by him with the result that no one at Laminators, Inc. with authority to act was notified of any action required to be taken, or, if received, authorized anyone to take any action. Therefore, the Notices of Maintenance Fees Due, if received, were not attended to. The succession of law firms were not advised of the company's need to pay maintenance fees on U.S. Patent No. 6,080,495, as presumably neither Laminators, Inc. nor anyone else brought this matter to their attention and so the requirement was not docketed by anyone.

Petition, 07/11/11, pp. 2-4.

A grantable petition to accept a delayed maintenance fee payment under 37 CFR 1.378(b) must include the following:

> (1) the required maintenance fee set forth in § 1.20(e) through (g);
>
> (2) the surcharge set forth in § 1.20(i)(1); and
>
> (3) a showing that the delay was unavoidable since reasonable care was taken to ensure that the maintenance fee would be paid timely and that the petition was filed promptly after the patentee was notified of, or otherwise became aware of, the expiration of the patent. The showing must enumerate the steps taken to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee, the date and the manner in which patentee became aware of the expiration of the patent, and the steps taken to file the petition promptly.

This petition lacks requirement (3).

As 35 U.S.C. 41(c) requires the payment of fees at specified intervals to maintain a patent in force, rather than some response to a specific action by the Office under 35 U.S.C. 133, a reasonably prudent person in the exercise of due care and diligence would have taken steps to ensure the timely payment of such maintenance fees. Ray v. Lehman, 55 F.3d 606, 609, 34 USPQ2d 1786, 1788 (Fed. Cir. 1995). That is, an adequate showing that the delay in payment of the maintenance fee at issue was "unavoidable" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. 41(c) and 37

CFR 1.378(b)(3) requires a showing of the steps taken to ensure the timely payment of the maintenance fee. Id. Thus, where the record fails to disclose that the patentee took reasonable steps, or discloses that the patentee took no steps, to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee, 35 U.S.C. 41(c) and 37 CFR 1.378(b)(3) preclude acceptance of the delayed payment of the maintenance fee under 37 CFR 1.378(b).

Acceptance of a late maintenance fee under the unavoidable delay standard is considered under the same standard for reviving an abandoned application under 35 U.S.C. 133. This is a very stringent standard. Decisions on reviving abandoned applications on the basis of "unavoidable" delay have adopted the reasonably prudent person standard in determining if the delay was unavoidable:

> The word 'unavoidable' . . . is applicable to ordinary human affairs, and requires no more or greater care or diligence than is generally used and observed by prudent and careful men in relation to their most important business. It permits them in the exercise of this care to rely upon the ordinary and trustworthy agencies of mail and telegraph, worthy and reliable employees, and such other means and instrumentalities as are usually employed in such important business. If unexpectedly, or through the unforeseen fault or imperfection of these agencies and instrumentalities, there occurs a failure, it may properly be said to be unavoidable, all other conditions of promptness in its rectification being present.

In re Mattullath, 38 App. D.C. 497, 514-15 (1912) (quoting Pratt, 1887 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 31, 32-33 (1887)); see also Winkler v. Ladd, 221 F. Supp. 550, 552, 138 USPQ 666, 667-68 (D.D.C. 1963), aff'd, 143 USPQ 172 (D.C. Cir. 1963); Ex parte Henrich, 1913 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 139, 141 (1913). In addition, decisions on revival are made on a "case-by-case basis, taking all the facts and circumstances into account." Smith v. Mossinghoff, 671 F.2d 533, 538, 213 USPQ 977, 982 (D.C. Cir. 1982). Finally, a petition cannot be granted where a petitioner has failed to meet his or her burden of establishing that the delay was "unavoidable." Haines v. Quigg, 673 F. Supp. 314, 316-17, 5 USPQ2d 1130, 1131-32 (N.D. Ind. 1987). Moreover, patentee's lack of knowledge of the need to pay the maintenance fee and the failure to receive the Maintenance Fee Reminder do not constitute unavoidable delay. See Patent No. 4,409,763, 7 USPQ2d 1798 (Comm'r Pat. 1988).

The general standard applied by the Office requires petitioners to establish that the patentee or his successors in interest treated the patent the same as a reasonable and prudent person would treat his most important business. Smith v. Mossinghoff, 671 F.2d 533, 538 213 USPQ 977, 982 (D.C. Cir. 1982). In determining whether the delay in paying a maintenance fee was unavoidable, one looks to whether the party responsible for payment of the maintenance fee exercised the due care of a reasonably prudent person. Ray v. Lehman, 55 F.3d 606, 608-609, 34 USPQ2d 1786, 1787 (Fed. Cir. 1995). The patent owner at the time of the expiration of the patent is ultimately the person responsible to ensure the timely payment of the maintenance fees. The patent owner may engage another to track and/or pay the maintenance fees; however, merely

engaging another does not relieve the patent owner from his obligation to take appropriate steps to ensure the timely payment of such maintenance fees. See California Medical Prods. v. Tecnol Medical Prods., 921 F. Supp. 1219 (D. Del. 1995). Moreover, a petitioner is bound by any error that may have been committed by the obligated party. Id.

In this instance, the facts presented reveal that petitioners did not have any steps in place to ensure that the maintenance fee was paid in a timely manner. Moreover, even if petitioners did employ a system to track the due dates for the timely payment of the maintenance fees, based on the facts presented, it does not appear that it was reasonably reliable to alert petitioners of due dates for payment of the maintenance fees. Without documentary evidence that petitioners undertook calendaring or tracking of the maintenance fee due dates, petitioners cannot support a showing of unavoidable delay. Specifically, Ms. Sommer stated that substantially no patent records were retained by Mr. Wright after the transfer to the accounting department which resulted in no one at Laminators, Inc. with authority to act being notified of any action required to be taken, or, if received, authorized anyone to take any action with regard to the patent matter. Moreover, Ms. Sommer indicated that the requirement to pay the maintenance fees for this patent was not docketed by anyone because the succession of law firms were not advised of the company's need to pay maintenance fees and presumably neither Laminators, Inc. nor anyone else brought this matter to the firms' attention. As the record fails to disclose petitioners took any steps to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee, 35 U.S.C. 41(c) and 37 CFR 1.378(b)(3) preclude acceptance of the delayed payment of the maintenance fee under 37 CFR 1.378(b).

Further, the fact that one may have been preoccupied with other matters does not excuse the delay in payment of a maintenance fee. A showing of diligence is essential to support a find of unavoidable delay. There is no "sliding scale" based upon the priority given to maintaining this patent in force, or more diligently seeking reinstatement, *vis-à-vis* other matters. The issue is solely whether the maintenance, or reinstatement, of the patent at issue was conducted with the care or diligence that is generally used and observed by prudent and careful persons in relation to their most important business. While petitioners may have not been aware of the need to schedule and make the payment, a lack of knowledge of the patent statues and rules of practice before the USPTO will not normally warrant a finding of unavoidable delay. In this case, the record does not provide a showing that petitioners exercised the due care and diligence observed by a reasonably prudent person in relation to their most important business.

The required showing in any renewed petition must set forth the steps taken to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee, the date and the manner in which petitioners became aware of the expiration of the patent, and the steps taken to file the petition promptly. MPEP 2590. Furthermore, an adequate showing requires a statement by all persons with direct knowledge of the cause of the delay, setting forth the facts as they know them. Id. Copies of all documentary evidence referred to in a statement should be furnished as exhibits to the statement. Petitioners again are reminded that where a petitioner fails to show that he took reasonable steps, or discloses that he took no steps to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee, 35 U.S.C. 41(c)

and 37 CFR 1.378(b)(3) preclude acceptance of the delayed payment of the maintenance fee under 37 CFR 1.378(b).

In summary, the showing of record is inadequate to establish unavoidable delay. Accordingly, the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(b) is **dismissed**. Petitioners should note that if this petition under 37 CFR 1.378(b)/(e) is not renewed, or if renewed and not granted, petitioners may obtain a refund of the maintenance fees and the post-expiration surcharge. The $400.00 petition fee for seeking further reconsideration is not refundable.

Any request for refund should be in writing to the following address:

Mail Stop 16
Director of the US Patent and Trademark Office
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

A copy of this decision should accompany petitioners' request.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail: Mail Stop Petition
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By FAX: (571) 273-8300
Attn: Office of Petitions

By hand: Customer Services Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Correspondence may also be submitted electronically via EFS-Web.

Telephone inquiries regarding this decision may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3211.

C. T. Donnell

Christina Tartera Donnell
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
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JOHN D JETER
1403 TECHE DRIVE
ST MARTINVILLE LA 70582

MAILED

JAN 24 2012

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,916,153 :
Issue Date: 06/29/1999 :
Application Number: 08/958,509 : ON PETITION
Filing Date: 10/27/1997 :
For: MULTIFUNCTION CATHETER :

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c), filed on December 24, 2011, to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

This patent expired on June 29, 2011 for failure to timely pay the third maintenance fee. Since this petition was submitted within twenty-four months after the six-month grace period provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e), the petition was timely filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(c).

The maintenance fee is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

The address in the petition is different than the correspondence address. A courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the address in the petition. All future correspondence, however, will be mailed solely to the address of record. A change of correspondence address should be filed if the correspondence address needs to be updated.

Telephone inquiries related to this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3231.

D Wood

Douglas I. Wood
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

Encl: PTO/SB/123 Change of Correspondence Address

Cc: W.G. RHEA, JR. M.D.
3329 LAND HARBOR
NEWLAND NC 28657

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5957940	1999-09-28	08958524	1997-10-27	

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	◉	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/John N. Coulby/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2012-02-28
Name	John N. Coulby	Registration Number	43565

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 5957940
Issue Date: September 28,1999
Application No. 08958524
Filed: October 27,1997
Attorney Docket No. 23660-00605

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed February 28,2012 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of February 28,2012 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

JUL 18 2011

Lucy X. Yang
Pfizer Inc.
Patent Department
7000 Portage Road (KZO-267-635)
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

In Re: Patent Term Extension
Application for
U.S. Patent No. 6,020,329

Dear Ms. Yang:

An interim extension under 35 U.S.C. § 156(e)(2) is enclosed extending the term of U.S. Patent No. 6,020,329 for a period of 1 year. While a courtesy copy of this letter is being forwarded to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), you should directly correspond with the FDA regarding any required changes to the patent expiration dates set forth in the Patent and Exclusivity Data Appendix of the Orange Book (Approved Drug Products with Therapeutic Equivalence Evaluations) or in the Patent Information set forth in the Green Book (FDA Approved Animal Drug Products). Effective August 18, 2003, patent submissions for publication in the Orange Book and Docket *95S-0117 need to be submitted on form FDA-3542 which may be downloaded from FDA's Electronic Forms Download Website: http://www.fda.gov/opacom/morechoices/fdaforms/default.html (http://www.fda.gov/opacom/morechoices/fdaforms/FDA-3542.pdf).

Inquiries regarding this communication should be directed to the undersigned by telephone at (571) 272-7755, or by e-mail at mary.till@uspto.gov.

Mary C. Till
Senior Legal Advisor
Office of Patent Legal Administration
Office of the Associate Commissioner
for Patent Examination Policy

cc: Office of Regulatory Policy
Food and Drug Administration
10903 New Hampshire Ave., Bldg. 51, Rm. 6222
Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002

Attention: Beverly Friedman

RE: CONVENIA® (cefovecin sodium)
Docket No.: FDA-2009-E-0087

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Pfizer Inc.	:	
Request for Patent Term Extension	:	ORDER GRANTING
U.S. Patent No. 6,020,329	:	INTERIM EXTENSION

Pfizer Inc., the owner of record in the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) of U.S. Patent No. 6,020,329, filed an application for patent term extension under 35 U.S.C. § 156 on June 20, 2008. The original term of the patent is due to expire on July 22, 2011. Applicant filed a request for interim extension on March 2, 2011. The patent claims the active ingredient, cefovecin sodium, in the animal drug product CONVENIA®, which was approved by the Food and Drug Administration for commercial marketing or use on April 25, 2008. An extension of 1,462 days is requested.

The initial USPTO review of the application to date indicates that the subject patent is eligible for extension of the patent term under 35 U.S.C. § 156. A final determination of the length of the extension of the patent term and issuance of a patent term extension certificate cannot be made until a final determination of the length of the regulatory review period is made. Because the original term of the patent would expire before a certificate of patent term extension can be issued, an interim extension of the patent term is appropriate.

An interim extension under 35 U.S.C. § 156(e)(2) of the term of U.S. Patent No. 6,020,329 is granted for a period of one year from the original expiration date of the patent.

July 8, 2011

Date

David J. Kappos

Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and

Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

PFIZER INC
PATENT DEPARTMENT
235 EAST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK NY 10017-5755

MAILED
OCT 25 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,020,329 :
Issue Date: February 1, 2000 :
Application No. 08/958,864 : DECISION ON PETITION
Filed: October 20, 1997 :
Attorney Docket No. PC-9137B :

This is a decision on the Petition Under 37 CFR 1.182, filed June 28, 2011 which is being treated as a petition under 37 CFR 1.59(b) to expunge information from the above identified application.

The petition is **dismissed**.

Petitioner requests that papers filed on June 27, 2011, be expunged from the record. Petitioner states this paper was filed unintentionally.

In regard to the requirements for a petition to expunge information filed unintentionally, MPEP 724.05(II) states in part:

II. INFORMATION UNINTENTIONALLY SUBMITTED IN APPLICATION

A petition to expunge information unintentionally submitted in an application (other than information forming part of the original disclosure) may be filed under 37 CFR 1.59(b), provided that:

(A) the Office can effect such return prior to the issuance of any patent on the application in issue;
(B) it is stated that the information submitted was unintentionally submitted and the failure to obtain its return would cause irreparable harm to the party who submitted the information or to the party in interest on whose behalf the information was submitted;
(C) the information has not otherwise been made public;
(D) there is a commitment on the part of the petitioner to retain such information for the period of any patent with regard to which such information is submitted;
(E) it is established to the satisfaction of the Director that the information to be

returned is not material information under 37 CFR 1.56; and
(F) the petition fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(g) is included.

The condition set forth in item (A) cannot be met since the patent has issued.
The petition does not have a statement in regard to items (B), (C) and (D).

For these reasons the petition cannot be granted.

Telephone inquiries concerning this communication should be directed to Carl Friedman at (571) 272-6842.

Carl Friedman
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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MAILED

APR 07 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN, LLP
P.O. BOX 10500
MCLEAN VA 22102

In re Patent No. 6,197,073 :
Issue Date: March 6, 2001 :
Application No. 08/958,865 : ON PETITION
Filed: October 27, 1997 :
Attorney Docket No. 241797/33147 :

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c), filed January 28, 2011, to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance.

The petition is **DISMISSED**.

If reconsideration of this decision is desired, a petition for reconsideration under 37 CFR 1.378(e) must be filed within TWO (2) MONTHS from the mail date of this decision. No extension of this two-month time limit can be granted under 37 CFR 1.136(a) or (b). This is **not** a final agency action within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. § 704.

Any petition for reconsideration of this decision must be accompanied by the petition fee of $400 as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(f). The petition for reconsideration must include the lacking item(s) noted above, since, after a decision on the petition for reconsideration, no further reconsideration or review of the matter will be undertaken by the Commissioner.

A petition to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee under 35 U.S.C. § 41(c) and 37 CFR 1.378(c) must be accompanied by: (1) a statement that the delay was unintentional; (2) payment of the appropriate maintenance fee, unless previously submitted; (3) payment of the surcharge set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2). This petition lacks item (1) above.

As to item (1) the statement of unintentional delay is presently not acceptable since the petition not signed by all of the inventors.

The application file does not indicate a change of address has been filed in this case, although the address given on the petition differs from the address of record. A change of address should be filed in this case in accordance with MPEP 601.03. A courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the address noted on the petition. However, until otherwise instructed, all future correspondence regarding this application will be mailed solely to the address of record.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By Mail:
Mail Stop PETITION
Commissioner for Patents
Post Office Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By hand:
U. S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Petitions
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

The centralized facsimile number is **(571) 273-8300.**

Telephone inquiries should be directed to the Kimberly Inabinet at (571) 272-4618.

/Kimberly Inabinet/
Kimberly Inabinet
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

cc: Egbert Brandau
Taunusring 50,
D-63755 Alzenau, Germany

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

Dr. Egbert Brandau
Taunusring 50,
Alzenau D-637-55 DE GERMANY

MAILED

AUG 29 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,197,073 :
Issue Date: March 6, 2001 :
Application No. 08/958,865 : ON PETITION
Filed: October 27, 1997 :
Attorney Docket No. 241797/33147 :

This is a decision on the letter received May 12, 2011 which will be treated as a petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c), filed January 28, 2011, to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance.

The petition is **DISMISSED.**

If reconsideration of this decision is desired, a petition for reconsideration under 37 CFR 1.378(e) must be filed within TWO (2) MONTHS from the mail date of this decision. No extension of this two-month time limit can be granted under 37 CFR 1.136(a) or (b). This is **not** a final agency action within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. § 704.

Any petition for reconsideration of this decision must be accompanied by the petition fee of $400 as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(f). The petition for reconsideration must include the lacking item(s) noted above, since, after a decision on the petition for reconsideration, no further reconsideration or review of the matter will be undertaken by the Commissioner.

A petition to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee under 35 U.S.C. § 41(c) and 37 CFR 1.378(c) must be accompanied by: (1) a statement that the delay was unintentional; (2) payment of the appropriate maintenance fee, unless previously submitted; (3) payment of the surcharge set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2). This petition lacks item (1) above.

As to item (1) the statement of unintentional delay is presently not acceptable since the petition not signed by all of the inventors. See 37 CFR 1.33(b) which states:

> (b) Amendments and other papers. Amendments and other papers, except for written assertions pursuant to § 1.27(c)(2)(ii) of this part, filed in the application must be signed by:
> (1) A registered patent attorney or patent agent of record appointed in compliance with § 1.32(b);
> (2) A registered patent attorney or patent agent not of record who acts in a representative capacity under the provisions of § 1.34;
> (3) An assignee as provided for under §3.71(b) of this chapter; or
> (4) All of the applicants (§ 1.41(b)) for patent, unless there is an assignee of the entire interest and such assignee has taken action in the application in accordance with § 3.71 of this chapter.

Petitioner may consider filing a petition under 37 CFR 1.378 (b) under the unavoidable provisions. See attached form.

If petitioner does not wish to pursue reinstatement of this expired patent, petitioner may request a refund of the $2055 maintenance fee and the $1,640 surcharge fee submitted with the petition. The request should be made in writing and addressed to: Mail Stop 16, Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. A copy of this decision should accompany petitioner's request.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By Mail:
Mail Stop PETITION
Commissioner for Patents
Post Office Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By hand:
U. S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Petitions
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

The centralized facsimile number is **(571) 273-8300.**

Telephone inquiries should be directed to the Kimberly Inabinet at (571) 272-4618.

/Kimberly Inabinet/
Kimberly Inabinet
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

Lin & Associates
Intellectual Property, Inc.
PO Box 2339
Saratoga CA 95070-0339

MAILED
JAN 27 2012
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of	:	
Shih-Jen Kuo	:	
Application No. 08/959240	:	
Filing or 371(c) Date: 10/28/1997	:	ON PETITION
Pat. Num.: 5973671	:	
Issue Date: 10/26/1999	:	
Attorney Docket Number: UPA-97151	:	

This is a notice regarding request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28. On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. **See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).**

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989).** Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED.**

This application is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this application must be paid at the large entity rate.

A review of the petition reveals that the address appearing on the petition differs from the correspondence address of record. Applicant is advised that, in patented files: requests for changes of correspondence address, powers of attorney, revocations of powers of attorney, withdrawal of attorney and submissions under 37 CFR 1.501: Designation of, or changes to, a fee address, should be addressed to Mail Stop M Correspondence.

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3232.

/DLW/

Derek L. Woods
Attorney
Office of Petitions

CC: THOMAS, KAYDEN, HORSTEMEYER & RISLEY, LLP
400 INTERSTATE NORTH PARKWAY SE
SUITE 1500
ATLANTA, GA 30339

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5,932,433	1999-08-03	08/959,512	1997-10-28	24114.001; Cust. 28381)

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	◉	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/JEFFERY P. BERNHARDT/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2012-03-02
Name	Jeffery P. Bernhardt	Registration Number	54997

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 5932433
Issue Date: August 3,1999
Application No. 08959512
Filed: October 28,1997
Attorney Docket No. 1038.1A

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed March 2,2012 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of March 2,2012 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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ST. JUDE MEDICAL, ATRIAL FIBRILLATION DIVISION
Legal Department
One St. Jude Medical Drive
St. Paul MN 55117-9913

MAILED
FEB 02 2012
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,935,063	:	
Issued : August 10, 1999	:	ON PETITION
Application No. 08/959,813	:	
Filed: October 29, 1997	:	
Attorney Docket No.	:	

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28. On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. **See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).**

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This application is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this application must be paid at the large entity rate.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3222.

/Kenya A. McLaughlin/

Kenya A. McLaughlin
Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5857428	1999-01-12	08960018	1997-10-29	

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	◉	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

○ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

◉ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Sole Patentee			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature.			
Signature	/Robert Gitzen/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-09-28
Name	Robert Gitzen		

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

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2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 5857428
Issue Date: January 12,1999
Application No. 08960018
Filed: October 29,1997
Attorney Docket No.

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed September 29,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of September 29,2011 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
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In re Patent No. 5955462
Issue Date: September 21,1999
Application No. 08961475
Filed: October 31,1997
Attorney Docket No. HB-19

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed September 23,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of September 23,2011 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5,955,462	1999-09-21	08/961,475	1997-10-31	HB.19

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	◉	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/DAVIDRSALIWANCHIK/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-09-23
Name	David R. Saliwanchik	Registration Number	31794

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

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3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 5931198
Issue Date: August 3,1999
Application No. 08961534
Filed: October 30,1997
Attorney Docket No. FYFE-100

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed January 18,2012 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of January 18,2012 .
This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5931198	1999-08-03	08961534	1997-10-30	

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	◉	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/califtervo/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2012-01-18
Name	Calif Tervo	Registration Number	31308

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

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5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

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9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

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August 11, 2010

Paul D. Yasger
Abbott Laboratories
Dept. 0377, Bldg. AP6A-1
100 Abbott Park Road
Abbott Park, IL 60064-6008

Patent No: 6,676,967 B1
Application No: 08/962,422
Applicant: Eugenio A. Cefali, et al.
Issued: January 13, 2004
Title: **METHODS FOR REDUCING FLUSHING IN INDIVIDUALS BEING TREATED WITH NICOTINIC ACID FOR HYPERLIPIDEMIA**

Request for Certificate Of Correction:

Consideration has been given to your request for the issuance of a certificate of correction for the above- identified patent under the provisions of Rule 1.322.

Inspection of the application for the patent reveals that the Related U.S. Application Data is printed in accordance with the record in the Patent and Trademark Office as passed to issue by the examiner.

In view of the foregoing your entire request is hereby **denied**.

Further correspondence concerning this matter should be filed and directed to Decisions & Certificated of Correction Branch.

/Virginia Tolbert/
Virginia Tolbert
For Mary Diggs, Supervisor
Decisions and Certificate of Correction
(571) 272-0460 (voice)
(571) 270-9892 (fax)

vt

Paper file

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August 11, 2010

Paul D. Yasger
Abbott Laboratories
Dept. 0377, Bldg. AP6A-1
100 Abbott Park Road
Abbott Park, IL 60064-6008

Patent No: 6,746,691 B2
Application No: 08/962,424
Applicant: David J. Bova
Issued: June 27, 2000
Title: **NICOTINIC ACID COMPOSITION FOR TREATING HYPERLIPIDEMIA AND RELATED METHODS THEREFOR**

Request for Certificate Of Correction:

Consideration has been given to your request for the issuance of a certificate of correction for the above- identified patent under the provisions of Rule 1.322.

Inspection of the application for the patent reveals that the Related U.S. Application Data is printed in accordance with the record in the Patent and Trademark Office as passed to issue by the examiner.

In view of the foregoing your entire request is hereby **denied**.

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/Virginia Tolbert/
Virginia Tolbert
For Mary Diggs, Supervisor
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vt

Paper File

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5842534	1998-12-01	08963037	1997-11-03	UC-1995-183-1

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☒ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity

	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)
◉	11 ½ year	(1553)

Small Entity

	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

○ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

◉ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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The Assignee of record of the entire interest			
Under 37 CFR 3.71 an assignee becomes of record by filing a statement in compliance with 37 CFR 3.73(b). Signature requirements are set forth in 37 CFR 1.4(d), and the undersigned certifies that he / she is empowered to act on behalf of the assignee of the entire interest			
Signature	/David R. McGee/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-04-20
Name	David McGee, Exec. Dir., TTS, Univ. of Calif.		
Enter Reel and Frame Number		Remove	
Reel Number	018700	Frame Number	0250
Click ADD for additional Reel Number and Frame Number		Add	

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

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4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

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In re Patent No. 5842534
Issue Date: December 1,1998
Application No. 08963037
Filed: November 3,1997
Attorney Docket No. UC951831

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed April 20,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of April 20,2011 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

GREENBERG TRAURIG (NY)
MET LIFE BUILDING
200 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK NY 10166

In re Patent No. 6,012,811 :
Issued: January 11, 2000 :
Application No. 08/963,299 : ON PETITION
Filed: November 3, 1997 :
Attorney Docket No. 062188-010404 :

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 filed June 9, 2011.

On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. **See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).**

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989).** Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED.**

This patent is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this patent must be paid at the large entity rate.

Telephone inquires concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-7751.

/Joan Olszewski/
Joan Olszewski
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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In re Patent No. 5940835
Issue Date: August 17,1999
Application No. 08964035
Filed: November 4,1997
Attorney Docket No. ODSY1001SRM/

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed October 27,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of October 27,2011 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5,940,835	1999-08-17	08964035	1997-11-04	23924-19745

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	◉	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Edgar Perez/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-10-27
Name	Edgar Perez	Registration Number	63348

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

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6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

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KAUTH, POMEROY , PECK & BAILEY ,LLP
2875 MICHELLE DRIVE
SUITE 110
IRVINE CA 92606

MAILED

NOV 12 2010

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,920,338
Issued: July 6, 1999
Application No. 08/964,305
Filed: November 4, 1997
Attorney Docket No. A10:01462

ON PETITION

This is a decision on the "PETITION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.182 FOR DECISION ON A QUESTION NOT SPECIFICALLY PROVIDED FOR TO WITHDRAW INCORRECT TERMINAL DISCLAIMER" filed January 29, 2010.

The petition is **DISMISSED** to the extent that the Terminal Disclaimer filed November 18, 1998 will not be removed from the record.

A review of the record indicates that a terminal disclaimer was filed under 35 U.S.C. § 253 and 37 CFR 1.321(c) on November 18, 1998. The terminal disclaimer was relied upon by petitioner to overcome a rejection on the grounds of obviousness-type double patenting involving the claims of co-pending application no. 08/963,992. Petitioner argues that due to a typographical error, the Terminal Disclaimer filed November 18, 1998 and in response thereof the Notice of Allowability incorrectly identified U.S. Patent 5,216,502, which has an application serial number of 07/629,255 to overcome a double patenting rejection and that therefore, the November 18, 1998 Terminal Disclaimer should be withdrawn or in the alternative, the correction of the terminal disclaimer to correctly identify and disclaim the term based on US Patent Application No. 08/963,992 (as identified by the May 15, 1996 Office action) instead of U.S. Patent No. 5,216,502.

The Terminal Disclaimer filed November 18, 1998 was executed by was executed by Barry Katz. In the disclaimer, Barry Katz is identified as an owner and an inventor, and disclaimed that "...the terminal part of any patent granted on the instant application, which would extend beyond the expiration date of Patent No. 5,216,502....."

While the Terminal Disclaimer filed November 18, 1998 was accepted and recorded by the examiner, and while it was noted on the face of the patent that "this patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer", no application number is recited (i.e., the term of this patent that extends beyond the expiration date of application no. .....). Neither the terminal disclaimer nor the alleged ambiguity actually exists on the patent. Thus, there is no error in the patent requiring correction. As such, this petition does not necessitate consideration of whether issuance of a certificate of correction is warranted.

Rather, Patentees request that the Terminal Disclaimer filed November 18, 1998 be withdrawn and or corrected.

The Terminal Disclaimer filed November 18, 1998 was made of record and despite the typographical error in the terminal disclaimer, the examiner properly considered the terminal disclaimer to disclaim the terminal part of any patent granted on the above-identified application, which would extend beyond the expiration date of the full statutory term of patent 5,216,502, which has an application serial number of 07/629,255, not 08/963,992, in examination and allowance of this application.

Nonetheless, removal of the Terminal Disclaimer filed November 18, 1998 from the application record is inappropriate. At the outset, unfortunately, once a patent issues, the USPTO will not remove the effect of a recorded terminal disclaimer in an issued patent. See Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) § 1490(B); Bayer AG v. Carlsbad Technology Inc., 64 USPQ2d 1045, 1048-49 (Fed. Cir. 2002).

What is here controlling is that petitioner seeks to correct an issued patent. The statutory authority for amendment or correction of an issued patent is found in title 35, chapter 25. The instant petition does not involve correction of a mistake by the Patent and Trademark Office (Office) (35 USC § 254) or correction of the named inventor (35 USC § 256). In addition, while the instant petition involves a disclaimer, 35 USC § 253 merely authorizes the filing and recording of disclaimers; it does not authorize the withdrawal of a terminal disclaimer. Bayer, supra.

Unless a "mistake" is provided for in 37 CFR 1.322, 1.323, or 1.324, or affords legal grounds for reissue or for reexamination, such "mistake" will not be corrected subsequent to the issuance of an application as a patent. See 37 CFR 1.325: MPEP 1490. As further noted in MPEP 1490, the mechanisms to correct a patent (i.e., certificate of correction (35 USC § 255), reissue (35 USC § 251) and reexamination (35 USC § 305) are not available to withdraw or otherwise nullify the effect of a recorded terminal disclaimer.

In accordance with the above reasoning, the Terminal Disclaimer will not be withdrawn and no further action will be undertaken. If petitioner would like the USPTO to consider a new terminal disclaimer, petitioner will have to consider filing a reissue application.

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter should be directed to the undersigned Petitions Attorney at (571) 272-3212.

Patricia Faison-Ball
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6,003,327	1999-12-21	08/964,367	1997-11-04	

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity			Small Entity		
	Fee	Code		Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	◉	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/deborah l. lu/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2012-03-30
Name	Deborah L. Lu	Registration Number	50940

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 6003327
Issue Date: December 21,1999
Application No. 08964367
Filed: November 4,1997
Attorney Docket No. 97-45

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed March 30,2012 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of March 30,2012 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450

MAILED

APR 15 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

ROBERT L FARRIS
REISING ETHINGTON BARNARD & PERRY
P O BOX 4390
TROY MI 48099-9998

In re Patent No.: 5,873,227	:	
Issue Date: February 23, 1999	:	ON PETITION
Application No. 08/964,435	:	
Filed: November 4, 1997	:	
Atty. Docket No.: P-304-(WESTE	:	

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c), filed March 21, 2011, to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED.**

This patent expired on February 24, 2011 for failure to pay the eleven and one-half year maintenance fee. Since this petition was submitted within twenty-four months after the six-month grace period provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e), the petition was timely filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(c).

The maintenance fee is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

There is no indication that the person signing the instant petition was ever given a power of attorney or authorization of agent to prosecute the above-identified application. If the person signing the instant petition desires to receive future correspondence regarding this application, the appropriate power of attorney or authorization of agent must be submitted. While a courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the person signing the instant petition, all future correspondence will be directed to the address currently of record until such time as appropriate instructions are received to the contrary.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to Robert DeWitty, Petitions Examiner, at **571-272-8427**.

for David Bucci
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

cc: Mr. Joseph M. Lewinski
AGCO Corporation (Patent Department)
4205 River Green Parkway
Duluth, Georgia 30096

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SEP 13 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. BOX 320850
ALEXANDRIA VA 22320-4850

In re Patent No. 6,018,720 :
Issue Date: January 25, 2000 :
Application No. 08/965,996 : NOTICE
Filed: November 7, 1997 :
Attorney Docket No. JAO40320 :

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 on August 5, 2011.

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue patent under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED.**

The file does not indicate a change of address has been submitted. If appropriate, a change of address should be filed in accordance with MPEP 601.03. A courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed; however, the Office will mail all future correspondence solely to the address of record.

This patent is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this patent must be paid at the large entity rate.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3208.

/KOC/
Karen Creasy
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

Cc:

DENNEMEYER & CO LTD
REGENT HOUSE HEATON LANE
STOCKPORT CHESHIRE
ENGLAND SK4 1BB

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

GILMAN CLARK LLC
176 FEDERAL STREET
4TH FLOOR
BOSTON MA 02110

MAILED
JUL 21 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,956,681
Issue Date: September 21, 1999
Application No. 08/966,912
Filed: November 6, 1997
Title of Invention: APPARATUS FOR GENERATING TEXT DATA ON THE BASIS OF SPEECH DATA INPUT FROM TERMINAL

ON PETITION

This decision is in response to the request for refund filed June 17, 2011.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

Petitioner advises that when the maintenance fee in the amount of $4,110 plus the surcharge of $135 was paid, that an incorrect patent number was inadvertently submitted.

A review of the file reveals that in fact, the wrong patent number was provided with the transmittal of the third maintenance fee on May 23, 2011. Further review of the file reveals that the maintenance fee in the amount of $4110 and the surcharge in the amount of $130 was properly and timely remitted by the Attorney of Record, on June 1, 2011.

While no mistake was made by the Office, in the acceptance of the maintenance fee submitted May 23, 2011, the funds will nevertheless be refunded back to the credit card provided.

In view thereof, this matter will be forwarded to the Maintenance Fee Division for a mailing of the Notice and then the file will be forwarded to the Files Repository.

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned Petitions Attorney at (571) 272-3212.

Patricia Faison-Ball
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5839255	1998-11-24	08967706	1997-11-10	8402.452

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity

	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)
◉	11 ½ year	(1553)

Small Entity

	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/klhester/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2010-12-01
Name	Kathryn L. Hester, Ph.D.	Registration Number	46768

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
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In re Patent No. 5839255
Issue Date: November 24,1998
Application No. 08967706
Filed: November 10,1997
Attorney Docket No. 8402.452

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed December 1,2010 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of December 1,2010 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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KENYON & KENYON
1025 CONNECTICUT AVENUE N W
SUITE 600
WASHINGTON DC 20036

MAILED
JUN 06 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
Konstantinos E. Spartiotis et al. :
Application No. 08/968,130 :
Patent No. 5,952,646 :
Filed: November 12, 1997 :
Attorney Docket No. **233846601**

Paper No. 11

NOTICE

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 May 06, 2011.

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue patent under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **NOT ACCEPTED**.

The application file does not indicate a change of address has been filed in this case, although the address given on the petition differs from the address of record. A change of address should be filed in this case in accordance with MPEP 601.03. A courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the address noted on the petition. However, until otherwise instructed, all future correspondence regarding this application will be mailed solely to the address of record.

It appears that the petition was not properly signed by a person having authority to prosecute in the above-identified patent. Therefore, the request can not be accepted at this time.

Petitioner's attention is directed to 37 CFR 1.33(b), which states.

(b) Amendments and other papers. Amendments and other papers, except for written assertions pursuant to § 1.27(c)(2)(ii) of this part, filed in the application must be signed by:

(1) A registered patent attorney or patent agent of record appointed in compliance with § 1.32(b);

(2) A registered patent attorney or patent agent not of record who acts in a representative capacity under the provisions of § 1.34;
(3) An assignee as provided for under §3.71(b) of this chapter; or
(4) All of the applicants (§ 1.41(b)) for patent, unless there is an assignee of the entire interest and such assignee has taken action in the application in accordance with § 3.71 of this chapter.

Accordingly, the request cannot be accepted until it is signed by all inventors, an attorney /agent who is registered to practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, or the assignee of the entire interest. If the request is signed by an assignee, the assignee the assignee must comply with the requirements of 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-2783.

/Tredelle D. Jackson/
Paralegal Specialist
Office of Petitions

cc: **DENNEMEYER & CO. LTD**
REGENT HOUSE HEATON LANE
STOCKPORT CHESHIRE
ENGLAND SK4 1BB

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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KENYON & KENYON
1025 CONNECTICUT AVENUE N W
SUITE 600
WASHINGTON DC 20036

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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
Konstantinos E. Spartiotis et al. :
Patent No. 5,952,646 : NOTICE
Application No. 08/968,130 :
Filed: November 12, 1997 :
Attorney Docket No. **233846601**

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 August 12, 2011.

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue patent under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This patent is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this patent must be paid at the large entity rate.

The application file does not indicate a change of address has been filed in this case, although the address given on the petition differs from the address of record. A change of address should be filed in this case in accordance with MPEP 601.03. A courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the address noted on the petition. However, until otherwise instructed, all future correspondence regarding this application will be mailed solely to the address of record.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-2783.

/Tredelle D. Jackson/
Paralegal Specialist
Office of Petitions

cc: **WEINGARTEN, SHURGIN, GAGNEBIN**
& LEBOVICI LLP
TEN POST OFFICE SQUARE
BOSTON MA 02109

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5987343	1999-11-16	08/969,405	1997-11-07	38739/271

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
◉	11 ½ year	(1553)	○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Kory D. Christensen/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2012-02-08
Name	Kory D. Christensen	Registration Number	43548

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re Patent No. 5987343
Issue Date: November 16,1999
Application No. 08969405
Filed: November 7,1997
Attorney Docket No. DATA15

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed February 8,2012 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of February 8,2012 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5,995,858	1999-11-30	08/969,407	1997-11-07	

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity			Small Entity		
	Fee	Code		Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
◉	11 ½ year	(1553)	○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Kory D. Christensen/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2012-02-16
Name	Kory D. Christensen	Registration Number	43548

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

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The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re Patent No. 5995858
Issue Date: November 30,1999
Application No. 08969407
Filed: November 7,1997
Attorney Docket No. DATA14

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed February 16,2012 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of February 16,2012 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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MCANDREWS HELD & MALLOY, LTD
500 WEST MADISON STREET
SUITE 3400
CHICAGO, IL 60661

MAILED

AUG 26 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,991,911 :
Issue Date: November 23, 1999 :
Application No. 08/970,600 : NOTICE
Filed: November 14, 1997 :
Patentee(s): Christopher P. Zook :

This is a Notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28, filed on July 29, 2011.

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. 1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989). Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**. Therefore, status as a small entity has been removed and any future fee(s) paid must be submitted at the large entity rate.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3226.

Andrea Smith
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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MCANDREWS HELD & MALLOY, LTD
500 WEST MADISON STREET
SUITE 3400
CHICAGO IL 60661

MAILED
OCT 07 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,996,105 :
Issued: November 30, 1999 :
Application No. 08/970,730 : NOTICE
Filed: November 14, 1997 :
Attorney Docket No. 15527US01 :

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 filed September 1, 2011.

On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. **See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).**

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989).** Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED.**

This patent is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this patent must be paid at the large entity rate.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-7751.

/Joan Olszewski/
Joan Olszewski
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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Paper No.

JC PATENTS
4 VENTURE, SUITE 250
IRVINE CA 92618

MAILED
JUL 28 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,945,980 :
Issued: 08/31/1999 :
Application No. 08/970,947 : ON PETITION
Filed: 11/14/1997 :
For: TOUCHPAD WITH ACTIVE PLAN :
FOR PEN DETECTION :

This is a decision in response to the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(b),[1] filed on June 10, 2011, to accept the delayed payment of the maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **dismissed**.

If reconsideration of this decision is desired, a petition for reconsideration under 37 CFR 1.378(e) must be filed within TWO (2) MONTHS from the mail date of this decision. No extension of this 2-month time limit can be granted under 37 CFR 1.136(a) or (b). Any such petition for reconsideration must be accompanied by the petition fee of $400.00 as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(f). The petition for reconsideration should include an exhaustive attempt to provide the lacking item(s) noted below, since, after a decision on the petition for reconsideration, no further reconsideration or review of the matter will be undertaken by the Director.

The patent issued on August 31, 1999. The first maintenance fee could have been paid during the period from August 31, 2002, through February 28, 2003, or, with a surcharge, during the period from March 1, 2003, through September 2, 2003.

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[1] A grantable petition to accept a delayed maintenance fee payment under 37 CFR 1.378(b) must be include

(1) the required maintenance fee set forth in § 1.20(e) through (g);
(2) the surcharge set forth in §1.20(I)(1); and
(3) a showing that the delay was unavoidable since reasonable care was taken to ensure that the maintenance fee would be paid timely and that the petition was filed promptly after the patentee was notified of, or otherwise became aware of, the expiration of the patent. The showing must enumerate the steps taken to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee, the date and the manner in which patentee became aware of the expiration of the patent, and the steps taken to file the petition promptly.

Accordingly, this patent expired at midnight on September 2, 2003, for failure to timely remit the maintenance fee.

On January 26, 2011, an Office letter was mailed stating that a timely maintenance fee intended for another patent was inadvertently credited to the above-identified patent, and, as such, this patent was maintained in force. The Office letter further stated that while the error had been rectified, USPTO records did not reveal that any other maintenance fee payment was timely received for the subject patent, and that the patent therefore expired as of the end of the grace period for payment of the first maintenance fee on September 2, 2003.

On June 10, 2011, the subject petition was filed. Petitioners' counsel asserts that patentee, ELAN MICROELECTRONICS CORP (hereinafter "Elan") was assigned the patent by prior assignee K-TECH DEVICES CORPORATION (hereinafter "K-Tech") on November 4, 2003. Petitioners assert that K-Tech was responsible for payment of the first maintenance fee. Petitioner's attorney states that petitioners have attempted to contact K-Tech's counsel to obtain information regarding payment of the first maintenance fee, but that no response was received. In support, petitioners have provided an email chain showing that Bill Tsai, Patent Engineer for Elan, sent an email to individuals at K-Tech requesting that they provide documentation that the first maintenance fee payment had been timely submitted to the USPTO, but that no response was received.

A petition to accept the delayed maintenance fee under 35 U.S.C. § 41(c) and 37 CFR 1.378(b) must be accompanied by (1) an adequate, verified showing that the delay was unavoidable, since reasonable care was taken to ensure that the maintenance fee would be paid timely and that the petition was filed promptly after the patentee was notified of, or otherwise became aware of, the expiration of the patent, (2) payment of the appropriate maintenance fee, unless previously submitted, and (3) payment of the surcharge set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(i)(1). This petition lacks requirement (1).

Unavoidable delay under 35 U.S.C. § 41(b) is measured by the same standard as that for reviving an abandoned application under 35 U.S.C. § 133.[2] Under 35 U.S.C. § 133, the Director may revive an abandoned application if the delay in responding to the relevant outstanding Office requirement is shown to the satisfaction of the Director to have been "unavoidable". Decisions on reviving

[2] In re Patent No. 4,409,763, 7 USPQ2d 1798, 1800 (PTO Comm'r 1988).

abandoned applications have adopted the reasonably prudent person standard in determining if the delay was unavoidable.[3] However, a petition to revive an application as unavoidably abandoned cannot be granted where a petitioner has failed to meet his or her burden of establishing the cause of the unavoidable delay.[4] In view of In re Patent No. 4,409,763,[5] this same standard will be applied to determine whether "unavoidable" delay within the meaning of 37 CFR 1.378(b) occurred.

35 U.S.C. § 41(c)(1) does not require an affirmative finding that the delay was avoidable, but only an explanation as to why the petitioner has failed to carry his or her burden to establish that the delay was unavoidable.[6] 35 U.S.C. § 133 does not require the Director to affirmatively find that the delay was avoidable, but only to explain why the applicant's petition was unavailing). Petitioner is reminded that it is the patentee's burden under the statutes and regulations to make a showing to the satisfaction of the Director that the delay in payment of a maintenance fee is unavoidable.[7]

As 35 USC § 41(b) requires the payment of fees at specified intervals to maintain a patent in force, rather than some response to a specific action by the Office under 35 USC § 133, a reasonably prudent person in the exercise of due care and diligence would have taken steps to ensure the timely payment of such maintenance fees.[8] That is, an adequate showing that the delay in payment of the maintenance fee at issue was "unavoidable" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 41(c) and 37 CFR 1.378(b)(3) requires a showing of the steps taken by the responsible party to ensure the timely payment of the second maintenance fee for this patent.[9]

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[3] Ex parte Pratt, 1887 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 31, 32-33 (Comm'r Pat. 1887)(the term "unavoidable" "is applicable to ordinary human affairs, and requires no more or greater care or diligence than is generally used and observed by prudent and careful men in relation to their most important business"); In re Mattullath, 38 App. D.C. 497, 514-15 (D.C. Cir. 1912); Ex parte Henrich, 1913 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 139, 141 (Comm'r Pat. 1913).

[4] Haines v. Quigg, 673 F. Supp. 314, 5 USPQ2d 1130 (N.D. Ind. 1987).

[5] 7 USPQ2d 1798, 1800 (Comm'r Pat. 1988), aff'd sub nom. Rydeen v. Quigg, 748 937 F.2d 623 (Fed. Cir. 1991) (table), cert. denied, 502 U.S. 1075 (1992).

[6] See Commissariat A. L'Energie Atomique v. Watson, 274 F.2d 594, 597, 124 USPQ 126, 128 (D.C. Cir. 1960).

[7] See Rydeen v. Quigg, 748 F. Supp. 900, 16 USPQ2d 1876 (D.D.C. 1990), aff'd 937 F.2d 623 (Fed. Cir. 1991)(table), *cert. denied*, 502 U.S. 1075 (1992); Ray v. Lehman, 55 F.3d at 609, 34 USPQ2d at 1788.

[8] Ray, 55 F.3d at 609, 34 USPQ2d at 1788.

[9] Id.

As K-Tech was the owner of this patent at the time the first maintenance fee was due, K-Tech, as the assignee of the entire interest was free to deal with the patent as K-Tech willed.[10] As such, petitioner, as the successor in title, is bound by the delay resulting from K-Tech, its partners, or their principles' business decisions, actions, or inactions, including those business decisions, actions, or inactions which led to the failure to obtain or remit, the maintenance fee herein, or the failure of K-Tech to earlier assign its rights to petitioner.[11] As petitioner acquired his interest after the patent expired, that he may subsequently acted with diligence is immaterial to the delay that led to the expiration of the patent.[12] Rather, petitioner, as the successor in title to K-Tech's patent, is bound by K-Tech, its partners, or their principal's previous business decisions, actions, or inactions, regarding the maintenance fee for this patent.[13]

As such, petitioners **must** show either that K-Tech timely proffered payment of the first maintenance fee, or that the delay in payment of the maintenance fee was unavoidable. The showing of record, however, is insufficient to show unavoidable delay. In this regard, petitioners must provide evidence that the first maintenance fee was timely filed, or, if the fee was not timely sent to the USPTO, that the delay was unavoidable.

The showing of record is inadequate, however, to establish unavoidable delay. Petitioners have not shown that counsel or assignee K-Tech had docketed the patent for payment of the first maintenance fee in a reliable tracking system. Rather, than unavoidable delay, the showing of record is that petitioners failed to take adequate precautions to ensure that the first maintenance fee was timely paid. As petitioners have not shown that they exercised the standard of care observed by a reasonable person in the conduct of his or her most important business, the petition will be dismissed.[14]

Petitioners further assert that they were "misled by inaccurate information to believe that the subject patent had been properly maintained" by the indication in Office records that the first

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[10] See Garfield v. Western Electric Co., 298 F.659 (S.D.N.Y. 1924).

[11] See Winkler v. Ladd, 221 F.Supp. 550, 552, 138 USPQ 666, 667 (D.D.C. 1963).

[12] See Kim v. Quigg, 718 F.Supp. 1280, 12 USPQ2d 1604 (E.D. Va 1989).

[13] Winkler, supra; Kim supra.

[14] See note 3, supra.

year maintenance fee had been accepted, and the patent maintained in force, when in fact the patent was expired.

Petitioners' argument has been considered, but is not persuasive. A review of Office records indicates that the second maintenance fee was paid on November 28, 2006. As such, Office records properly indicated that the patent had been maintained in force as of the date of payment of the second maintenance fee on November 28, 2006. Subsequently, on January 11, 2011, it was determined that the first maintenance fee payment made on October 23, 2002, was applied to this patent in error, and that the patent had expired for failure to timely pay the first maintenance fee. Nevertheless, it is solely the responsibility of the patentee to ensure that the maintenance fee is paid timely to prevent expiration of the patent. As such, petitioners must provide evidence that the first maintenance fee payment was timely submitted to the Office, or that the delay in submission thereof, was unavoidable.

A patentee's lack of knowledge of the need to pay the maintenance fee and the failure to receive the Maintenance Fee Reminder do not constitute unavoidable delay.[15] Under the statute and regulations, the Office has no duty to notify patentees of the requirement to pay maintenance fees or to notify patentees when the maintenance fees are due. The Office mailing of Maintenance Fee Reminders is carried out strictly as a courtesy. Accordingly, it is solely the responsibility of the patentee to assure that the maintenance fee is timely paid to prevent expiration of the patent. The lack of knowledge of the requirement to pay a maintenance fee and/or the failure to receive the Maintenance Fee Reminder will not shift the burden of monitoring the time for paying a maintenance fee from the patentee to the Office.[16]

While it is certainly unfortunate that petitioner did not learn that the first maintenance fee was due until receipt of the letter mailed on January 26, 2011, nevertheless, the showing of record does not support a finding of unavoidable delay.

Petitioner should note that if this petition is not renewed, or if renewed and not granted, then the maintenance fee and post-expiration surcharge are refundable. The $400.00 petition fee for

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[15] *See* Patent No. 4,409,763, *supra; see also* "Final Rules for Patent Maintenance Fees" 49 Fed. Reg. 34716, 34722-34723 (August 31, 1984), *reprinted in* 1046 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 28, 34 (September 25, 1984).

[16] Rydeen v. Quigg, 748 F. supp. at 900.

expedited consideration is not refundable. The $400.00 petition fee for seeking reconsideration is not refundable. Any request for refund should be in writing to the address noted below.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail: Mail Stop Petition
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By FAX: (571) 273-8300
Attn: Office of Petitions

By hand: Customer Service Window
Mail Stop Petition
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

A reply may also be filed via EFS-Web.

Telephone inquiries should be directed to the undersigned at 571-272-3231.

D Wood

Douglas I. Wood
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
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MAILED
OCT 27 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent Number: 5,945,980	:	
Issue Date: 08/31/1999	:	
Application Number: 08/970,947	:	DECISION ON PETITION
Filing Date: 11/14/1997	:	
Attorney Docket Number:	:	
054753/347185	:	

This is a decision on the REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(e) and the PETITION UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(b), filed, on September 28, 2011, which is treated as a request for reconsideration under 37 CFR 1.378(e) and a petition to waive the rules under 37 CFR 1.183.

The petitions are **DENIED**.[1]

BACKGROUND

The patent issued on August 31, 1999. The first maintenance fee could have been paid during the period from August 31, 2002, through February 28, 2003, or, with a surcharge, during the period from March 1, 2003, through September 2, 2003. Accordingly, this patent expired at midnight on September 2, 2003.

On January 26, 2011, an Office letter was mailed stating that a timely maintenance fee intended for another patent was inadvertently credited to the above-identified patent, and, as such, this patent was maintained in force. The Office letter further stated that while the error had been rectified, USPTO records did not reveals that any other maintenance fee payment was timely received for the subject patent, and that the patent

[1] This decision may be regarded as a final agency action within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. § 704 for purposes of seeking judicial review. See MPEP 1002.02.

therefore expired as of the end of the grace period for payment of the first maintenance fee on September 2, 2003.

On June 10, 2011, a petition under 37 CFR 1.378(b) was filed. On July 28, 2011, the petition was dismissed.

The present request for reconsideration, and petition under 37 CFR 1.183, were filed on September 28, 2011.

STATUTE AND REGULATION

35 U.S.C. § 41(c)(1) states that:

> The Director may accept the payment of any maintenance fee required subsection (b) of this section which is made within twenty-four months after the six-month grace period if this delay is shown to the satisfaction of the Director to have been unintentional, **or at any time after the six-month grace period if the delay is shown to the satisfaction of the Director to have been unavoidable.**
>
> (emphasis added)

37 CFR 1.183 states that:

> In an extraordinary situation, when justice requires, any requirement of the regulations in this part **which is not a requirement of the statutes** may be suspended or waived by the Director or the Director's designee, *sua sponte*, or on petition of the interested party, subject to such other requirements as may be imposed. Any petition under this section must be accompanied by the petition fee set forth in § 1.17(f).
>
> (emphasis added)

37 CFR 1.366(a) states that:

> The patentee may pay maintenance fees and any necessary surcharges, or any person or organization may pay maintenance fees and any

> necessary surcharges on behalf of a patentee. Authorization by the patentee need not be filed in the Patent and Trademark Office to pay maintenance fees and any necessary surcharges on behalf of the patentee.

37 CFR 1.378(b)(3) states that any petition to accept delayed payment of a maintenance fee must include:

> A showing that the delay was unavoidable since reasonable care was taken to ensure that the maintenance fee would be paid timely and that the petition was filed promptly after the patentee was notified of, or otherwise became aware of, the expiration of the patent. The showing must enumerate the steps taken to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee, the date, and the manner in which patentee became aware of the expiration of the patent, and the steps taken to file the petition promptly.

OPINION

Petitioner requests waiver of § 1.378(b) inasmuch as it requires that the showing of unavoidable delay "enumerate the steps taken to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee." Specifically, petitioner asserts that it is unable to make a showing of the steps to ensure timely payment of the first maintenance fee because the patentee was not informed until over seven (7) years after the first maintenance fee was due, that the first maintenance fee had not been timely paid, when the USPTO mailed, on January 26, 2011, a notification that the first maintenance fee had not been timely paid. Petitioner asserts that "[i]n the meantime, the USPTO *further* acted to the Patentee's detriment by leading Patentee to believe that the Patent was still in force." In summary, petitioner asserts that if the Office had informed Patentee at an earlier date that the subject patent had expired, patentee would have been able to (1) petition to accept the delayed maintenance under the unintentional provisions of § 1.378(c), or (2) been able, presumably, to produce the records required to meet the showing under 37 CFR 1.378(b)(3).

Petitioner's argument has been considered, but is not persuasive. At the outset, 35 U.S.C. 41(c)(2) requires a showing that the delay was "unavoidable". In this regard, the Director may accept

late payment of the maintenance fee if the delay is shown to the satisfaction of the Director to have been "unavoidable".[2] A patent owner's failure to pay a maintenance fee may be considered to have been "unavoidable" if the patent owner "exercised the due care of a reasonably prudent person."[3] This determination is to be made on a "case-by-case basis, taking all the facts and circumstances into account."[4] Unavoidable delay under 35 U.S.C. § 41(b) is measured by the same standard as that for reviving an abandoned application under 35 U.S.C. § 133.[5] Under 35 U.S.C. § 133, the Director may revive an abandoned application if the delay in responding to the relevant outstanding Office requirement is shown to the satisfaction of the Director to have been "unavoidable". Decisions on reviving abandoned applications have adopted the reasonably prudent person standard in determining if the delay was unavoidable.[6] However, a petition to revive an application as unavoidably abandoned cannot be granted where a petitioner has failed to meet his or her burden of establishing the cause of the unavoidable delay.[7] In view of In re Patent No. 4,409,763,[8] this same standard will be applied to determine whether "unavoidable" delay within the meaning of 37 CFR 1.378(b) occurred.

What petitioner asks, in essence, is that the Director consider the entire delay "unavoidable," as required by statute, but without requiring a showing that the entire delay was in fact "unavoidable." In this regard, assuming, *arguendo*, the portion of 37 CFR 1.378(b)(3) requiring enumeration of the steps in place to timely pay the maintenance fee were waived, petitioners would still be required to show that the ***entire*** delay was unavoidable in accordance with the statute. In Rydeen v. Quigg,[9] the court states that the Director "may not exercise discretion in a way that contradicts the purpose of the statute or is completely contrary to reason." Simply put, whether or not § 1.378(b)(3) explicitly states that a showing of the steps in place to pay the

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2 35 U.S.C. § 41(c)(1).

3 Ray v. Lehman, 55 F.3d 606, 608-09 (Fed.Cir.), cert. denied, -- U.S. ---, 116 S.Ct. 304, L.Ed.2d 209 (1995).

4 Smith v. Mossinghoff, 671 F.2d 533, 538, 213 USPQ 977, 982 (D.C. Cir. 1982).

5 In re Patent No. 4,409,763, 7 USPQ2d 1798, 1800 (PTO Comm'r 1988).

6 Ex parte Pratt, 1887 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 31, 32-33 (Comm'r Pat. 1887)(the term "unavoidable" "is applicable to ordinary human affairs, and requires no more or greater care or diligence than is generally used and observed by prudent and careful men in relation to their most important business"); In re Mattullath, 38 App. D.C. 497, 514-15 (D.C. Cir. 1912); Ex parte Henrich, 1913 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 139, 141 (Comm'r Pat. 1913).

7 Haines v. Quigg, 673 F. Supp. 314, 5 USPQ2d 1130 (N.D. Ind. 1987).

8 7 USPQ2d 1798, 1800 (Comm'r Pat. 1988), aff'd sub nom. Rydeen v. Quigg, 748 937 F.2d 623 (Fed. Cir. 1991) (table), cert. denied, 502 U.S. 1075 (1992).

9 16 USPQ.2d 1876, at 1880.

maintenance fee are required, such a showing is an essential component of a finding of unavoidable delay. To consider the delay in acceptance of a maintenance fee to be "unavoidable" in the absence of a showing that Patentee timely proffered the fee payment to the USPTO is clearly inconsistent with the level of diligence exercised by a reasonably prudent person as set forth in Ex parte Pratt.[10]

Furthermore, petitioner has not presented a showing of an extraordinary circumstance in which justice requires waiver of the rules. As set forth in 37 CFR 1.366(a), any person or organization may pay a maintenance fee on behalf of a patentee, and authorization of the patent need not be filed in the Patent and Trademark Office to pay maintenance fees on behalf of a patentee. As set forth in § 1.366(c) identification of the patents for which maintenance fees are being paid must include the patent number, and the application number of the United States application for the patent on which the maintenance fee is being paid. If the payment includes identification of only the patent number (*i.e.*, does not identify the application number of the United States application for the patent on which the maintenance fee is being paid), the Office may apply the payment to the patent identified by patent number in the payment.

Still further, as set forth in MPEP 2580:

> 37 CFR 1.377 provides a mechanism for review of a decision refusing to accept and record payment of a maintenance fee filed prior to the expiration of a patent. 37 CFR 1.377(a) permits a patentee who is dissatisfied with the refusal of the Office to accept and record a maintenance fee which was filed prior to the expiration of the patent to petition the Director to accept and record the maintenance fee. This petition may be used, for example, in situations where an error is present in the identifying data required by 37 CFR 1.366(c) with the maintenance fee payment, i.e., either the patent number or the application number is incorrect.

As such, it is not an extraordinary circumstance that a maintenance fee intended for another patent was misdirected to the subject patent. Likewise, it is neither an extraordinary circumstance for the USPTO to refuse to accept and record that payment because the maintenance fee for this patent had already

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[10] See note 6, supra.

been paid by another party, nor for the party whose maintenance fee payment was accepted and recorded to (a) discover that the maintenance fee was mistakenly applied to the wrong patent, and (b) petition the USPTO to reapply that fee payment to the correct patent.

Rather, as a prudent and careful patentee would be aware of the importance of documenting the timely submission of the maintenance fee, said prudent and careful patentee, whose proffer of the maintenance fee payment was refused because a maintenance fee payment intended for another patent was inadvertently credited to the patent in question. Said prudent and careful patentee would have retained evidence that the maintenance fee had been timely proffered but refused by the USPTO in the event that the error was later rectified, as here, and patentee was required to show that the maintenance fee payment had been timely proffered, but that the USPTO refused to record and accept it.

As stated previously, while it is unfortunate that patentees were not earlier notified of the error, this situation is not extraordinary and therefore does not merit waiver of the rules. Rather, the burden is on petitioner, not the USPTO, to show that the delay was unavoidable. Therefore, the petition under 37 CFR 1.183 is denied.

Considered further under 37 CFR 1.378(b), 35 U.S.C. § 41(c)(1) does not require an affirmative finding that the delay was avoidable, but only an explanation as to why the petitioner has failed to carry his or her burden to establish that the delay was unavoidable.[11] 35 U.S.C. § 133 does not require the Director to affirmatively find that the delay was avoidable, but only to explain why the applicant's petition was unavailing). Petitioner is reminded that it is the patentee's burden under the statutes and regulations to make a showing to the satisfaction of the Director that the delay in payment of a maintenance fee is unavoidable.[12]

As 35 USC § 41(b) requires the payment of fees at specified intervals to maintain a patent in force, rather than some response to a specific action by the Office under 35 USC § 133, a reasonably prudent person in the exercise of due care and diligence would have taken steps to ensure the timely payment of

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[11] See Commissariat A. L'Energie Atomique v. Watson, 274 F.2d 594, 597, 124 USPQ 126, 128 (D.C. Cir. 1960).

[12] See Rydeen v. Quigg, 748 F. Supp. 900, 16 USPQ2d 1876 (D.D.C. 1990), aff'd 937 F.2d 623 (Fed. Cir. 1991)(table), *cert. denied*, 502 U.S. 1075 (1992); Ray v. Lehman, 55 F.3d at 609, 34 USPQ2d at 1788.

such maintenance fees.[13] That is, an adequate showing that the delay in payment of the maintenance fee at issue was "unavoidable" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 41(c) and 37 CFR 1.378(b)(3) requires a showing of the steps taken by the responsible party to ensure the timely payment of the second maintenance fee for this patent.[14]

As K-Tech was the owner of this patent at the time the first maintenance fee was due, K-Tech, as the assignee of the entire interest was free to deal with the patent as K-Tech willed.[15] As such, petitioner, as the successor in title, is bound by the delay resulting from K-Tech, its partners, or their principles' business decisions, actions, or inactions, including those business decisions, actions, or inactions which led to the failure to obtain or remit, the maintenance fee herein, or the failure of K-Tech to earlier assign its rights to petitioner.[16] As petitioner acquired his interest after the patent expired, that he may subsequently acted with diligence is immaterial to the delay that led to the expiration of the patent.[17] Rather, petitioner, as the successor in title to K-Tech's patent, is bound by K-Tech, its partners, or their principal's previous business decisions, actions, or inactions, regarding the maintenance fee for this patent.[18]

As such, petitioner **must** show either that K-Tech timely proffered payment of the first maintenance fee, or that the delay in payment of the maintenance fee was unavoidable. The showing of record, however, is insufficient to show unavoidable delay. In this regard, petitioner must provide evidence that the first maintenance fee was timely filed, or, if the fee was not timely sent to the USPTO, that the delay was unavoidable.

The showing of record is inadequate, however, to establish unavoidable delay. Petitioners have not shown that counsel or assignee K-Tech had docketed the patent for payment of the first

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[13] Ray, 55 F.3d at 609, 34 USPQ2d at 1788.

[14] Id.

[15] See Garfield v. Western Electric Co., 298 F.659 (S.D.N.Y. 1924).

[16] See Winkler v. Ladd, 221 F.Supp. 550, 552, 138 USPQ 666, 667 (D.D.C. 1963).

[17] See Kim v. Quigg, 718 F.Supp. 1280, 12 USPQ2d 1604 (E.D. Va 1989).

[18] Winkler, supra; Kim supra. See In re Kim, 12 USPQ2d 1595, 1602 (Comm'r Pat. 1988)(stating that it is a well-established tenet of contract law that an assignee takes subject to the liabilities of the assignor (i.e., a person cannot improve his position by assignment)); see also Ex parte Stumpf, 16 Gour. 88:19 (Comm'r Pat. 1904) (case was abandoned before petitioner became owner and, where there is no reason shown by the previous owner, who was empowered to act at that time, or by his attorney, the delay was held not unavoidable).

maintenance fee in a reliable tracking system. Rather, than unavoidable delay, the showing of record is that petitioners failed to take adequate precautions to ensure that the first maintenance fee was timely paid. As petitioners have not shown that they exercised the standard of care observed by a reasonable person in the conduct of his or her most important business, the petition will be dismissed.[19]

Petitioners further assert that they were "misled by inaccurate information to believe that the subject patent had been properly maintained" by the indication in Office records that the first year maintenance fee had been accepted, and the patent maintained in force, when in fact the patent was expired.

Petitioner's argument has been considered, but is not persuasive. A review of Office records indicates that the second maintenance fee was paid on November 28, 2006. As such, Office records properly indicated that the patent had been maintained in force as of the date of payment of the second maintenance fee on November 28, 2006. Subsequently, on January 11, 2011, it was determined that the first maintenance fee payment made on October 23, 2002, was applied to this patent in error, and that the patent had expired for failure to timely pay the first maintenance fee. Nevertheless, it is solely the responsibility of the patentee to ensure that the maintenance fee is paid timely to prevent expiration of the patent. As such, petitioners must provide evidence that the first maintenance fee payment was timely submitted to the Office, or that the delay in submission thereof, was unavoidable.

A patentee's lack of knowledge of the need to pay the maintenance fee and the failure to receive the Maintenance Fee Reminder do not constitute unavoidable delay.[20] Under the statute and regulations, the Office has no duty to notify patentees of the requirement to pay maintenance fees or to notify patentees when the maintenance fees are due. The Office mailing of Maintenance Fee Reminders is carried out strictly as a courtesy. Accordingly, it is solely the responsibility of the patentee to assure that the maintenance fee is timely paid to prevent expiration of the patent. The lack of knowledge of the requirement to pay a maintenance fee and/or the failure to receive the Maintenance Fee Reminder will not shift the burden of

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[19] See note 6, supra.

[20] *See* Patent No. 4,409,763, *supra*; *see also* "Final Rules for Patent Maintenance Fees" 49 Fed. Reg. 34716, 34722-34723 (August 31, 1984), *reprinted in* 1046 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 28, 34 (September 25, 1984).

monitoring the time for paying a maintenance fee from the patentee to the Office.[21]

While it is certainly unfortunate that petitioner did not learn that the first maintenance fee was due until receipt of the letter mailed on January 26, 2011, nevertheless, the showing of record does not support a finding of unavoidable delay.

In summary, the showing of record is inadequate to establish unavoidable delay. While it is certainly unfortunate that the USPTO was not able to earlier inform petitioners that first maintenance fee had not been timely paid, the burden remains on petitioner, not the Office to demonstrate that the fee was timely paid, and the failure to do so does not rise to the level of unavoidable delay. Rather, than unavoidable delay, the showing of record is that petitioner failed to take adequate precautions to ensure that maintenance fees were timely paid. As petitioner has not shown that it exercised the standard of care observed by a reasonable person in the conduct of his or her most important business, the petition will be denied.[22]

CONCLUSION

The prior decision which refused to accept under § 1.378(b) the delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent has been reconsidered. The petition under § 1.378(c) has also been considered. For the above stated reasons, the delay in this case cannot be regarded as unavoidable, or unintentional, within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 41(c)(1) and 37 CFR 1.378(b) and (c).

Since this patent will not be reinstated, the maintenance fee(s) and surcharge fee(s) submitted by petitioner will be refunded by treasury check. The $400.00 fee for reconsideration will not be refunded.

As stated in 37 CFR 1.378(e), no further reconsideration or review of this matter will be undertaken.

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[21] Rydeen v. Quigg, 748 F. supp. at 900.

[22] See note 7, supra.

Telephone inquiries should be directed to Senior Petitions Attorney Douglas I. Wood at 571-272-3231.

Anthony Knight
Director, Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 5890592
Issue Date: April 6,1999
Application No. 08971397
Filed: November 14,1997
Attorney Docket No. 8402.413

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed April 15,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of April 15,2011 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5890592	1999-04-06	08971397	1997-11-14	8402.413

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity

	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)
◉	11 ½ year	(1553)

Small Entity

	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/klhester/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-04-15
Name	KATHRYN L. HESTER, Ph.D.	Registration Number	46768

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 5949411
Issue Date: September 7,1999
Application No. 08972336
Filed: November 18,1997
Attorney Docket No. 56419

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed January 13,2012 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of January 13,2012 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5949411	1999-09-07	08/972,336	1997-11-18	384P2651

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity			Small Entity		
	Fee	Code		Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	◉	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Jeffrey L. Weiss/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2012-01-13
Name	Jeffrey L. Weiss	Registration Number	45207

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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Paper No.

JOHN N WILLIAMS
FISH AND RICHARDSON
225 FRANKLIN STREET
BOSTON MA 02110-2804

MAILED

DEC 14 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of	:	
El-Husayni	:	
Application No. 08/972,801	:	
Patent No.: 5,940,784	:	DECISION ON PETITION
Filed: November 18, 1997	:	PURSUANT TO
Issued: August 17, 1999	:	37 C.F.R. § 1.28(c)
Attorney Docket No.:	:	
07493/002001	:	
Title: HEAT FLOW METER	:	
INSTRUMENTS	:	

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.28, received on November 8, 2011. On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 C.F.R. § 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56. 1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989). Therefore, nothing in this notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Petitioner has identified the particular type of fees that were erroneously paid as a small entity, when the small entity fees were actually paid, the small entity fees that were actually paid, and the deficiency owed amounts.

Petitioner has not identified the total deficiency payment owed.

The requirement that Petitioner must provide the Office with the total deficiency payment owed is waived, sua sponte: a review shows that the total deficiency payment owed is $2685.

The deficiency payment in the amount of $2685.00 has been received.

Your fee deficiency submission pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.28(c) is hereby accepted. The petition is **GRANTED** accordingly.

This patent is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this patent must be paid at the large entity rate.

Telephone inquiries regarding *this decision* should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3225.

Paul Shanoski
Senior Attorney
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
08/973,177	06/15/1998	TADHG CREEDON	1266 US	6530

56436 7590 12/15/2010

Hewlett-Packard Company
Intellectual Property Administration
3404 E. Harmony Road
Mail Stop 35
Fort Collins, CO 80528

EXAMINER	
HARRELL, ROBERT B	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2758	

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
12/15/2010	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

JERRY.SHORMA@HP.COM
ipa.mail@hp.com
laura.m.clark@hp.com

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COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
P.O. BOX 1450
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

Hewlett-Packard Company
Intellectual Property Administration
3404 E. Harmony Road
Mail Stop 35
Fort Collins CO 80528

In re Patent No. CREEDON ET AL.
Issue Date: August 08, 2000
Appl No.: 08/973,177
Filed: June 15, 1998
For: APPARTAUS FOR CONTROLLING DATA FLOW USING LOOKUP TABLES TO LINKG INCOMING PACKETS DIRECTLY TO OUTPUT PORTS

DECISION GRANTING PETITION
37 CFR 1.324

This is a decision on the petition filed August 24, 2004 to correct inventorship under 37 CFR 1.324.

The petition is granted.

The patented file is being forwarded to Certificate of Corrections Branch for issuance of a certificate naming only the actual inventor or inventors.

Kim Huynh
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2400
Technology Center 2400

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN
1941 ROLAND CLARKE PLACE
RESTON VA 20191

MAILED
OCT 14 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,928,241 :
Issue Date: July 27, 1999 :
Application No. 08/973,400 : NOTICE
Filed: December 12, 1997 :
Attorney Docket No. P15934 :

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28. On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. **See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).**

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989).** Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This application is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this application must be paid at the large entity rate.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-1642.

/AMW/
April M. Wise
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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United States Patent and Trademark Office
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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DARBY & DARBY
805 THIRD AVENUE
NEW YORK NY 10022-7513

MAILED

MAY 18 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No: 5,945,370	:	
Issued: August 31, 1999	:	
Application No. 08/973,515	:	NOTICE
Filed: December 5, 1997	:	
Attorney Docket No. IBM-5946370US	:	

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 filed March 22, 2011.

On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. **See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).**

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **DISMISSED**.

The request under 37 CFR 1.28 cannot be accepted at this time since it appears that the petition is not signed by a person having authority to act in the above-identified patent.

Petitioner's attention is directed to 37 CFR 1.33(b), which states.

Amendments and other papers, except for written assertions pursuant to § 1.27(c)(2)(ii) of this part, filed in the application must be signed by:

(1) A registered patent attorney or patent agent of record appointed in compliance with § 1.32(b);
(2) A registered patent attorney or patent agent not of record who acts in a representative capacity under the provisions of § 1.34;
(3) An assignee as provided for under §3.71(b) of this chapter; or

(4) All of the applicants (§ 1.41(b)) for patent, unless there is an assignee of the entire interest and such assignee has taken action in the application in accordance with § 3.71 of this chapter.

Further, that part of the petition that is directed to the deficiency payment is not signed by the proper party. Accordingly, the request cannot be accepted until it is signed by all inventors, an attorney or agent registered to practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office or the assignee of the entire interest under 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By Mail: Mail Stop PETITIONS
Commissioner for Patents
Post Office Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By hand: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Petitions
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

The centralized facsimile number is (571) 273-8300.

Additionally, the address given on the petition differs from the address of record. A courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the address given on the petition; however, the Office will mail all future correspondence solely to the address of record.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-7751.

/Joan Olszewski/
Joan Olszewski
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

cc: A.J PEACH
DENNEMEYER & CO LTD
REGENT HOUSE HEATON LANE
STOCKPORT CHESHIRE
ENGLAND SK4 1BB

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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DARBY & DARBY
805 THIRD AVENUE
NEW YORK NY 10022-7513

MAILED
OCT 17 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,945,370 :
Issued: August 31, 1999 :
Application No. 08/973,515 : ON PETITION
Filed: December 5, 1997 :
Attorney Docket No. IBM-5946370US :

This is a notice regarding your renewed request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 filed September 29, 2011.

On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. **See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).**

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989).** Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED.**

This patent is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this patent must be paid at the large entity rate.

Further, the address given on the request differs from the address of record. A courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the address given on the petition; however, the Office will mail all future correspondence solely to the address of record.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-7751.

/Joan Olszewski/
Joan Olszewski
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

cc: Yasuharu Tsurugai
President
Anan Kasei, Co., Ltd.
Urban Ace-Sannomiya Bldg8F, 1-22, Onoe-Dori 4-chome, Chuo-Ku, Kobe-shi
Hyogo, Japan

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

THERMO FINNIGAN LLC
355 RIVER OAKS PARKWAY
SAN JOSE, CA 95134

MAILED

MAY 13 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. **6,110,362**
Issue Date: August 29, 2000
Application No. 08/974,336
Filed: November 19, 1997
Attorney Docket No. **3206US1/NAT**

NOTICE UNDER 37 CFR 1.28(C)

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28. On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. **See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).**

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This application is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this application must be paid at the large entity rate.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to Monica A. Graves at (571) 272-7253.

/Monica A. Graves/
Petitions Examiner, Office of Petitions

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5857542	1999-01-12	08974900	1997-11-20	

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	◉	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Martin S. High/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-03-30
Name	Martin S. HIgh	Registration Number	46772

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

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The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

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In re Patent No. 5857542
Issue Date: January 12,1999
Application No. 08974900
Filed: November 20,1997
Attorney Docket No. 18712-000100

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed March 30,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of March 30,2011 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

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LANDO & ANASTASI, LLP
Z2011
ONE MAIN STREET, SUITE 1100
CAMBRIDGE MA 02142

In re Application of :
Thomas E. Kaib :
Application No. 08/974,954 : NOTICE
Patent No. 5,944,669 :
Filed: March 24, 2007 :
Attorney Docket No. **18179 (OCU)**

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 April 25, 2011.

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This application is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this application must be paid at the large entity rate.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-2783.

/Tredelle D. Jackson/
Paralegal Specialist
Office of Petitions

cc: **LANDO & ANASTASI, LLP**
RIVERFRONT OFFICE PARK
ONE MAIN STREET
CAMBRIDGE MA 02142

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PAUL J WHITE, Assoc. General Counsel
NATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY LABORATORY (NREL)
1617 COLE BOULEVARD
MS 5231
GOLDEN CO 80401-3393

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NOV 09 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
James L. TANGLER et al. :
Application No. 08/975,478 : NOTICE UNDER 37 CFR. 1.28(c)
Patent No. 6,068,446 :
Filed: November 20, 1997 :
Attorney Docket No. NREL95-13

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28.

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue patent under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This patent is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this patent must be paid at the large entity rate.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to Michelle R. Eason at (571) 272-4231.

Thurman K. Page
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

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Paper No.

HARNESS DICKEY & PIERCE
P O BOX 828
BLOOMFIELD HILLS MI 48303

MAILED

JUN 30 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,900,199 :
Issue Date: May 4, 1999 :
Application No. 08/976,416 :
Filed: November 21, 1997 :
Attorney Docket No. 7939-000006 :

ON PETITION

In re Patent No. 5,915,830 :
Issue Date: June 29, 1999 :
Application No. 08/985,146 :
Filed: December 4, 1997 :
Attorney Docket No. 7939000007 :

This is a decision in response to the communications filed May 3, 2011, June 1, 2011 and June 16, 2011, in U.S. Patent No. 5,900,199, which are collectively being treated as a petition under 37 CFR 1.377 to accept and record a maintenance fee in U.S. Patent No. 5,915,830.

The petition is **DISMISSED**.

A review of the record confirms that a maintenance fee was paid under 37 CFR 1.362(e) on April 18, 2011 in U.S. Patent No. 5,900,199; however, as noted by petitioner, the wrong patent number was inadvertently identified in the letter transmitting the fee. Consequently, the fee was applied towards the patent to which payment was directed, resulting in non payment of the third maintenance fee for U.S. Patent No. 5,915,830.

In submitting maintenance fees and any necessary surcharges, identification of the patents for which maintenance fees are being paid must include a patent number **and** an application number. See 37 CFR 1.366(c). In this case the payment was submitted identifying the wrong patent number and application number.

A petition under 37 CFR 1.377 may be used in situations where an error is present in the identifying data required by **37 CFR 1.366(c)** with the maintenance fee payment, i.e., either the patent number **or** the application number is incorrect. See **MPEP § 2515** and **§ 2530**. Since the transmittal of the maintenance fee payment failed to include at least one correct mandatory identifier, relief cannot be granted under 37 CFR 1.377.

Petitioner may wish to seek relief by filing a petition under 37 CFR 1.182 directed to U.S. Patent

6,915,830. However, petitioner should note that the mere suggestion to file a petition under 37 CFR 1.182 does not necessarily mean that such a petition will be granted. Petitioner must supply the evidence necessary for a grantable petition under 37 CFR 1.182. If petitioner cannot supply the evidence necessary under 37 CFR 1.182, or simply does not wish to, petitioner should consider filing a petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c).

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be delivered through one of the following mediums:

By mail:	Mail Stop PETITIONS Commissioner for Patents Post Office Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
By hand:	Customer Service Window Mail Stop Petitions Randolph Building 401 Dulany Street Alexandria, VA 22314
By fax:	(571) 273-8300 ATTN: Office of Petitions
By Internet:	EFS-Web1

/SDB/

Sherry D. Brinkley
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

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1 **www.uspto.gov/ebc/efs_help.html** (for help using EFS-Web call the Patent Electronic Business Center at (866) 217-9197)

US005900199A

United States Patent [19]

Dickson et al.

[11] Patent Number: 5,900,199

[45] Date of Patent: May 4, 1999

[54] **PROCESS FOR MAKING A VEHICLE GRILLE GUARD**

[75] Inventors: **Floyd R. Dickson**, Huntsville, Canada; **Lino C. Mallia**, Harrison Township, Mich.

[73] Assignee: **Algonquin Automotive**, Huntsville, Canada

[21] Appl. No.: **08/976,416**

[22] Filed: **Nov. 21, 1997**

[51] **Int. Cl.**[6] **B29C 45/00**; B29D 22/00

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **264/85**; 264/572

[58] **Field of Search** 264/85, 328.8, 264/328.12, 328.13, 572

[56] **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

D. 257,430	10/1980	Hickey .
D. 259,873	7/1981	Milner .
D. 275,475	9/1984	Turkleson .
D. 300,420	3/1989	Trinnaman .
D. 361,316	8/1995	Orth, Sr. et al. .
D. 384,625	10/1997	Thorne et al. .
3,622,174	11/1971	Wakeen et al. .
4,099,760	7/1978	Mascotte et al. .
4,120,923	10/1978	Kloker et al. .
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4,211,523	7/1980	Hunerberg .
4,436,679	3/1984	Winstead .
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4,675,141	6/1987	Kumazaki .
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5,662,841	9/1997	Guergov .

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

7-76252	3/1995	Japan .

Primary Examiner—Leo B. Tentoni

Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Harness, Dickey & Pierce, PLC

[57] **ABSTRACT**

The present invention provides a new and improved process of producing vehicle grille guards by gas-assisted injection molding and the grille guards produced thereby. The process includes injecting a plastic resin into a mold cavity in an amount less than the total volume of the mold cavity. An inert gas in then injected into a center portion of the cavity and a hollow gas channel extending throughout the center portion is formed, forcing the plastic resin to flow along an outer surface of the cavity.

6 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets

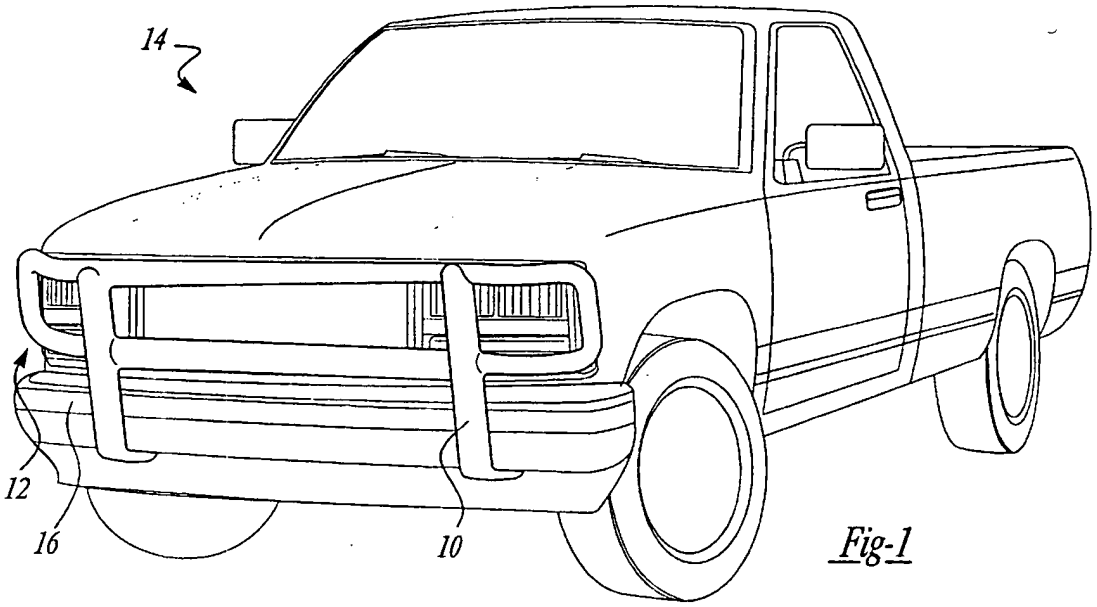

Fig-1

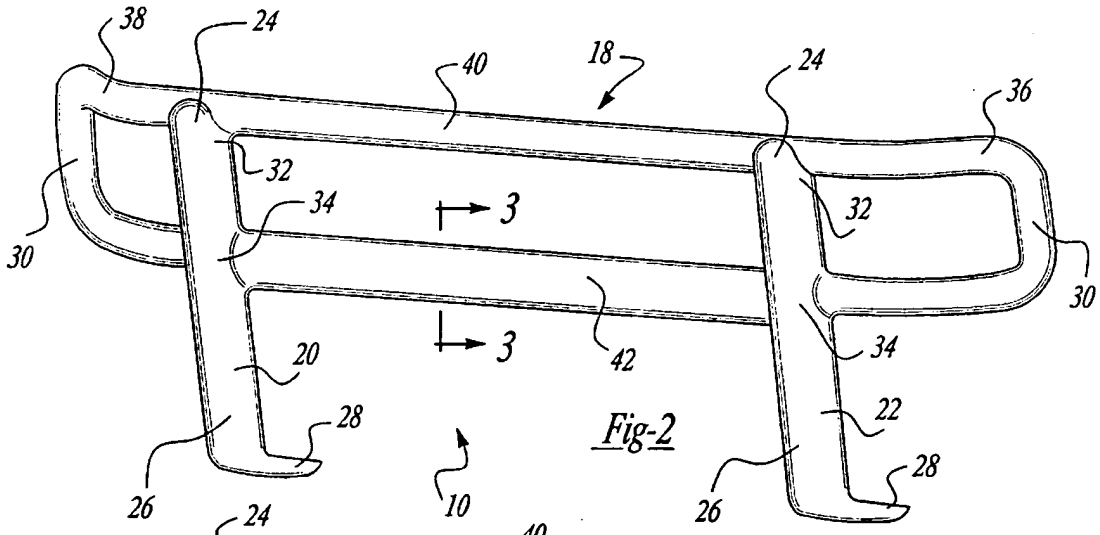

Fig-2

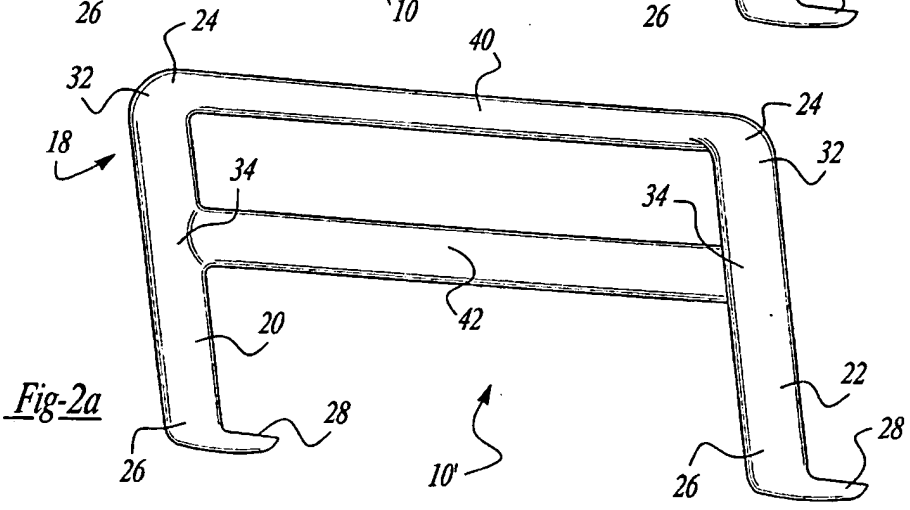

Fig-2a

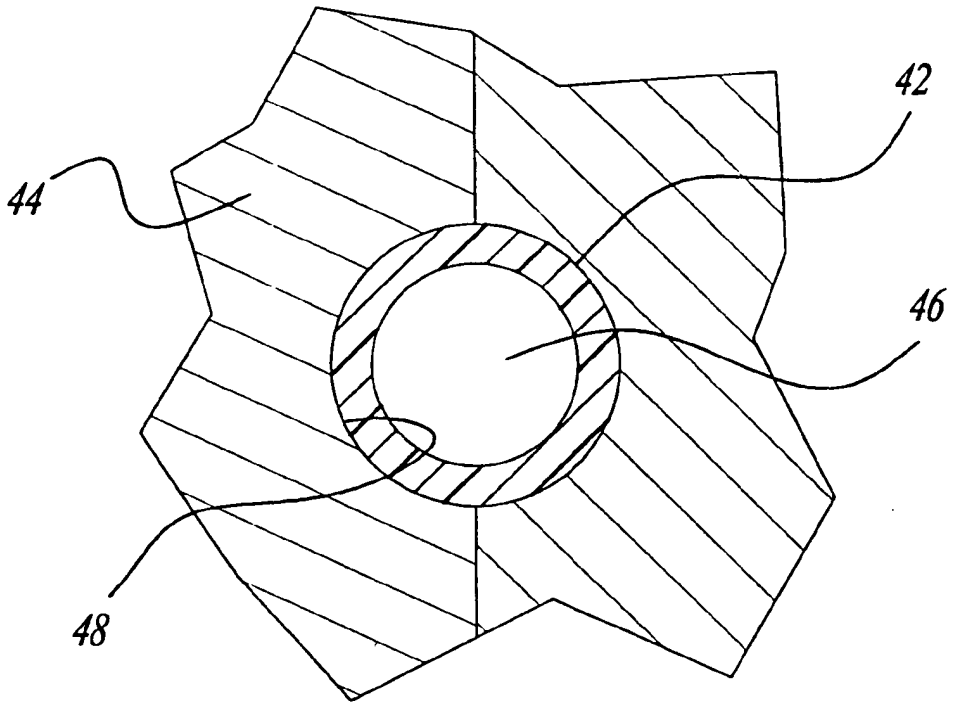

Fig-3

PROCESS FOR MAKING A VEHICLE GRILLE GUARD

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates generally to vehicle grille guards, and more particularly to a structural web automotive grille guard and a process for preparing the same.

2. Discussion

Current grille guards are typically made of a welded steel construction and are usually chrome plated to provide an attractive finish surface. However, such prior art steel grille guards are relatively heavy, which is highly undesirable. For example, heavy grille guards may cause the balance of the vehicle to be adversely affected which in turn can render steering more difficult.

Further, such prior art steel grille guards tend to be relatively expensive as to material cost, in view of the steel and chrome coating materials. Additionally, the manufacturing and labor costs tend to be high, due for example, from the need for welding the grille to the vehicle frame or chassis. Yet another possible problem with chrome coated grille guards is the likelihood that the chrome will wear away over time leaving the steel exposed and subject to unsightly rust.

In an apparent effort to address one or more of the perceived problems with steel grille guards, other prior art grille guards have been proposed which are formed from semi-rigid, self-skinning, foamed polyurethane with reinforcing metal strips, as in U.S. Pat. No. 5,215,343 or polycarbonate tubes as disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 4,168,855. However, the use of self-skinning foaming material or certain thermoplastic resins presents problems with regard to strength and durability as compared to steel guards.

Thus, there exists a need in the art to produce a vehicle grille guard that is lightweight, cost effective, and of high strength. The present invention provides a structural web injected plastic grille guard that can be produced cost effectively, is lightweight and non-corrosive but maintains an effective combination of rigidity and flexibility.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides a new and improved process of producing vehicle grille guards by gas-assisted injection molding and the grille guards produced thereby. The process of producing the vehicle grille guard of the present invention includes injecting a plastic resin into a mold cavity in an amount less than the total volume of the mold cavity. An inert gas is then injected into a center portion of the cavity and a hollow gas channel extending throughout the center portion is formed, forcing the plastic resin to flow along an outer surface of the cavity. The vehicle grille guard obtains a substantially smooth exterior surface as the resin flows along the outer surface of the cavity.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Additional objects and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from a reading of the following detailed description of the preferred embodiment which makes reference to the drawings of which:

FIG. **1** is a perspective view of a first embodiment of a vehicle grille guard mounted on a front end of a vehicle;

FIG. **2** is a perspective view of the vehicle grille guard shown in FIG. **1**;

FIG. **2***a* is a perspective view of another embodiment of a vehicle grille guard; and

FIG. **3** is a cross-sectional view taken along the **3**—**3** line of the embodiment of FIG. **2** enclosed in a mold cavity.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring to FIGS. **1** and **2**, there is shown a vehicle grille guard **10** mounted to a front end **12** of a vehicle **14**. Grille guard **10** may be attached under the surface of bumper **16** of front end **12**, or alternatively, attached to the chassis of the vehicle using conventional mounting components. In one embodiment, referring to FIGS. **1** and **2**, the grille guard **10** generally includes a body **18** including a pair of spaced vertically disposed bars **20** and **22**, each having a first end **24** and a second end **26**, wherein the second end includes a substantially flat portion **28**. Grille guard **10** includes an elongated loop **30** connected to and extending transversely from bars **20** and **22** at two different points, **32** and **34**, respectively. Elongated loop **30** further includes first portion **36** and second portion **38**. Grille guard **10** further includes a pair of horizontally extending bars **40** and **42**. Elongated loop **30**, horizontally extending bars **40** and **42**, and vertically extending bars **20** and **22** may preferably be formed as an unitary structure as will be described in greater detail below. Optionally, first and second portions **36** and **38**, respectively, of the elongated loop may be formed so as to curve slightly inward toward front end **12** of the vehicle.

Referring now to FIG. **2***a*, a grille guard in accordance with another embodiment of the invention is identified generally as reference numeral **10'**. Grille guard **10'** is the same as grille guard **10** described above but grille guard **10'** does not include elongated loop **30**.

To produce the vehicle grille guard of the present invention, an extruded plastic resin is injected into a mold cavity having the geometry of the desired grille guard end product.

The plastic resin employed may, for example, be selected from acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene (ABS) resins, acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene/polycarbonate blends, polyesters, polyvinyls, polycarbonate/polyester blends, such as XENOY®, manufactured by GE Plastics, and mixtures thereof, among others. Regardless of the plastic employed, it is preferred that the resin is thermoplastic, has a high impact resistance and a flexural modulus of at least about 270,000 psi, and may be employed at a low temperature.

The use of plastic resin material as opposed to steel found in conventional grille guards results in a non-corrosive plastic grille guard that is approximately one-half the weight of steel guards. The low weight of a structural plastic grille guard also reduces the effect on air bags and other passive restraint systems in a vehicle. Moreover, plastic, as opposed to metal, has the ability to absorb energy without permanent deformation.

The present process is conducted by structural web or plastic web molding, a gas-assisted injection molding process that allows for the production of unitary or one piece grille guards at a lower cost than prior art multi-component grille guards. In addition, plastic web molding requires low pressure, subsequently allowing for reduced tooling budgets. Injection molding techniques allow for the production of more complex parts having closed cross sections, as compared to other molding procedures such as compression molding. In addition, many standard finishing techniques may be utilized, including, but not limited to, molded-in color, body color paint, and chrome. Gas-assisted injection

molding methods are well known in the art, as set forth in, for example, U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,098,637 and 5,204,050, incorporated herein by reference, and need not be discussed in great detail here.

Structural web molding provides the vehicle grille guard of the present invention with increased strength and rigidity necessary for large structural parts. Additionally, the use of the structural web design provides an improved combination of rigidity and flexibility for the vehicle grille guard, allowing the design to be modified in order to meet different customer and vehicle requirements by adjusting the selection and design of attachments for mounting the grille guard, selection of material, cross-sections of the material, and process parameters.

The process of producing the vehicle grille guard of the present invention by gas-assist injection molding includes injecting a plastic resin into a mold cavity in an amount less than the total volume of the mold cavity. An inert gas is then injected into a center portion of the cavity and a hollow gas channel extending throughout the center portion is formed, forcing the plastic resin to flow along an outer surface of the cavity. A cross-sectional view of hollow bar **42** of grille guard **10** of a preferred embodiment grille guard enclosed within a mold cavity **44** is as shown in FIG. **3**. The geometry of mold cavity **44** includes a hollow center portion **46** and an outer surface **48**. The inert gas may be injected into the mold cavity at the same location as the plastic is injected; or alternatively, at a separate location. The inert gas employed is selected from the group consisting of air, helium, neon, argon, carbon dioxide, nitrogen, and mixtures thereof.

Additionally, the vehicle grille guard obtains a substantially smooth exterior surface as a result of the resin flowing along the outer surface of the cavity. The smooth exterior surface produced is preferably a Class A surface, known in the automotive industry as a finished surface with very few defects and utilized on high visibility structural parts, such as grille guards and doors.

As set forth herein, the grille guard of the present invention may be formed as an unitary structure as shown in FIGS. **2** and **2***a*. In another exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the grille guard may be formed as a multiple component structure. For example, first and second portions **36** and **38**, respectively, (see FIG. **2**), which function as brush guards and essentially wrap around and protect the vehicle's headlights, may be formed as separate components and added to the body of the grille guard. The grille guard in accordance with the teachings of the present invention, however, is not limited to the shapes as shown in the figures and may be molded into various geometries using the structural web process.

While the above description constitutes the preferred embodiment of the invention, it will be appreciated that the invention is susceptible to modification, variation, and change without departing from the proper scope or fair meaning of the accompanying claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A process of producing a vehicle grille guard formed as one component, the process comprising the steps of:

injecting a plastic resin into a mold cavity in an amount less than the total volume of said mold cavity;

injecting an inert gas into a center portion of said cavity; and

forming a hollow gas channel extending throughout said center portion, forcing said plastic resin to flow along an outer surface of said cavity;

wherein said grille guard obtains a substantially smooth exterior surface as said resin flows along said outer surface of said cavity.

2. The process according to claim **1**, wherein said plastic resin is a thermoplastic resin.

3. The process according to claim **1**, wherein said plastic resin is selected from the group consisting of acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrenes, acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene/polycarbonate blends, polyesters, polyvinyls, polycarbonate/polyester blends, and mixtures thereof.

4. The process according to claim **1**, wherein said inert gas is selected from the group consisting of air, helium, neon, argon, carbon dioxide, nitrogen, and mixtures thereof.

5. The process according to claim **1**, wherein said smooth exterior surface is a Class A surface.

6. The process according to claim **1**, wherein said vehicle grille guard further comprises brush guard components.

* * * * *

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5947130	1999-09-07	08976804	1997-11-24	

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	◉	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

○ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

◉ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Sole Patentee			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature.			
Signature	/Veny W. Musum/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2012-04-03
Name	Veny W. Musum		

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

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In re Patent No. 5947130
Issue Date: September 7,1999
Application No. 08976804
Filed: November 24,1997
Attorney Docket No. MUSUM-3.0-00

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed April 3,2012 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

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2040 MAIN STREET
FOURTEENTH FLOOR
IRVINE CA 92614

MAILED
DEC 09 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,990,479 :
Issued: November 23, 1999 :
Application No. 08/978,450 : ON PETITION
Filed: November 25, 1997 :
Attorney Docket No. LBNL.048A :

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 filed October 27, 2011.

On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. **See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).**

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This patent is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this patent must be paid at the large entity rate.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-7751.

/Joan Olszewski/
Joan Olszewski
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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In re Patent No. 6439814
Issue Date: August 27,2002
Application No. 08978781
Filed: November 26,1997
Attorney Docket No. 95015K

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed January 20,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 7.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of January 20,2011 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6439814	2002-08-27	08978781	1997-11-26	

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	◉	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

○ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

◉ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Sole Patentee			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature.			
Signature	/Wayne Floe/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-01-20
Name	Wayne Floe		

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
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THOMAS J. BURGER
WOOD HERRON & EVANS
2700 CAREW TOWER
CINCINNATI OH 45202

MAILED

JUL 18 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,067,916 :
Issue Date: May 30, 2000 :
Application No. 08/978,839 : NOTICE
Filed: November 26, 1997 :
Attorney Docket No. ZMYJ-05-116 :

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28. On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. **See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).**

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989).** Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **NOT ACCEPTED.**

The fee deficiency cannot be accepted because no itemization has been submitted, as required by 37 CFR 1.28(C) (ii) which states:

(2) Payment of deficiency owed. The deficiency owed, resulting from the previous erroneous payment of small entity fees, must be paid.

(ii) *Itemization of the deficiency payment.* An itemization of the total deficiency payment is required. The itemization must include the following information:

(A) Each particular type of fee that was erroneously paid as a small entity, (e.g., basic statutory filing fee, two-month extension of time fee) along with the current fee amount for non-small entity;

(B) The small entity fee actually paid, and when. This will permit the Office to differentiate, for example, between two one-month extension of time fees erroneously paid as a small entity but on different dates;

(C) The deficiency owed amount (for each fee erroneously paid); and

(D) The total deficiency payment owed, which is the sum or total of the individual deficiency owed amounts set forth in paragraph (c)(2)(ii)(C) of this section.

As indicated above, the submission filed May 25, 2011, does not include a proper itemization. In this regard, the 3.5 year and the 7.5 year maintenance fees should be further itemized to include the appropriate items listed above.

This itemization must be provided within one (1) month of the mail date of this decision to avoid the return of the deficiency payment. See 37 CFR 1.28 (c)(3). No extension of this 1-month time limit will be granted under 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to Diane Goodwyn at (571) 272-6735.

Thurman K. Page
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

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THOMAS J. BURGER
WOOD HERRON & EVANS
2700 CAREW TOWER
CINCINNATI OH 45202

MAILED
SEP 26 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,067,916 :
Issue Date: May 30, 2000 :
Application No. 08/978,839 : NOTICE
Filed: November 26, 1997 :
Attorney Docket No. ZMYJ-05-116 :

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28. On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. **See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).**

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989).** Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED.**

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to Diane Goodwyn at (571) 272-6735.

/Ramesh Krishnamurthy/
for Thurman K. Page
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5,804,054	1998-09-08	08/979,358	1997-11-26	1951281.00007

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	◉	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Louis C. Cullman/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2010-10-06
Name	Louis C. Cullman	Registration Number	39645

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

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The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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In re Patent No. 5804054
Issue Date: September 8,1998
Application No. 08979358
Filed: November 26,1997
Attorney Docket No. 440021-20

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed October 13,2010 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of October 13,2010 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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ONE OXFORD CENTRE
301 GRANT STREET 20TH FLOOR
PITTSBURGH PA 15219-1410

MAILED

MAR 28 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,196,291 :
Issue Date: March 6, 2001 :
Application No. 08/979,438 : NOTICE
Filed: November 26, 1997 :
Attorney Docket No. **970552** :

This is a notice regarding your renewed request filed March 2, 2011, for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28.

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This patent is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this patent must be paid at the large entity rate.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the undersigned at
(571) 272-4584.

JoAnne Burke
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

cc: Ren Judkins
46 Newgate Rd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15202

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5957134	1999-09-28	08979655	1997-11-18	

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	◉	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

○ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

◉ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Sole Patentee			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature.			
Signature	/Han Shik Lee/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-12-02
Name	Han Shik Lee		

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

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The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 5957134
Issue Date: September 28,1999
Application No. 08979655
Filed: November 18,1997
Attorney Docket No.

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed December 6,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of December 6,2011 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6,246,400	2001-06-12	08/982,630	1997-12-02	2053978-5000

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity			Small Entity		
	Fee	Code		Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	◉	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/JOHN S. HILTEN/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2010-09-22
Name	John S. Hilten	Registration Number	52518

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 6246400
Issue Date: June 12,2001
Application No. 08982630
Filed: December 2,1997
Attorney Docket No. 1029-4012US3

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed September 22,2010 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 7.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of September 22,2010 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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Paper No. 16

PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN, LLP
P.O. BOX 10500
MCLEAN VA 22102

MAILED

MAR 17 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,934,314	:	
Issue Date: 08/10/1999	:	
Application Number: 08/982,694	:	LETTER DISMISSING PETITION
Filing Date: 12/02/1997	:	
Attorney Docket Number: 243755	:	
	:	

This is a letter in reference to the paper filed on December 28, 2010, regarding a maintenance fee payment intended for the above-referenced patent, which is treated as a petition under 37 CFR 1.377.

The petition is **dismissed** for the reasons stated below.

The paper states, in pertinent part:

> Today I paid the third maintenance fee online in the amount of $**4,110.00** for U.S. Patent No. 5,935,314 in error. … Payment was intended to be made for U.S. Patent No. **5,934,314**.
>
> (emphasis in original)

As stated in MPEP 2575, 37 CFR 1.377 provides a mechanism for review of a decision refusing to accept and record payment of a maintenance fee filed prior to the expiration of a patent. 37 CFR 1.377(a) permits a patentee who is dissatisfied with the refusal of the Office to accept and record a maintenance fee which was filed prior to the expiration of the patent to petition the Director to accept and record the maintenance fee. Any petition filed under 37 CFR 1.377 must be filed within 2 months of the action complained of, or within such other time as may be set in the action complained of. The petition must be accompanied by the proper petition fee (37 CFR 1.17(g)). The petition may include a request that the petition fee be refunded if the refusal to

accept and record the maintenance fee is determined to have resulted from an error by the Office.

A petition fee of $200.00 is required upon filing of a petition under 37 CFR 1.377. Patent and trademark fees and charges payable to the Patent and Trademark Office are required to be paid in advance, that is, at the time of requesting any action by the Office for which a fee or charge is payable.[1] As such, the petition fee is a prerequisite to the filing of the present petition, and the Office will not reach the merits of the petition unless and until the petition fee is submitted. Any request for reconsideration of this petition must be accompanied by the petition fee.

Furthermore, the papers filed are not properly signed. 37 CFR 1.377 requires that any petition filed thereunder must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest. The present paper does not appear to have been signed by a proper party.

Still further, MPEP 2580 states, in pertinent part:

> 37 CFR 1.377 provides a mechanism for review of a decision refusing to accept and record payment of a maintenance fee filed prior to the expiration of a patent. 37 CFR 1.377(a) permits a patentee who is dissatisfied with the refusal of the Office to accept and record a maintenance fee which was filed prior to the expiration of the patent to petition the Director to accept and record the maintenance fee. This petition may be used, for example, in situations where an error is present in the identifying data required by 37 CFR 1.366(c) with the maintenance fee payment, *i.e.*, either the patent number or the application number is incorrect. See MPEP § 2515 and § 2530. A petition under 37 CFR 1.377 would not be appropriate where there is a complete failure to include at least one correct mandatory identifier as required by 37 CFR 1.366(c) for the patent since no evidence would be present as to the patent on which the maintenance fee was intended to be paid. If the maintenance fee payment with an incorrect mandatory identifier was made near the end of the grace period, the patent might expire since the Office would

[1] 37 CFR 1.22(a).

> not credit the fee to the patent. A petition under 37 CFR 1.377 would not be appropriate where the patentee paid a maintenance fee on one patent when the patentee intended to pay the maintenance fee on a different patent but through error identified the wrong patent number and application number.

Accordingly, any petition under 37 CFR 1.377 should be accompanied by proof that the appropriate identifying information accompanied the payment.

Lastly, in regards to the request for a refund of the maintenance fee payment, 37 CFR 1.26 states, in pertinent part, that the Director may refund any fee paid by mistake or in excess of that required. A change of purpose after the payment of a fee, such as when a party desires to withdraw a patent filing for which the fee was paid, will not entitle a party to a refund of such fee.

In the absence of either of the mandatory identifiers as set forth in MPEP 2580, there is insufficient evidence to conclude that the fee was paid by mistake or in excess of that required. Rather, the showing of record is of a change in purpose (*i.e.*, from U.S. Patent No. 5,935,314 to U.S. Patent No. 5,934,314.) Any request for refund must show that the fee was paid by mistake or in excess of that required.

The address in the subject letter is different than the correspondence address of record. A copy of this decision will be sent to the address in the petition. All future correspondence, however, will be mailed solely to the address of record. A change of correspondence address should be filed if the correspondence address needs to be updated.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail: Mail Stop Petition
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By FAX: (571) 273-8300
Attn: Office of Petitions

By hand: Customer Service Window
Mail Stop Petition

Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

The application will be retained in the Office of Petitions for TWO (2) MONTHS to await petitioners' response to this communication.

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3231.

D Wood

Douglas I. Wood
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

Cc: ECKERT SEAMANS CHERIN & MELLOTT, LLC
600 GRANT STREET, 44TH FLOOR
PITTSBURGH PA 15219-2788

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
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STETINA BRUNDA GARRED & BRUCKER
FOURTH FLOOR
24221 CALLE DE LA LOUISA
LAGUNA HILLS, CA 92653-7602

MAILED

FEB 17 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,797,141 :
Issue Date: August 25, 1998 :
Application No. 08/982,729 : ON PETITION
Filed: December 2, 1997 :
Attorney Docket No.: MORLT-001A :

This is a decision on the petition, filed January 18, 2011, under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

This patent expired on August 25, 2010 for failure to pay the third maintenance fee. Since this petition was submitted within twenty-four months after the six-month grace period provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e), the petition was timely filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(c).

The 11 ½ year maintenance fee in this case is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

It is noted that the address given on the petition differs from the address of record. If appropriate, a change of address should be filed in accordance with MPEP 601.03. A courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the address given on the petition.

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3204.

Sherry D. Brinkley
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

cc: OSCAR L. MORLETT
21 BLAZEWOOD
FOOTHILL RANDCH, CA 92610

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

CLARK & ELBING LLP
101 FEDERAL STREET
BOSTON MA 02110

MAILED
FEB 28 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 7,138,510 :
Issue Date: November 21, 2005 :
Application No. 08/984,178 : NOTICE
Filed: December 3, 1007 :
Attorney Docket No. 01997/198006 :

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 filed January 11, 2011. On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. **See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).**

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby accepted. The petition is **GRANTED**.

This application is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this application must be paid at the large entity rate.

The application file does not indicate a change of address has been filed in this case, although the address given on the petition differs from the address of record. A change of address should be filed in this case in accordance with MPEP 601.03. A courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the address noted on the petition. However, until otherwise instructed, all future correspondence regarding this application will be mailed solely to the address of record.

This file is being forwarded to Files Repository.

Telephone inquiries related to this decision should be directed to the Kimberly Inabinet at (571) 272-4618.

/Carl Friedman/
Carl Friedman
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

cc: Daniel O'Brien
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Technology Licensing Office
Five Cambridge Center, Kendall Square
Cambridge, MA 02142-1493

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
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FITCH EVEN TABIN & FLANNERY
120 SOUTH LASALLE STREET
SUITE 1600
CHICAGO, IL 60603-3406

MAILED
APR 19 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,938,549 :
Issue Date: August 17, 1999 :
Application No. 08/984,715 : NOTICE
Filed: December 3, 1997 :
Attorney Docket No. :

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28. On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. **See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).**

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **NOT ACCEPTED.**

The fee deficiency cannot be accepted because no itemization has been submitted, as required by 37 CFR 1.28(C) (ii) which states:

(2) Payment of deficiency owed. The deficiency owed, resulting from the previous erroneous payment of small entity fees, must be paid.

(ii) *Itemization of the deficiency payment.* An itemization of the total deficiency payment is required. The itemization must include the following information:

(A) Each particular type of fee that was erroneously paid as a small entity, (e.g., basic statutory filing fee, two-month extension of time fee) along with the current fee amount for non-small entity;

(B) The small entity fee actually paid, and when. This will permit the Office to differentiate, for example, between two one-month extension of time fees erroneously paid as a small entity but on different dates;

(C) The deficiency owed amount (for each fee erroneously paid); and

(D) The total deficiency payment owed, which is the sum or total of the individual deficiency owed amounts set forth in paragraph (c)(2)(ii)(C) of this section.

As indicated above, the submission filed February 17, 2011, does not include a proper itemization. In this regard, the 7.5 year and the 11.5 year maintenance fees should be further itemized to include the appropriate items listed above. Further, please review the current fees from the US Patent and Trademark Office website at www.uspto.gov.

This itemization must be provided within one (1) month of the mail date of this decision to avoid the return of the deficiency payment. See 37 CFR 1.28 (c)(3). No extension of this 1-month time limit will be granted under 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to Diane Goodwyn at (571) 272-6735.

Thurman K. Page
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

Paper No.

HARNESS DICKEY & PIERCE
P O BOX 828
BLOOMFIELD HILLS MI 48303

MAILED

JUN 3 0 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,900,199 :
Issue Date: May 4, 1999 :
Application No. 08/976,416 :
Filed: November 21, 1997 :
Attorney Docket No. 7939-000006 :

ON PETITION

In re Patent No. 5,915,830 :
Issue Date: June 29, 1999 :
Application No. 08/985,146 :
Filed: December 4, 1997 :
Attorney Docket No. 7939000007 :

This is a decision in response to the communications filed May 3, 2011, June 1, 2011 and June 16, 2011, in U.S. Patent No. 5,900,199, which are collectively being treated as a petition under 37 CFR 1.377 to accept and record a maintenance fee in U.S. Patent No. 5,915,830.

The petition is **DISMISSED**.

A review of the record confirms that a maintenance fee was paid under 37 CFR 1.362(e) on April 18, 2011 in U.S. Patent No. 5,900,199; however, as noted by petitioner, the wrong patent number was inadvertently identified in the letter transmitting the fee. Consequently, the fee was applied towards the patent to which payment was directed, resulting in non payment of the third maintenance fee for U.S. Patent No. 5,915,830.

In submitting maintenance fees and any necessary surcharges, identification of the patents for which maintenance fees are being paid must include a patent number **and** an application number. See 37 CFR 1.366(c). In this case the payment was submitted identifying the wrong patent number and application number.

A petition under 37 CFR 1.377 may be used in situations where an error is present in the identifying data required by **37 CFR 1.366(c)** with the maintenance fee payment, i.e., either the patent number **or** the application number is incorrect. See **MPEP § 2515** and **§ 2530**. Since the transmittal of the maintenance fee payment failed to include at least one correct mandatory identifier, relief cannot be granted under 37 CFR 1.377.

Petitioner may wish to seek relief by filing a petition under 37 CFR 1.182 directed to U.S. Patent

6,915,830. However, petitioner should note that the mere suggestion to file a petition under 37 CFR 1.182 does not necessarily mean that such a petition will be granted. Petitioner must supply the evidence necessary for a grantable petition under 37 CFR 1.182. If petitioner cannot supply the evidence necessary under 37 CFR 1.182, or simply does not wish to, petitioner should consider filing a petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c).

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be delivered through one of the following mediums:

By mail:	Mail Stop PETITIONS Commissioner for Patents Post Office Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
By hand:	Customer Service Window Mail Stop Petitions Randolph Building 401 Dulany Street Alexandria, VA 22314
By fax:	(571) 273-8300 ATTN: Office of Petitions
By Internet:	EFS-Web1

/SDB/

Sherry D. Brinkley
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

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1 **www.uspto.gov/ebc/efs_help.html** (for help using EFS-Web call the Patent Electronic Business Center at (866) 217-9197)

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Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6228106	2001-05-08	08985460	1997-12-05	207911.5005

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity			Small Entity		
	Fee	Code		Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	◉	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/William W. Schwarze/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-02-24
Name	William W. Schwarze	Registration Number	25918

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 6228106
Issue Date: May 8,2001
Application No. 08985460
Filed: December 5,1997
Attorney Docket No. VOL-017-P2

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed February 24,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 7.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of February 24,2011 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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RICHARD M SHARKANSKY
FISH & RICHARDSON PC
225 FRANKLIN STREET
BOSTON MA 02110-2804

MAILED
OCT 28 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of	:	
Stephen E. Leis	:	
Application No. 08/985462	:	DECISION
Filing or 371(c) Date: 12/05/1997	:	ON PETITION
Patent No.: 6061644	:	
Issue Date: 05/09/2000	:	
Attorney Docket Number: 07508/010001	:	

This is a notice regarding request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28. On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. **See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).**

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This application is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this application must be paid at the large entity rate.

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3232.

/DLW/

Derek L. Woods
Attorney
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 6438660
Issue Date: August 20,2002
Application No. 08987499
Filed: December 9,1997
Attorney Docket No. 042390.P5883

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed August 15,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 7.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of August 15,2011 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6,438,660	2002-08-20	08/987,499	1997-12-09	042390.P5883

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity			Small Entity		
	Fee	Code		Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
◉	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Kendal M. Sheets/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-08-15
Name	Kendal M. Sheets	Registration Number	47077

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

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The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

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2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

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BUCHANAN, INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC
POST OFFICE BOX 1404
ALEXANDRIA VA 22313-1404

MAILED

MAR 26 2012

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

Application No. 08/987,549 :
Filed: December 9, 1997 :
Patent No. 5,960,416 : DECISION ON PETITION
Issued: November 4, 2003 :
Attorney Docket No. 1003750-000009 :

This is a decision on the request filed February 17, 2012, captioned as a "REQUEST FOR EXPUNGEMENT VOID AB INITIO ASSIGNMENT." The request is being treated as a petition under 37 CFR 1.182.

The petition is **dismissed**. This is not a final agency action.

The petition in the above-identified application was not accompanied by payment of the required fee under 37 CFR 1.182 or authorization to charge the fee to a deposit account. The fee currently is $400.00. No consideration on the merits can be given to the petition until the required fee is received.

Petitioner should note that, as discussed in section 323.01(d) of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), petitions to correct, modify or "expunge" assignment records are granted only if the petitioner can **prove** that:

(A) the normal corrective procedures outlined in MPEP § 323.01(a) through § 323.01(c) will not provide the petitioner with adequate relief; and
(B) the integrity of the assignment records will not be affected by granting the petition.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By Mail:
Mail Stop PETITION
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By hand:
U. S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Petitions
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

The centralized facsimile number is **(571) 273-8300.**

Telephone inquiries concerning this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-4914.

Ramesh Krishnamurthy
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5,876,104	1999-03-02	08/988,626	1997-12-10	WFM-30537

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity

	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)
◉	11 ½ year	(1553)

Small Entity

	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

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PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

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I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Michael W. Garvey/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-04-29
Name	Michael W. Garvey	Registration Number	35878

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

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5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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In re Patent No. 5876104
Issue Date: March 2,1999
Application No. 08988626
Filed: December 10,1997
Attorney Docket No. 30537

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed April 29,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of April 29,2011 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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PENNIE AND EDMONDS
1667 K STREET NW
WASHINGTON DC 20006

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JUN 03 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent Number: 5,965,996
Issue Date: 10/12/1999
Application Number: 08/989,174
Filing or 371(c) Date: 12/11/1997
Attorney Docket Number: 2278-005

NOTICE

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission, which is treated under 37 CFR 1.28, filed on April 20, 2011.

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue patents under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This application is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this patent must be paid at the large entity rate.

The address in the petition is different than the correspondence address. A courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the address in the petition. All future correspondence, however, will be mailed solely to the address of record. A change of correspondence address should be filed if the correspondence address needs to be updated.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3231.

D Wood

Douglas Wood
Attorney
Office of Petitions

cc: PROCOPIO CORY HARGREAVES & SAVITCH LLP
525 B STREET, SUITE 2200
SAN DIEGO CA 92101

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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MAILED
DEC 12 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

GREGORY SMITH
GARVEY SMITH NEHRBASS & DOODY
3838 N CAUSEWAY BLVD
SUITE 3290
METAIRIE LA 70002

In re Patent No. 5,893,400
Issue Date: April 13, 1999
Application No. 08/989,335
Filed: December 11, 1997
Attorney Docket No. A97338US

ON PETITION

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c), filed November 3, 2011, to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

This patent expired on April 13, 2011, for failure to pay the eleven and one-half year maintenance fee.

Since this petition was submitted within twenty-four months after the six-month grace period provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e), the petition was timely filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(c).

The maintenance fee is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

There is no indication that the person signing the petition was ever given a power of attorney to prosecute the application.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-6735.

/Diane Goodwyn/
Diane Goodwyn
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
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DAVID M. QUINLAN, PC
32 NASSAU STREET
SUITE 300
PRINCETON NJ 08542

MAILED
FEB 10 2012
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,974,550
Issue Date: October 26, 1999
Application No. 08/989,615
Filed: December 12, 1997
Attorney Docket No. 13400.1001

NOTICE

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 on November 30, 2011.

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue patent under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This patent is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this patent must be paid at the large entity rate.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3208.

/KOC/
Karen Creasy
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5973903	1999-10-26	08990068	1997-12-12	

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity			Small Entity		
	Fee	Code		Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
◉	11 ½ year	(1553)	○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

○ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

◉ The assignee of record of the entire interest

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The Assignee of record of the entire interest			
Under 37 CFR 3.71 an assignee becomes of record by filing a statement in compliance with 37 CFR 3.73(b). Signature requirements are set forth in 37 CFR 1.4(d), and the undersigned certifies that he / she is empowered to act on behalf of the assignee of the entire interest			
Signature	/Fred Ching/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-12-09
Name	Fred Ching		
Enter Reel and Frame Number		Remove	
Reel Number	017833	Frame Number	0309
Click ADD for additional Reel Number and Frame Number		Add	

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re Patent No. 5973903
Issue Date: October 26,1999
Application No. 08990068
Filed: December 12,1997
Attorney Docket No. 8517

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed December 9,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of December 9,2011 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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P.O. Box 1450
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In re Patent No. 6195356
Issue Date: February 27,2001
Application No. 08991614
Filed: December 17,1997
Attorney Docket No. 42P9044

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed October 4,2010 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 7.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of October 4,2010 .
This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6195356	2001-02-27	08991614	1997-12-17	42P9044

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity

	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)
◉	7 ½ year	(1552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)

Small Entity

	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Kendal M. Sheets/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2010-09-30
Name	Kendal M. Sheets	Registration Number	47077

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

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2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 6003557
Issue Date: December 21,1999
Application No. 08992289
Filed: December 17,1997
Attorney Docket No. 7041.P27

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed January 24,2012 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of January 24,2012 .
This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6003557	1999-12-21	08992289	1997-12-17	7041.p27

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
◉	11 ½ year	(1553)	○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/philipjlee/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2012-01-24
Name	Philip J. Lee	Registration Number	32869

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

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The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

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In re Patent No. 6178498
Issue Date: January 23,2001
Application No. 08993450
Filed: December 18,1997
Attorney Docket No. 42390.P5051

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed October 4,2010 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 7.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of October 4,2010 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6178498	2001-01-23	08993450	1997-12-18	42390.P5051

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity

	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)
◉	7 ½ year	(1552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)

Small Entity

	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Kendal M. Sheets/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2010-09-30
Name	Kendal M. Sheets	Registration Number	47077

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

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DAVID M QUINLAN, PC
32 NASSAU STREET
SUITE 300
PRINCETON NJ 08542

MAILED

DEC 29 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,991,399	:	
Issued : November 23, 1999	:	
Application No. 08/993,597	:	NOTICE
Filed: December 18, 1997	:	
Attorney Docket No. 13400.1002	:	

This is a notice regarding your request, filed November 30, 2011, for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28.

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue patent under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This patent is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this patent must be paid at the large entity rate.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3206.

/Liana Walsh/
Liana Walsh
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

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ST JUDE MEDICAL ATRIAL FIBRILLATION DIVISION
LEGAL DEPARTMENT
ONE ST JUDE MEDICAL DRIVE
ST PAUL MN 55117-9913

MAILED
JAN 23 2012
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re
Hosheng Tu
Application No. 08/994,550
Filed: December 19, 1997
Patent No. 5,980,515
Issued: November 9, 1999

DECISION

This is a decision on the fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28(c), filed December 22, 2011.

The fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 of $1700 for the 7.5 year maintenance fee is hereby accepted.

The change of status to large entity has been entered.

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3207.

Cliff Congo
Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

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APR 01 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

LANDO & ANASTASI, LLP
Z2011
ONE MAIN STREET, SUITE 1100
CAMBRIDGE MA 02142

In re Application of	:	Corrected Decision
Thomas E. Kaib et al.	:	
Patent No. 5,929,601	:	NOTICE
Application No. 08/995,713	:	
Filed: December 22, 1997	:	
Attorney Docket No. **Z2011-701519**		

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 filed January 19, 2011.

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue patent under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This patent is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this patent must be paid at the large entity rate.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-2783.

/Tredelle D. Jackson/
Paralegal Specialist
Office of Petitions

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ST. JUDE MEDICAL, ATRIAL FIBRILLATION DIVISION
Legal Department
One St. Jude Medical Drive
St. Paul MN 55117-9913

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FEB 02 2012
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,893,884 :
Issued: April 13, 1999 :
Application No.: 08/997,041 : NOTICE
Filed: December 23, 1997 :
Attorney Docket No. :

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28. On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. **See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).**

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989).** Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED.**

This application is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this application must be paid at the large entity rate.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3222.

/Kenya A. McLaughlin/

Kenya A. McLaughlin
Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

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ANDREW J TOWNE
17 PENROSE BOULEVARD
COLORADO SPRINGS CO 80906

MAILED

AUG 26 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 7,240,878 :
Issued: July 10, 2007 :
Application No. 08/999,657 : ON PETITION
Filed: September 2, 1997 :
Title: High Wing Monoplane Aerospace Plane Based Fighter :

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c), filed August 2, 2011, to accept the delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

This patent expired on July 11, 201 for failure to pay the three and one-half year maintenance fee. Since this petition was submitted within twenty-four months after the six-month grace period provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e), the petition was timely filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(c).

The maintenance fee is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-7751.

/Joan Olszewski/
Joan Olszewski
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

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Miles & Stockbridge, P.C.
1751 Pinnacle Drive, Suite 500
McLean, VA 22102-3833

MAILED

JUL 11 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,927,543 :
Issue Date: July 27, 1999 : DECISION ON PETITION
Application No. 09/000,971 :
Filed: December 30, 1997 :
Title: DISPENSER FOR GLOVES MADE OF SHEET MATERIAL :

This is a decision on the "PETITION TO ACCEPT UNAVOIDABLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE FOR EXPIRED PATENT (37 C.F.R. § 1.378(B)" filed June 10, 2011.

The petition is **dismissed**.

If reconsideration of this decision is desired, a petition for reconsideration under 37 CFR 1.378(e) must be filed within TWO (2) MONTHS from the mail date of this decision. No extension of this two-month time limit can be granted under 37 CFR 1.136(a) or (b). Any such petition for reconsideration must be accompanied by the petition fee of $400.00 as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(f). The petition for reconsideration should include an exhaustive attempt to provide the lacking item(s) noted below because the Director will not undertaken any further reconsideration or review of the matter after a decision on the petition for reconsideration.

The patent issued on July 27, 1999. The second maintenance fee could have been paid during the period from July 27, 2006 through Monday, January 29, 2007 or with a surcharge during the period from Tuesday, January 30, 2007 through July 27, 2007. Accordingly, this patent expired on July 28, 2007, for failure to timely remit the second maintenance fee.

On June 10, 2011, petitioners filed the present petition accompanied by the maintenance fee and surcharge payment and the Declaration of Laurence Liot, Intellectual Property Annuity Department Manager at Cabinet Beau de Loménie. Petitioners aver that the patent owner did not become aware that the second maintenance fee had not been paid until December 2010, when they attempted to pay the third maintenance fee. Petitioners assert that the patent owner authorized ACUMASS, a

company specializing in maintenance fee payments, to pay the second maintenance fee, but ACUMASS did not pay the fee as instructed. Petitioners maintain that the delay in timely paying the second maintenance fee was unavoidable and resulted from clerical errors on the part of employee(s) at Cabinet Beau in the performance of a clerical function.

Petitioners set forth the circumstances that led to the failure to timely pay the maintenance as follows:

> On October 18, 2006, a reminder letter that the maintenance fee was due was sent by Cabinet Beau de Loménie (hereinafter Cabinet Beau) to its client, SESAME. Liot Declaration, ¶ 9. SESAME responded on November 8, 2006 returning the original letter and checking the box "A Payer" to authorize payment. *Id.* The returned letter also included the payment of 1845,43 EUR. *Id.* Confirmation of the instructions to pay the maintenance fee was acknowledged in a letter to SESAME on November 9, 2006. *Id.*
>
> In accordance with established procedures with ACUMASS, all patents or patent applications having the same month for payment are presented in a batch listing prepared by Cabinet Beau. Liot Declaration, ¶ 10. A list was prepared on October 16, 2006 for January 2007 (note title "Echeance 01-2007). *Id.* The '543 patent is listed under account "1H909070" for SESAME. Further, in accordance with ACUMASS's protocol, instructions to pay fees for the patents listed in the batch listing could not have been presented to ACUMASS before December 7, 2006. *Id.*
>
> Cabinet Beau's computer system showed that the instructions to pay were received on November 8, 2006 ("Instruction"), that payment was ordered on December 7, 2006 ("Ordre paiemt"), and that payment was authorized to be paid on November 9, 2006 ("Réalisation"). *Id.*
>
> Cabinet Beau maintained an internal control journal in which handwritten notations were entered after each patent or application for which fees were due for January 2007. Through a clerical error, a notation "attente" or pending was entered for the '543 patent even though instructions had been received to pay the maintenance fee. A listing for ACUMASS was prepared which parroted the journal notation entries and sent to ACUMASS. Liot Declaration, ¶ 11. Since the notation for the '543 patent was "attente", ACUMASS understood the notation as an instruction not to pay the fee.
>
> A "Maintenance Fee Reminder Notice" from the USPTO dated February 14, 2007, was forwarded to Cabinet Beau by law firm Miles & Stockbridge, PC (subsequent to the issuance of the '543 patent, the original law firm prosecuting the patent, Kerkam, Stowell, Kondracki and Clarke, had been merged with Miles & Stockbridge, PC) with a hand-written notation that the client assumed responsibility for payment of the maintenance fee ("mf") as "per client fax of 11/17/06." Liot Declaration, Exhibit 6. Cabinet Beau erroneously processed the reminder as an "official quittance," i.e., a notice from the USPTO that the maintenance fee had been paid. Accordingly, the '543 patent was not listed on the batch list of "quittances non recues," that is, fees to be paid.

> Instead, the '543 patent was not listed. Liot Declaration, ¶¶ 13 and 14. Accordingly, Cabinet Beau's computer records did not show that the fee had not been paid.

Statement, 06/10/11, pp. 1-2.

The Director may accept the payment of any maintenance fee due on a patent after expiration of the patent if, upon petition, the delay in payment of the maintenance fee is shown to the satisfaction of the Director to have been unavoidable and if the surcharge required by § 1.20(i) is paid as a condition of accepting payment of the maintenance fee. 37 CFR 1.378(a).

A grantable petition to accept a delayed maintenance fee payment under 37 CFR 1.378(b) must include the following:

> (1) the required maintenance fee set forth in § 1.20(e) through (g);
>
> (2) the surcharge set forth in § 1.20(i)(1); and
>
> (3) a showing that the delay was unavoidable since reasonable care was taken to ensure that the maintenance fee would be paid timely and that the petition was filed promptly after the patentee was notified of, or otherwise became aware of, the expiration of the patent. The showing must enumerate the steps taken to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee, the date and the manner in which patentee became aware of the expiration of the patent, and the steps taken to file the petition promptly.

This petition lacks requirement (3).

Acceptance of a late maintenance fee under the unavoidable delay standard is considered under the same standard for reviving an abandoned application under 35 U.S.C. § 133. This is a very stringent standard. Decisions on reviving abandoned applications on the basis of "unavoidable" delay have adopted the reasonably prudent person standard in determining if the delay was unavoidable:

> The word 'unavoidable' . . . is applicable to ordinary human affairs, and requires no more or greater care or diligence than is generally used and observed by prudent and careful men in relation to their most important business. It permits them in the exercise of this care to rely upon the ordinary and trustworthy agencies of mail and telegraph, worthy and reliable employees, and such other means and instrumentalities as are usually employed in such important business. If unexpectedly, or through the unforeseen fault or imperfection of these agencies and instrumentalities, there occurs a failure, it may properly be said to be unavoidable, all other conditions of promptness in its rectification being present.

In re Mattullath, 38 App. D.C. 497, 514-15 (1912) (quoting Pratt, 1887 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 31, 32-33 (1887)); see also Winkler v. Ladd, 221 F. Supp. 550, 552, 138 USPQ 666, 667-68 (D.D.C. 1963), aff'd, 143 USPQ 172 (D.C. Cir. 1963); Ex parte Henrich, 1913 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 139, 141 (1913).

In addition, decisions on revival are made on a "case-by-case basis, taking all the facts and circumstances into account." Smith v. Mossinghoff, 671 F.2d 533, 538, 213 USPQ 977, 982 (D.C. Cir. 1982). A petition cannot be granted where a petitioner has failed to meet his or her burden of establishing that the delay was "unavoidable." Haines v. Quigg, 673 F. Supp. 314, 316-17, 5 USPQ2d 1130, 1131-32 (N.D. Ind. 1987). Moreover, a patentee's lack of knowledge of the need to pay the maintenance fee and the failure to receive the Maintenance Fee Reminder do not constitute unavoidable delay. See Patent No. 4,409,763, 7 USPQ2d 1798 (Comm'r Pat. 1988).

As 35 U.S.C. 41(b) requires the payment of fees at specified intervals to maintain a patent in force, rather than some response to a specific action by the Office under 35 U.S.C. 133, a reasonably prudent person in the exercise of due care and diligence would have taken steps to ensure the timely payment of such maintenance fees. Ray v. Lehman, 55 F.3d 606, 609, 34 USPQ2d 1786, 1788 (Fed. Cir. 1995). That is, an adequate showing that the delay in payment of the maintenance fee at issue was "unavoidable" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. 41(c) and 37 CFR 1.378(b)(3) requires a showing of the steps taken to ensure the timely payment of the maintenance fees for this patent. Id. Thus, where the record fails to disclose that the patentee took reasonable steps, or discloses that the patentee took no steps, to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee, 35 U.S.C. 41(c) and 37 CFR 1.378(b)(3) preclude acceptance of the delayed payment of the maintenance fee under 37 CFR 1.378(b).

In determining whether the delay in paying a maintenance fee was unavoidable, one looks to whether the party responsible for payment of the maintenance fee exercised the due care of a reasonably prudent person. Ray v. Lehman, 55 F.3d 606, 608-609, 34 USPQ2d 1786, 1787 (Fed. Cir. 1995). The patent owner at the time of the expiration of the patent is ultimately the person responsible to ensure the timely payment of the maintenance fees. The patent owner may engage another to track and/or pay the maintenance fees; however, merely engaging another does not relieve the patent owner from his obligation to take appropriate steps to ensure the timely payment of such maintenance fees. See California Medical Prods. v. Tecnol Medical Prods., 921 F. Supp. 1219, 1259 (D. Del. 1995) The USPTO must rely on the actions or inactions of duly authorized and voluntarily chosen representatives of an applicant, and an applicant is bound by the consequences of those actions or inactions. Link v. Wabash, 370 U.S. 626, 633-34 (1962); Huston v. Ladner, 973 F.2d 1564, 1567, 23 USPQ2d 1910, 1913 (Fed. Cir. 1992). Specifically, delay caused by the actions or inactions of a voluntarily chosen representative does not constitute unavoidable delay within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. 133. Haines v. Quigg, 673 F. Supp. 314, 5 USPQ2d 1130 (D. Ind. 1987).

The Office notes that an error in a docketing system could possibly result in a finding that a delay in payment of the maintenance fee was unavoidable if it were shown that reasonable care was exercised in designing and operating the system and that petitioner took reasonable steps to make certain that the patent was entered into the system to ensure timely payment of the maintenance

fees. A delay resulting from an error (*e.g.*, a docketing error) on the part of an employee in the performance of a clerical function may provide the basis for a showing of "unavoidable" delay, provided it is shown that:

> (1) the error was the cause of the delay at issue;
>
> (2) there was in place a business routine for performing the clerical function that could reasonably be relied upon to avoid errors in its performance;
>
> (3) and the employee was sufficiently trained and experienced with regard to the function and routine for its performance that reliance upon such employee represented the exercise of due care.

MPEP 711.03(c)(III)(C)(2).

An adequate showing requires:

> (A) Statements by all persons with direct knowledge of the circumstances surrounding the delay, setting forth the facts as they know them.
>
> (B) Petitioners must supply a thorough explanation of the docketing and call-up system in use and must identify the type of records kept and the person responsible for the maintenance of the system. This showing must include copies of mail ledgers, docket sheets, file wrappers and such other records as may exist which would substantiate an error in docketing, and include an indication as to why the system failed to provide adequate notice that a reply was due.
>
> (C) Petitioners must supply information regarding the training provided to the personnel responsible for the docketing error, degree of supervision of their work, examples of other work functions carried out, and checks on the described work which were used to assure proper execution of assigned tasks.

In his Declaration, Mr. Liot stated that he was responsible for monitoring annuity payments and maintenance fees for French and other foreign patents including maintenance fee payments for U.S. patents for clients of Cabinet Beau. He asserted that through a clerical error in his department, Cabinet Beau's internal control journal was not updated to indicate that the instruction to pay the maintenance fee had been confirmed on November 9, 2006. Mr. Liot averred that because of this error, the listing sent to ACUMASS on December 7, 2006, did not include an authorization for ACUMASS to pay the maintenance fee for the '543 patent. Mr. Liot indicated that second error occurred when the clerical staff in his department received the Maintenance Fee Reminder Notice in or around early March 2007, and erroneously docketed it as "official quittance" (an entry into Cabinet Beau's computer system data from a document showing that the maintenance had been paid). Mr. Liot explained that if the maintenance fee for the '543 patent had not been paid, then it

would have appeared on the batch listing. Because it was not on the list, Mr. Liot stated that his department was not altered that the second maintenance fee had not been paid.

After reviewing the facts presented and the Declaration of Mr. Liot, it does not appear that Mr. Liot committed the clerical errors. Rather, Mr. Liot indicated the clerical errors where committed by clerical staff in his department. Mr. Liot did not specifically identify the person(s) who committed the clerical errors that resulted in the failure to pay the maintenance fee in a timely manner. Furthermore, Mr. Liot did not submit information regarding the training provided to the personnel responsible for these errors, the degree of supervision of their work, examples of other work functions carried out, and checks on the described work that were used to assure proper execution of assigned tasks. Mr. Liot did not indicate whether it was reasonable to rely on those persons to perform their duties in light of their level of training and experience. Moreover, petitioners did not provide any statements from the personnel who were responsible for the docketing errors or explain what steps were taken to obtain such statements. Lastly, the Office notes that the Exhibits submitted on petition such as emails and correspondence are written in French. As petitioners are relying on these documents in support of their petition, a translation of the relevant documents into English and an affidavit attesting to the accuracy of the translation should be submitted with any renewed petition.

In view of the above, the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(b) is dismissed.

Petitioners should note that if this petition is not renewed, or if renewed and not granted, then the maintenance fee and post-expiration surcharge are refundable. The $400.00 petition fee for seeking further reconsideration is not refundable. Any request for refund should be in writing to the following address:

Mail Stop 16
Director of the US Patent and Trademark Office
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

A copy of this decision should accompany any request for a refund.

The file does not indicate a change of address has been submitted, although the address given on the petition differs from the address of record. A courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the address on the petition. However, the Office will mail all future correspondence solely to the address of record until otherwise notified. Change of correspondence forms are enclosed for petitioners' convenience.

Additionally, the Office finance records reveal that petitioners submitted $2,440.00 for the maintenance fee due at 7.5 years and unavoidable delay surcharge. The Office notes that the current small entity fee for the second maintenance fee is $1,240.00 and the surcharge is $700.00 for a total of $1,940.00. It appears that petitioners overpaid in the amount of $500.00. Petitioners

may either request a refund of $500.00 at the address listed above or request that the amount be applied toward the $400.00 fee for filing a petition for reconsideration under 37 CFR 1.378(e) (leaving a refundable balance of $100.00).

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail: Mail Stop Petition
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By FAX: (571) 273-8300
Attn: Office of Petitions

By hand: Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Correspondence may also be submitted via the Electronic Filing System of the USPTO.

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3211.

Christina T. Donnell

Christina Tartera Donnell
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

Enclosures (2)

Cc: KERKAM STOWELL KONDRACKI & CLARKE
5203 LEESBURG PIKE
SUITE 600
FALLS CHURCH VA 22041

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

HELFGOTT AND KARAS
60TH FLOOR
EMPIRE STATE BUILDING
NEW YORK, NY 10118-6098

MAILED
OCT 03 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,045,043 :
Issue Date: April 4, 2000 :
Application No.09/001,240 : NOTICE
Filed: December 30, 1997 :
Attorney Docket No. COHN14702 :

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28. On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. **See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).**

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989).** Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED.**

This application is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this application must be paid at the large entity rate.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-1642.

/AMW/
April M. Wise
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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PERRY + CURRIER INC.
1300 YONGE STREET
SUITE 500
TORONTO ON M4T-1X3 CA CANADA

MAILED
JUL 08 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,080,788	:	
Issued: June 27, 2000	:	
Application No. 09/002,765	:	ON PETITION
Filed: January 6, 1998	:	
Attorney Docket No. 545P003C/P	:	

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 filed June 6, 2011.

On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. **See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).**

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This patent is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this patent must be paid at the large entity rate.

Further, the address given on the petition differs from the address of record. A courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the address given on the petition; however, the Office will mail all future correspondence solely to the address of record.

Telephone inquires concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-7751.

/Joan Olszewski/
Joan Olszewski
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

cc: Kevin S. Lemack
Nields, Lemack & Frame, LLC
176 E. Main Street – Suite 5
Westborough, MA 01581

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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GOODWIN PROCTER ,LLP
THE NEW YORK TIMES BUILDING
620 EIGHTH AVE
NEW YORK, NY 10018

MAILED

DEC 29 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,002,401	:	
Issued: December 14, 1999	:	
Application No. 09/003,553	:	NOTICE
Filed: January 6, 1998	:	
Attorney Docket No. BAK-001 (CONT)	:	

This is a notice regarding your request, filed December 1, 2011, for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28.

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue patent under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This patent is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this patent must be paid at the large entity rate.

There is no indication that the person signing the petition was ever given a power of attorney. If the person signing the petition desires to receive future correspondence regarding this patent, the appropriate power of attorney documents must be submitted. While a courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the person signing the petition, all future correspondence will be directed to the address currently of record until appropriate instructions are received.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3206.

/Liana Walsh/
Liana Walsh
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

cc: GOODWIN PROCTER LLP
THE NEW YORK TIMES BUILDING
620 EIGHTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10018-1405

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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AUSTIN RAPP & HARDMAN
170 South Main Street, Suite 735
SALT LAKE CITY UT 84101

MAILED
JUN 14 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,979,893
Issue Date: November 9, 1999
Application No. 09/003,791
Filed: January 7, 1998
Attorney Docket No. 3304.2.430

NOTICE

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 filed May 10, 2011.

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This patent is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this patent must be paid at the large entity rate.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3215.

Charlema Grant
Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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MAILED
OCT 19 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

ATTN: MIMI YUEN
GOLDEN BRIDGE TECHNOLOGY INC.
185 ROUTE 36
WEST LONG BRANCH NJ 07764

In re Patent No. 5,933,447
Issue Date: August 3, 1999
Application No. 09/005,070
Filed: January 9, 1998
Attorney Docket No. GBTI35US

ON PETITION

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c), filed September 19, 2011, to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

This patent expired on August 3, 2011 for failure to pay the eleven and one-half year maintenance fee. Since this petition was submitted within twenty-four months after the six-month grace period provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e), the petition was timely filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(c).

The maintenance fee is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-6735.

The patent file is being forwarded to Files Repository.

/Diane Goodwyn/
Diane Goodwyn
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

cc: ELMER YUEN
24 JAMES WAY,
EATONTOWN, NJ 07724

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/005,716	01/16/1998	HIROYA MIYAZAKI	KAM14.726	2824

26304 7590 12/14/2010

KATTEN MUCHIN ROSENMAN LLP
575 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10022-2585

EXAMINER	
HANSEN, COLBY M	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3682	
MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
12/14/2010	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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DEC 13 2010

KATTEN MUCHIN ROSENMAN LLP
575 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK NY 10022-2585

Application of:	MIYAZAKI ET AL.	:	
Patent No.:	6,280,096	:	**DECISION ON**
		:	**PETITION**
Filed:	January 16, 1998	:	**UNDER 37 CFR 1.324**
Application No.	09/005,716		
For:	ROLLING BEARING FOR	:	
	SUPPORTING VEHICLE	:	
	WHEEL	:	

This is a decision on the petition filed July 26, 2010 to correct inventorship under 37 CFR 1.324.

The petition is **Granted**.

A petition to correct inventorship as provided by 37 CFR 1.324 requires:

(**1**) a statement from each person who is being added as an inventor and from each person who is being deleted as an inventor that the inventorship error occurred without any deceptive intention on their part,
(**2**) a statement from the current named inventors who have not submitted a statement as per "(1)" either agreeing to the change of inventorship or stating that they have no disagreement in regard to the requested change,
(**3**) a statement from all assignees of the parties submitting a statement under "(1)" and "(2)" agreeing to the change of inventorship in the patent; such statement must comply with the requirements of 37 CFR 3.73(b); and
(**4**) the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(b).

This renewed petition satisfies all of the items above, accordingly this renewed petition is granted. The patented file is being forwarded to Certificates of Corrections Branch for issuance of a certificate naming the actual inventors.

Any inquiry regarding this petition decision can be directed to Richard Ridley at (703) 272-6917.

Summary: Petition **GRANTED**.

Richard WL Ridley
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3656
(571) 272-6917

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. **6,280,096**
PATENTED **August 28, 2001**

On petition requesting issuance of a certificate for correction of inventorship pursuant to 35 USC 256, it has been found that the above identified patent, through error and without deceptive intent, improperly sets forth the inventorship. Accordingly, it is hereby certified that the correct inventorship of this patent is:

- Hiroya Miyazaki
- Yoshihisa Ohnuki
- Takafumi Kuwano
- Hiroyuki Sawai

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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MAILED
JAN 20 2012
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

JEFFREY D. HUNT
1609 SHOAL CREEK BLVD.
SUITE 100
AUSTIN TX 78701

In re Patent No. 6,636,748
Issue Date: October 21, 2003
Application No. 09/005,932
Filed: January 12, 1998
Attorney Docket No. 07-0180

DECISION ON PETITION

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c), filed December 5, 2011, to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

This patent expired on October 21, 2011, for failure to pay the seven and one-half year maintenance fee. Since this petition was submitted within twenty-four months after the six-month grace period provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e), the petition was timely filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(c).

The maintenance fee is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

It is not apparent whether the person signing the statement of unintentional delay was in a position to have firsthand or direct knowledge of the facts and circumstances of the delay at issue. Nevertheless, such statement is being treated as having been made as the result of a reasonable inquiry into the facts and circumstances of such delay. In the event that such an inquiry has not been made, petitioner must make such an inquiry. If such inquiry results in the discovery that the delay in paying the maintenance fee under 37 CFR 1.378(c) was intentional, petitioner must notify the Office.

There is no indication that the person signing the petition was ever given a power of attorney to prosecute the application. If the person signing the petition desires to receive future correspondence regarding this application, the appropriate power of attorney document must be submitted. While a courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the person signing the

petition, all future correspondence will be directed to the address currently of record until appropriate instructions are received.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-6735.

The patent file is being referred to Files Repository.

/Diane Goodwyn/
Diane Goodwyn
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

cc: ROBERT C. CURFISS
19826 SUNDANCE DRIVE
HUMBLE, TX 77346

SPE RESPONSE FOR CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

DATE : 09/29/11

TO SPE OF : ART UNIT 1647

SUBJECT : Request for Certificate of Correction for Appl. No.: 09006352 Patent No.: 8003386

CofC mailroom date: 09/23/11

Please respond to this request for a certificate of correction within 7 days.

FOR IFW FILES:

Please review the requested changes/corrections as shown in the **COCIN** document(s) in the IFW application image. No new matter should be introduced, nor should the scope or meaning of the claims be changed.

Please complete the response (see below) and forward the completed response to scanning using document code **COCX**.

FOR PAPER FILES:

Please review the requested changes/corrections as shown in the attached certificate of correction. Please complete this form (see below) and forward it with the file to:

Certificates of Correction Branch (CofC)
Randolph Square – 9D10-A
Palm Location 7580
You can fax the Directors/SPE response to 571-273-3421

Note: Should the changes in the claims be approved?

Lamonte Newsome

Certificates of Correction Branch

571-272-3421

Thank You For Your Assistance

The request for issuing the above-identified correction(s) is hereby:
Note your decision on the appropriate box.

☒ **Approved**	**All** changes apply.
☐ **Approved in Part**	Specify below which changes **do not** apply.
☐ **Denied**	State the reasons for denial below.

said second portion comprising an inner core material, with at least a portion of said inner core material comprising native insoluble collagen.

57. The implant of claim 56, wherein at least a portion of said sleeve material comprises metal with said sleeve material serving as a scaffold.

58. The implant of claim 56, wherein at least a portion of said sleeve material comprises metal.

59. The implant of claim 58, wherein said inner core material additionally comprises soluble collagen.

60. The implant of claim 59, wherein said inner core material additionally comprises calcium salt.

61. The implant of claim 60, wherein said calcium salt comprises at least one of calcium phosphate and calcium sulfate.

62. The implant of claim 61, wherein said calcium phosphate comprises at least one of tricalcium phosphate and hydroxyapatite.

63. The implant of claim 62, wherein said inner core material additionally comprises soluble collagen wherein the ratio of said native insoluble collagen to soluble collagen is from about 10:1 to 1:20.

64. The implant of claim 59, wherein said implant additionally comprises an additive comprising at least one of biologically active agents, drugs, and therapies.

65. The implant of claim 64, wherein said additive is dispersed throughout the implant.

66. The implant of claim 64, wherein said wherein said biologically active agent comprises at least one of bone marrow, autologous blood, and bone morphogenic protein.

67. The implant of claim 66, wherein said additive is added to the implant at, or immediately prior to, placement of said implant into said tissue

68. The implant of claim 57 wherein said metal serves to provide structural integrity to the implant.

69. The implant of claim 68, wherein said inner core material does not have structural competence.

* * * * *

SPE RESPONSE FOR CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

Comments: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____ 1647/49

JEFFREY STUCKER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

SPE **Art Unit**

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Summary

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Total (1)	38	38	0	-

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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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ROBERT A. LAIBOVITZ
7506 VALLEY DALE DRIVE
AUSTIN TX 78731

MAILED

AUG 29 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,997,518 :
Issue Date: December 7, 1999 :
Application No. 09/006,720 : ON PETITION
Filed: January 14, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No. LAIB: 002 :

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c), filed August 10, 2011, to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **DISMISSED AS MOOT.**

This patent was issued on December 7, 1999. The 7 ½ year maintenance fee was paid April 8, 2008 along with a petition under 1.378(c) on the same date. The 11 ½ year maintenance fee is to paid no later than midnight of December 7, 2011. The fee received on August 10, 2011, along with the $65 surcharge fee was timely received. Therefore this petition is not necessary.

The file does not indicate a change of address has been submitted, although the address given on the petition differs from the address of record. If appropriate, a change of fee address (form PTO/SB/47) and a request for customer number (form PTO/SB/125) should be filed in accordance with Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, section 2540. A courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the address on the petition. However, the Office will mail all future correspondence solely to the address of record.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to Kimberly Inabinet at (571) 272-4618.

/Kimberly Inabinet/

Kimberly Inabinet
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

cc: Robert L. Rogers
7604 Long Point Drive
Austin, TX 78731-1218

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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PAUL J WHITE, ASSOC. GENERAL COUNSEL
NATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY LABORATORY (NREL)
1617 COLE BOULEVARD
MS 5231
GOLDEN, CO 80401-3393

MAILED
NOV 17 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,073,500 :
Issue Date: June 13, 2000 :
Application No. 09/006,746 : NOTICE
Filed: January 13, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No. NREL.97-16 :

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28. On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. **See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).**

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989).** Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED.**

This application is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this application must be paid at the large entity rate.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-1642.

/AMW/
April M. Wise
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
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P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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DIW Mar-12

JAMES V COSTIGAN
HEDMAN GIBSON & COSTIGAN
1185 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS
NEW YORK NY 10036-2646

MAILED
APR 02 2012
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,084,190 :
Issue Date: July 4, 2000 :
Application Number: 09/006,763 : DECISION ON PETITION
Filing Date: January 14, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No. 712-017 :

This is a decision on the "RENEWED PETITION TO REVIEW DENIAL OF REQUEST FOR REFUND" filed February 27, 2012, requesting a refund of the third maintenance fee.

The petition is **dismissed**.

The patent issued on July 4, 2000. The due date for payment of the third maintenance fee without a surcharge opened on July 4, 2011, and closed on January 4, 2012. The Office received timely payment of the third maintenance in the amount of $4,730.00 on January 3, 2012.

Patent practitioner, Kathleen A. Costigan, avers that on January 3, 2012, the third maintenance fee for the above-identified patent was paid by mistake due to a clerical error. Ms. Costigan asserts that the owner of the patent instructed a member of her firm not to pay the maintenance fee by an email date December 14, 2011. Ms. Costigan, states that Glenda Carrasquillo, a secretary at the firm, erroneously conveyed a message to her that instruction had been received to pay the third maintenance fee when, in fact, instruction had been received not to pay the third maintenance fee. Ms. Costigan maintains: "The facts show that the patent owner never intended that the third Maintenance Fee was to be paid, the patent owner did not pay the third Maintenance Fee, and that the third Maintenance Fee was paid through an inadvertent clerical error." *Petition, 02/27/11, p. 2.*

Ms. Costigan argues that a refund of the third maintenance fee is not prohibited by the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 42(d) and 37 CFR 1.26 in view of the present circumstances. Copies of the emails from the patent owner to the firm, as well as the statement of Ms. Carrasquillo accompany the petition.

The fact that the patent owner never intended for the third maintenance fee to be paid and did not pay the third maintenance fee is not persuasive. As indicated in 37 CFR 1.366(a):

> The patentee may pay maintenance fees and any necessary surcharges, or any person or organization may pay maintenance fees and any necessary surcharges on behalf of a patentee. Authorization by the patentee need not be filed in the Patent and Trademark Office to pay maintenance fees and any necessary surcharges on behalf of the patentee.

Thus, anyone may pay the maintenance fee and any necessary surcharges on a patent. See MPEP 2512. No verification of the authority to pay maintenance fees and any necessary surcharges in a particular patent will be made by the Office. Id.

37 CFR 1.366(g) further provides that maintenance fees and surcharges relating thereto will not be refunded except in accordance with 37 CFR 1.26 and 1.28(a). "A patentee cannot obtain a refund of a maintenance fee that was due and payable on the patent." MPEP 2520.

37 CFR 1.26(a) states that:

> The Director may refund any fee paid by mistake or in excess of that required. A change of purpose after the payment of a fee, such as when a party desires to withdraw a patent filing for which the fee was paid, including an application, an appeal, or a request for an oral hearing, will not entitle a party to a refund of such fee.

MPEP 607.02 states, in pertinent part that:

> Under 35 U.S.C. 42(d) and 37 CFR 1.26, the Office may refund: (1) a fee paid by mistake (e.g., fee paid when no fee is required); or (2) any fee paid in excess of the amount of fee that is required. *See Ex parte Grady*,

> 59 USPQ 276, 277 (Comm'r Pat. 1943) (the statutory authorization for the refund of fees under the "by mistake" clause is applicable only to a mistake relating to the fee payment).
>
> When an applicant or patentee takes an action "by mistake" (*e.g.*, files an application or maintains a patent in force "by mistake"), **the submission of fees required to take that action (e.g., a filing fee submitted with such application or a maintenance fee submitted for such patent) is not a "fee paid by mistake" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. 42(d).**

(Emphasis added).

In this instance, the third maintenance fee maintenance fee was due and payable on the patent. The firm paid the third maintenance fee in the amount due on January 3, 2012, within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.362. Therefore, the submission of a maintenance fee due on a patent by one other than the patent owner is not a "fee paid by mistake" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. 42(d). Accordingly, the Office concurs with the Office of Finance. The payment of the third maintenance fee in the amount of $4,730.00 will not be refunded.

Any questions concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3211.

/Christina Tartera Donnell/

Christina Tartera Donnell
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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HOFFMANN & BARON, LLP
6900 JERICHO TURNPIKE
SYOSSET NY 11791

MAILED
MAR 19 2012
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,100,248 :
Issue Date: August 8, 2000 :
Application No. 09/007,645 : NOTICE
Filed: January 15, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No. 178-179CIP :

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 on January 30, 2012.

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue patent under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This patent is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this patent must be paid at the large entity rate.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3208.

/KOC/
Karen Creasy
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

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JAN 30 2012
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KF ROSS PC
311 EAST YORK STREET
SAVANNAH GA 31401

In re
Daberkow, et al.
Application No. 09/008,009
Filed: January 16, 1998
Patent No. 6,061,085
Issued: May 9, 2000

DECISION

This is a decision on the fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28(c), filed January 4, 2012.

The fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 of $1670 for the 7.5 year maintenance fee and $2,675 for the 11.5 year maintenance fee is hereby accepted.

The change of status to large entity has been entered.

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3207.

Cliff Congo
Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

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KENNETH C. SPAFFORD
708 SMITHSON AVENUE
ERIE PA 16511

MAILED

JUL 19 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of	:	
Anthony A. Anthony	:	
Application No. 09/008,769	:	NOTICE UNDER 37 CFR. 1.28(c)
Patent No. 6,097,581	:	
Filed: January 19, 1998	:	
Attorney Docket No.		

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28.

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue patent under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This patent is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this patent must be paid at the large entity rate.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to Michelle R. Eason at (571) 272-4231.

Thurman K. Page
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/008,769	01/19/1998	ANTHONY A. ANTHONY	X2YA0104U-US	4762

92864 7590 03/26/2012

Kenneth C. Spafford
708 Smithson Avenue
Erie, PA 16511

EXAMINER	
JACKSON, STEPHEN W	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2836	

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
03/26/2012	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

kspafford@spaffordlaw.com
spaffordlaw@gmail.com

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COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
P.O. BOX 1450
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

MAR 26 2012

In re Patent No. 6,097,581 :
Issue Date: August 01, 2000 : **DECISION GRANTING**
Appl No.: 09/008,769 : **PETITION**
Filed: January 19, 1998 : *37 CFR 1.324*
For: PAIRED MULTI-LAYERED DIELECTRIC :
INDEPENDENT PASSIVE COMPONENT :
ARCHITECTURE RESULTING IN :
DIFFERENTIAL AND COMMON MODE :
FILTERING WITH SURGE PROTECTION IN
ONE INTEGRATED PACKAGE

This is a decision on the petition filed December 21, 2011 to correct inventorship under 37 CFR 1.324.

The petition is granted.

The patented file is being forwarded to Certificate of Corrections Branch for issuance of a certificate naming only the actual inventor or inventors.

/Jared Fureman/
Jared Fureman
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2836
Technology Center 2800

Kenneth C. Spafford
708 Smithson Avenue
Erie, PA 16511

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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In re Patent No. 6207219
Issue Date: March 27,2001
Application No. 09009161
Filed: January 20,1998
Attorney Docket No. Q-48997

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed January 25,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 7.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of January 25,2011 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6207219	2001-03-27	09009161	1998-01-20	Q48997

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity

	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)
◉	7 ½ year	(1552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)

Small Entity

	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Brian W. Hannon/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-01-25
Name	Brian W. Hannon	Registration Number	32778

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

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LUIS ORLANDO DE JESUS PITTAU
PARAGUAY 3462 PPB 'G'
CIUDAD AUTONOMA DE BUENOS AIRES
ARGENTINA

MAILED

SEP 07 2010

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,276,549 :
Issue Date: August 21, 2001 :
Application No. 09/009,327 : DECISION ON PETITION
Filed: January 20, 1998 : UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(b)
For: MODULAR CONTAINER THAT CAN :
BE INTERCONNECTED, FOR MULTIPLE :
USES :

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(b), filed June 28, 2010, to accept an unavoidably delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **DISMISSED**.

If reconsideration of this decision is desired, a petition for reconsideration under 37 CFR 1.378(e) must be filed within TWO (2) MONTHS from the mail date of this decision. No extension of this 2-month time limit can be granted under 37 CFR 1.136(a) or (b). **Any such petition for reconsideration must be accompanied by the petition fee of $400 as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(f).** The petition for reconsideration should include an exhaustive attempt to provide the lacking item(s) noted below, since, after a decision on the petition for reconsideration, no further reconsideration or review of the matter will be undertaken by the Director.

The patent issued August 21, 2001. The second maintenance fee could have been paid from August 21, 2008, through February 21, 2009, or with a surcharge during the period from February 22, 2009 through August 21, 2009. Accordingly, the patent expired August 21, 2009, for failure to timely submit the second maintenance fee.

A petition to accept the delayed payment of a maintenance fee under 35 U.S.C. § 41(c) and 37 CFR 1.378(b) must be accompanied by (1) an adequate showing that the delay was unavoidable, since reasonable care was taken to ensure that the maintenance fee would be paid timely and that the petition was filed promptly after the patentee was notified of, or otherwise became aware of, the expiration of the patent, (2) payment of the appropriate maintenance fee, unless previously submitted, and (3) payment of the surcharge set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(i)(1).

This petition lacks item requirement (1) set forth above.

The Director may accept late payment of the maintenance fee if the delay is shown to the satisfaction of the Director to have been "unavoidable". 35 U.S.C. § 41(c)(1).

Petitioner herein states:

> "The reason of the unavoidable delay of the maintenance fee due to 7½ years (expired 09-21-2009), was because my wife Mirta Mabel Fasci unexpectedly died, leading me to a long and deep depression, forgetting basically any important aspect of life, appointments, chores, and of course, expiration of payments.
>
> We were a team, she was the one who took care of the organization of payments. Now I am trying to do it myself, and I found out of my delayed payment. So I need you to accept he payment of the maintenance fee that expired in the before indicated date (09-21-2009)."

Petitioner seemingly attributes the failure to timely remit the 7.5 year maintenance fee to his personal health following the death of his spouse. The conditions described by patentee, however, are not substantiated by any supporting documentation, such as statements from medical practitioners.

Accordingly, the showing of record is inadequate to establish unavoidable delay within the meaning of 37 CFR 1.378(b)(3).

Acceptance of late payment of a maintenance fee is considered under the same standard as that for reviving an abandoned application under 35 U.S.C. § 133 because 35 U.S.C. § 41(c)(1) uses the identical language, i.e. "unavoidable delay". Ray v. Lehman, 55 F.3d 606, 608-09, 34 USPQ2d 1786, 1787 (Fed. Cir. 1995)(quoting In re Patent No. 4,409,763, 7 USPQ2d 1798, 1800 (Comm'r Pat. 1988)). Decisions on reviving abandoned applications have adopted the "reasonably prudent person" standard in determining if the delay in responding to an Office action was unavoidable. Ex parte Pratt, 1887 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 31, 32-33 (Comm'r Pat. 1887)(the term "unavoidable" "is applicable to ordinary human affairs, and requires no more or greater care or diligence than is generally used and observed by prudent and careful men in relation to their most important business"); In re Mattullath, 38 App. D.C. 497, 514-515 (D.C. Cir. 1912); and Ex parte Henrich, 1913 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 139, 141. In addition, decisions on revival are made on a "case-by-case basis, taking all the facts and circumstances into account." Smith v. Mossinghoff, 671 F.2d 533, 538, 213 USPQ 977, 982 (D.C. Cir. 1982). Finally, a petition to revive an application as unavoidably abandoned cannot be granted where a petitioner has failed to meet his or her burden of establishing the cause of the unavoidable delay. Haines v. Quigg, 673 F. Supp. 314, 316-17, 5 USPQ2d 1130, 1131-32 (N.D. Ind. 1987).

In essence, petitioner must show that he was aware of the need to pay the maintenance fee, and to that end was tracking it, or had engaged someone to track it before the expiration, but when the fee came due, was "unavoidably" prevented from making the maintenance fee payment due to his medical problems until the petition was filed.

In determining whether a delay in paying a maintenance fee was unavoidable, one looks to whether the party responsible for payment of the maintenance fee exercised the due care of a reasonably prudent person. Ray, 55 F3d at 608-609, 34 USPQ2D at 1787. It is incumbent upon the patent owner to implement steps to schedule and pay the fee, or obligate another to do so. See California Medical Products v. Technol. Med. Prod., 921 F.Supp 1219, 1259 (D. Del. 1995). That is, 37 CFR 1.378(b)(3) requires a showing of the steps in place to pay the maintenance fee, and the record currently lacks a showing that any steps were emplaced by petitioner or anyone else. In the absence of a showing that petitioner or anyone else was engaged in tracking the maintenance fee due dates, and that party had in fact been tracking the due dates with a reliable tracking system, such as would be used by prudent and careful men in relation to their most important business, petitioner cannot reasonably show that the delay was unavoidable delay. In re Katrapat, 6 USPQ2d 1863, 1867-1868 (Comm'r Pat. 1988); California, supra. Put otherwise, the issues of petitioner's personal health are immaterial in the absence of a showing that the problems he attributes to personal health, and not the lack of any steps in place to pay the fee, caused or contributed to the delay.

As to the physical condition described by petitioner, petitioner should note that under the circumstances of this case, he will have to provide documents from licensed health care providers, demonstrating the nature and extent of petitioner's incapacitation, in such a manner that petitioner was, from the date of expiry until the filing of the instant petition, "unavoidably" prevented from taking any earlier action with respect to this patent. Additionally, petitioner must state how he managed to conduct his daily personal and business affairs, including scheduling and settlement of short and long term debts and business obligations, bills, rent or mortgage payments, income taxes etc., during the time in question. Petitioner must demonstrate that his physical condition was such as to cause the payment of the maintenance fee to have been unavoidably delayed.

Petitioner should also note that since the maintenance fee was proffered within 24 months of the date of expiration date of the patent, he has an alternate remedy under the unintentional provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(c) which does not require a showing of the delay in timely paying the maintenance fee in order to reinstate the patent. The $700 surcharge already submitted would be applied to the $1,640 fee owed under 37 CFR 1.378(c), leaving a balance due of $940. See, enclosed.

If petitioner elects not to seek reconsideration, petitioner may request a refund of the $2,880.00 fee submitted herewith. Petitioner may request a refund by writing to the Finance Office, Refund Section. A copy of this decision should accompany any request for refund.

The file does not indicate a change of address has been submitted, although the address given on the petition differs from the address of record. If appropriate, a change of address should be filed in accordance with MPEP 601.03. A courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the address given on the petition; however, the Office will mail all future correspondence solely to the address of record. Petitioner may use the enclosed form to request a change of correspondence address.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail:
Mail Stop PETITIONS
Commissioner for Patents
Post Office Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By hand:
Customer Service Window
Mail Stop Petitions
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

By fax:
(571) 273-8300
ATTN: Office of Petitions

Any questions concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3205.

/ALESIA M. BROWN/

Alesia M. Brown
Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

Enc.

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MAILED

MAR 08 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

Luis Orlando de Jesus Pittau
Paraguay 3462 PB "G"
Cludad Autonoma de Buenos Aires 1425 CABA
ARGENTINA

In re Patent No. 6,276,549 :
Issue Date: August 21, 2001 :
Application No. 09/009,327 : ON PETITION
Filed: January 20, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No. 1320.1015/JD :

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c), filed November 5, 2010, to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is GRANTED.

This patent expired on August 21, 2009 for failure to pay the 7.5 year maintenance fee. Since this petition was submitted within twenty-four months after the six-month grace period provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e), the petition was timely filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(c).

The maintenance fee is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3205.

/ALESIA M. BROWN/

Alesia M. Brown
Attorney Advisor
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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In re Patent No. 5865715
Issue Date: February 2,1999
Application No. 09009556
Filed: January 20,1998
Attorney Docket No. W10-PT-1.SF

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed September 6,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of September 6,2011 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5865715	1999-02-02	09/009,556	1998-01-20	

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	◉	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

○ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

◉ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Sole Patentee			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature.			
Signature	/H David Wallick/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-09-06
Name	H David Wallick		

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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KENYON & KENYON LLP
ONE BROADWAY
NEW YORK NY 10004

MAILED

JAN 12 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,749,702 :
Issue Date: June 15, 2004 : DECISION ON PETITION
Application No. 09/010,822 :
Filed: January 22, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No. 13332/16 :

This is a decision is in response to the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(b), filed on August 19, 2010, to accept the delayed payment of the maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **dismissed**.

If reconsideration of this decision is desired, a petition for reconsideration under 37 CFR 1.378(e) must be filed within TWO (2) MONTHS from the mail date of this decision. No extension of this two-month time limit can be granted under 37 CFR 1.136(a) or (b). Any such petition for reconsideration must be accompanied by the petition fee of $400.00 as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(f). The petition for reconsideration should include an exhaustive attempt to provide the lacking item(s) noted below because the Director will not undertaken any further reconsideration or review of the matter after a decision on the petition for reconsideration.

The patent issued on June 15, 2004. The maintenance fee could have been paid during the period from June 15, 2007 through Monday, December 17, 2007 or with a surcharge during the period from Tuesday, December 18, 2007 through Monday, June 16, 2008. Accordingly, this patent expired on June 16, 2008, for failure to timely remit the maintenance fee.

Petitioners stated that they were informed in a letter from Kenyon & Kenyon LLP dated January 18, 2006, patentee's outside counsel, that Kenyon would cease handling the monitoring and payment of the maintenance fees for patentee's patents. Petitioners indicated that Computer Patent Annuities (hereinafter "CPA") indicated in a letter to patentee dated May 12, 2006, that CPA would assume

responsibility for monitoring and payment of the maintenance fee for patentee's patents starting on June 1, 2006. Petitioners stated that the letter indicated that next correspondence from CPA to patentee would be in the form of a renewal notice when the first maintenance fee for one of the patents became due. Petitioners asserted that it was their understanding that all correspondence from CPA would be directed to Daniel V. Haun, VP Engineering and Research of Nammo Talley Inc. (patentee). Petitioners contended that they were unaware of receiving any further correspondence from CPA until an email exchange between Ms. Sallie Winkler, a Service Account Manager for CPA, and Mr. Haun on December 1, 2008. The emails concerned the change of status from a small entity to a large entity, but not regarding payment of the maintenance fee. Petitioners asserted that they were not aware of any missed maintenance fee payments or expiration of any patents until they received a letter from Kenyon & Kenyon on June 29, 2010, accompanied by a copy of the Notice of Patent Expiration.

A grantable petition to accept a delayed maintenance fee payment under 37 CFR 1.378(b) must include the following:

> (1) the required maintenance fee set forth in § 1.20(e) through (g);
>
> (2) the surcharge set forth in § 1.20(i)(1); and
>
> (3) a showing that the delay was unavoidable since reasonable care was taken to ensure that the maintenance fee would be paid timely and that the petition was filed promptly after the patentee was notified of, or otherwise became aware of, the expiration of the patent. The showing must enumerate the steps taken to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee, the date and the manner in which patentee became aware of the expiration of the patent, and the steps taken to file the petition promptly.

This petition lacks requirement (3).

Acceptance of a late maintenance fee under the unavoidable delay standard is considered under the same standard for reviving an abandoned application under 35 U.S.C. § 133. This is a very stringent standard. Decisions on reviving abandoned applications on the basis of "unavoidable" delay have adopted the reasonably prudent person standard in determining if the delay was unavoidable:

> The word unavoidable' . . . is applicable to ordinary human affairs, and requires no more or greater care or diligence than is generally used and observed by prudent and careful men in relation to their most important business. It permits them in the exercise of this care to rely upon the ordinary and trustworthy agencies of mail and telegraph, worthy and reliable employees, and such other means and instrumentalities as are usually employed in such important business. If unexpectedly, or through the unforeseen fault or imperfection of these agencies and instrumentalities, there occurs a failure, it may properly be said to be unavoidable, all other conditions of promptness in its rectification being present. In re Mattullath, 38 App. D.C. 497, 514-15 (1912) (quoting Ex parte Pratt, 1887 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 31, 32-33 (1887)); see also Winkler v. Ladd, 221 F. Supp. 550, 552, 138 USPQ 666, 667-68 (D.D.C. 1963), aff'd, 143 USPQ 172 (D.C. Cir. 1963); Ex parte Henrich, 1913 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 139, 141 (1913).

In addition, decisions on revival are made on a "case-by-case basis, taking all the facts and circumstances into account." Smith v. Mossinghoff, 671 F.2d 533, 538, 213 USPQ 977, 982 (D.C. Cir. 1982). Finally, a petition cannot be granted where a petitioner has failed to meet his or her burden of establishing that the delay was "unavoidable." Haines v. Quigg, 673 F. Supp. 314, 316-17, 5 USPQ2d 1130, 1131-32 (N.D. Ind. 1987).

In determining whether the delay in paying a maintenance fee was unavoidable, one looks to whether the party responsible for payment of the maintenance fee exercised the due care of a reasonably prudent person. Ray v. Lehman, 55 F.3d 606, 608-609, 34 USPQ2d 1786, 1787 (Fed. Cir. 1995). The patent owner at the time of the expiration of the patent is ultimately the person responsible to ensure the timely payment of the maintenance fees. The patent owner may engage another to track and/or pay the maintenance fees; however, merely engaging another does not relieve the patent owner from his or her obligation to take appropriate steps to ensure the timely payment of such maintenance fees. Additionally, a patentee's lack of knowledge of the need to pay the maintenance fee does not constitute unavoidable delay. See In re Patent No. 4,409,763, 7 USPQ2d 1798 (Comm'r Pat. 1988), aff'd Rydeen v. Quigg, 748 F. Supp. 900, 16 USPQ2d 1876 (D.D.C. 1990); aff'd without opinion (Rule 36), 937 F.2d 623 (Fed. Cir. 1991), cert. denied, 60 U.S.L.W. 3520 (January 27, 1992).

Assuming, *arguendo,* that petitioners were justified in relying on CPA to pay the maintenance fee, such reliance *per se* does not provide petitioner with a showing of unavoidable delay within the meaning of 37 CFR 1.378(b) and 35 U.S.C. § 41(c). California Medical Products v. Technol. Med. Prod., 921 F.Supp. 1219, 1259 (D. Del. 1995). Rather, such reliance merely shifts the focus of the inquiry from petitioners to whether CPA acted reasonably and prudently. Nevertheless, petitioners are bound by any errors that may have been committed by CPA. Petitioners are reminded that the United States Patent and Trademark Office must rely on the actions or inactions of duly authorized and voluntarily chosen representatives of the petitioners, and petitioners are bound by the consequences of those actions or inactions. Link v. Wabash, 370 U.S. 626, 633-34 (1962). Specifically, petitioners' delay caused by the mistakes or negligence of their voluntarily chosen representative does not constitute unavoidable delay within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 133. Haines v. Quigg, 673 F. Supp. at 317; Smith v. Diamond, 209 USPQ 1091 (D.D.C. 1981); Potter v. Dann, 201 USPQ 574 (D.D.C. 1978).

The record does not show that petitioners monitored the performance of CPA pursuant to petitioners' belief that CPA would pay the maintenance fee. Further, petitioners failed to demonstrate that they diligently inquired with CPA or the USPTO into the status of the patent and maintenance fee payment. Petitioners' inaction does not reflect the due care and diligence exercised by a prudent and careful person with respect to his or her most important business, and as such, does not demonstrate unavoidable delay. Rather, a prudent person would have taken actions to ensure that the services of CPA were timely performed as specified.

Additionally, petitioners did not provide any statements from persons from CPA, who have first-hand knowledge of the details, regarding the circumstances of the delay in payment of the maintenance fee. There is no explanation by CPA as to why the renewal notice was not sent to Mr. Haun. Furthermore, petitioners did not submit records from CPA showing that the maintenance fee due date was entered into a docketing system and that they were tracking the maintenance fee. Any request for

reconsideration should be accompanied by copies of correspondence between CPA and petitioner regarding which party bore the obligation for tracking and paying the maintenance fee. If petitioners can show, by supporting documentation that CPA assumed the obligation, then petitioners must demonstrate that CPA entered the patent in a reliable system for monitoring maintenance fee payments. Petitioners should submit statements from CPA fully explaining the tracking system, the identity and qualifications of any support staff that managed the system and the checks in place to ensure that the maintenance fee was timely paid. Additionally, petitioners should show that it diligently inquired with CPA as to the status of the patent and when the maintenance was due. Lastly, petitioners must provide a thorough explanation by persons with firsthand knowledge of the events, as well as any documentary evidence, as to errors or events that occurred, which prevented the timely payment of the maintenance fee.

In summary, the showing of record is inadequate to establish unavoidable delay. As petitioners have not shown that it exercised the standard of care observed by a reasonable person in the conduct of its most important business, the petition is **dismissed**.

Petitioner should note that if this petition is not renewed, or if renewed and not granted, then the maintenance fee and post-expiration surcharge are refundable. The $400.00 petition fee for seeking further reconsideration is not refundable. Any request for refund should be in writing to the following address:

Mail Stop 16
Director of the US Patent and Trademark Office
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

A copy of this decision should accompany petitioners' request.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail: Mail Stop Petition
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By FAX: (571) 273-8300
Attn: Office of Petitions

By hand: Customer Services Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Telephone inquiries should be directed to the undersigned at 571-272-3211.

C. T. Donnell

Christina Tartera Donnell
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN, LLP
P.O. BOX 10500
MCLEAN, VA 22102

MAILED

FEB 17 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,240,360 :
Issue Date: May 29, 2001 :
Application No. 09/011,691 : NOTICE
Filed: February 12, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No. PMS245063 :

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28. On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. **See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).**

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989).** Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This application is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this application must be paid at the large entity rate.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-1642.

/AMW/
April M. Wise
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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In re Patent No. 6195348
Issue Date: February 27,2001
Application No. 09012075
Filed: January 22,1998
Attorney Docket No. 37/01

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed October 4,2010 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 7.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of October 4,2010 .
This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6195348	2001-02-27	09012075	1998-01-22	37/01

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity			Small Entity		
	Fee	Code		Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
◉	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Kendal M. Sheets/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2010-09-30
Name	Kendal M. Sheets	Registration Number	47077

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

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DEC 08 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

SIDLEY & AUSTIN
4500 RENAISSANCE TOWER
1201 ELM STREET
DALLAS TX 75270-2197

In re Patent No. 5,969,528 :
Issue Date: 10/19/1999 :
Application Number: 09/012,148 : ON PETITION
Filing Date: 01/22/1998 :
For: DUAL FIELD METAL DETECTOR :

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c), filed on November 8, 2011, to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED.**

This patent expired on October 19, 2011, for failure to timely pay the third maintenance fee. Since this petition was submitted within twenty-four months after the six-month grace period provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e), the petition was timely filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(c).

The maintenance fee is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

The statement of unintentional delay was not signed by a person who would have been in a position of knowing that the delay in paying the maintenance fee was unintentional. Nevertheless, in accordance with 37 CFR 10.18, the statement is accepted as constituting a certification of unintentional delay. However, in the event that petitioner has no knowledge that the delay was in fact unintentional, petitioner should make a reasonable inquiry to ascertain that, in fact, the delay was unintentional. If petitioner discovers that the delay was intentional, petitioner must so notify the Office.

The address in the petition is different than the correspondence address. A courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the address in the petition. All future correspondence, however, will be mailed solely to the address of record. A change of correspondence address should be filed if the correspondence address needs to be updated.

Telephone inquiries related to this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3231.

D Wood

Douglas I. Wood
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

Cc: DANIEL R. BROWN
57 STAGE COACH ROAD
FORT WORTH TX 76244

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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APR 08 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

DAVIS & BUJOLD, PL.L.C.
112 PLEASANT STREET
CONCORD NH 03301

In re Patent No. 5,960,876 :
Issue Date: October 5, 1999 :
Application No. 09/012,289 : NOTICE
Filed: January 23, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No. THOLAMP83AUS :

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28. On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. **See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).**

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This application is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this application must be paid at the large entity rate.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to Diane Goodwyn at (571) 272-6735.

Thurman K. Page
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5979775	1999-11-09	09012662	1998-01-23	71497

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	◉	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Richard W. Goldstein/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-11-14
Name	Richard W. Goldstein	Registration Number	36527

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 5979775
Issue Date: November 9,1999
Application No. 09012662
Filed: January 23,1998
Attorney Docket No. 71497

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed November 14,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of November 14,2011 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

MICHEAL J. KNIGHT SR.
396 ROYCE STREET
PENSACOLA FL 32503

MAILED

DEC 05 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,951,244 :
Issue Date: September 14, 1999 :
Application No. 09/013,739 : DECISION ON PETITION
Filed: January 27, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No. 280087 :

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c), filed October 25, 2011, to accept the delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **DISMISSED**.

If reconsideration of this decision is desired, a petition for reconsideration under 37 CFR 1.378(e) must be filed within TWO (2) MONTHS from the mail date of this decision. No extension of this two-month time limit can be granted under 37 CFR 1.136(a) or (b). This is **not** a final agency action within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. § 704.

Any petition for reconsideration of this decision must be accompanied by the petition fee of $400 as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(f). The petition for reconsideration must include the lacking item(s) noted below, since, after a decision on the petition for reconsideration, no further reconsideration or review of the matter will be undertaken by the Director.

A petition to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee under 35 U.S.C. 41(c) and 37 CFR 1.378(c) must be accompanied by: (1) a statement that the delay was unintentional; (2) payment of the appropriate maintenance fee, unless previously submitted; (3) payment of the surcharge set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2). This petition lacks item (2) above.

The appropriate fee for the eleven and one-half year maintenance fee was not submitted. There is a deficiency of $310.00. Any fee paid on or after September 26, 2011, must be paid as shown in the revised fee schedule.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By Mail: Mail Stop PETITION
Commissioner for Patents
Post Office Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By hand: U. S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Petitions
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

The centralized facsimile number is (571) 273-8300.

Telephone inquiries should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-4231.

Michelle R. Eason
Paralegal Specialist
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

MICHEAL J. KNIGHT SR.
396 ROYCE STREET
PENSACOLA FL 32503

MAILED
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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,951,244 :
Issue Date: September 14, 1999 :
Application No. 09/013,739 : DECISIO ON PETITION
Filed: January 27, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No. 280087 :

This is a decision on the renewed petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c), filed December 15, 2011, to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

This patent expired on September 14, 2011 for failure to pay the eleven and one-half year maintenance fee. Since this petition was submitted within twenty-four months after the six-month grace period provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e), the petition was timely filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(c).

The maintenance fee is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-4231.

The patent file is being forwarded to Files Repository.

/Michelle R. Eason/
Michelle R. Eason
Paralegal Specialist
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

Paper No.

LAW OFFICE OF RONALD R. KILPONEN
P.O. BOX 1132
NOVI, MI 48376-1132

MAILED
FEB 23 2012
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,989,277 :
Issue Date: November 23, 1999 :
Application No. 09/016,090 : ON PETITION
Filed: January 30, 1998 :
Patentee: Lemaire, et al. :

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c), filed January 19, 2012, to accept the delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **DISMISSED**.

This patent issued on November 23, 1999. Accordingly, this patent expired on November 23, 2011 for failure to pay the third maintenance fee. Since the petition was submitted within twenty-four months after the six –month grace period provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e), the petition was timely filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(c).

A petition to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee under 35 U.S.C. 41(c) and 37 CFR 1.378(c) must be accompanied by: (1) a statement that the delay was unintentional; (2) payment of the appropriate maintenance fee, unless previously submitted; (3) payment of the surcharge set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2).

The petition lacks item (1) above.

The statement of unintentional delay is not considered to be submitted by a proper party as required by 37 CFR 1.378(d), which states that any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest.

In this regard, the petition is signed by one of two joint inventors. An unsigned paper or one not properly signed by a person having authority to prosecute the application is not entered. This applies, for instance, where a petition (or other paper) is signed by only one of two applicants and the one signing has not been given a power of attorney by the other application.

Therefore, as the petition is not signed by all the inventors and the record herein fails to disclose that (person signing petition) was ever given a power of attorney to act on behalf of the other inventors, or that he/she is an assignee of the entire interest and has complied with the provisions of 37 CFR 3.73(b)[1], the petition is considered not to contain a proper statement of unintentional delay.

If reconsideration of this decision is desired, a properly signed petition for reconsideration under 37 CFR 1.378(e) must be filed within TWO (2) MONTHS from the mail date of this decision. For applicant's convenience a Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is attached. No extension of this 2-month time limit can be granted under 37 CFR 1.136(a) or (b). This is **not** a final agency action within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. § 704.

Any such petition for reconsideration must be accompanied by the petition fee of $400 as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(f). The petition for reconsideration must include any lacking item(s) noted above, since, after a decision on the petition for reconsideration, no further reconsideration or review of the matter will be undertaken by the Director.

If petitioner does not wish to pursue reinstatement of this expired patent, petitioner may request a refund of the $2,365 maintenance fee and the $1,640 surcharge submitted with the petition. The request should be made in writing and addressed to: Mail Stop 16, Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. A copy of this decision should accompany petitioner's request.

A courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to petitioner at the address noted on the petition. Unless otherwise directed, all future correspondence regarding this patent will be directed solely to the above-noted correspondence address of record.

Further correspondence with respect to reinstatement of this patent should be addressed as follows:

By mail:
Mail Stop PETITION
Commissioner for Patents
Post Office Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By hand:
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop PETITION
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

[1]37 CFR 3.73(b) provides that: (1) when an assignee seeks to take action in a matter before the Office, the assignee must establish its ownership of the property to the satisfaction of the Commissioner; (2) ownership is established by submitting to the Office, in the Office file related to the matter in which action is sought to be taken, documentary evidence of a chain of title from the original owner to the assignee (e.g., copy of an executed assignment submitted for recording) or by specifying (e.g., reel and frame number) where such evidence is recorded in the Office; (3) the submission establishing ownership must be signed by a party authorized to act on behalf of the assignee; and (4) documents submitted to establish ownership may be required to be recorded as a condition to permitting the assignee to take action in a matter pending before the Office.

The centralized facsimile number is **(571) 273-8300**.

Any questions concerning this decision may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3204.

/SDB/

Sherry D. Brinkley
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

cc: MR. NORMAN J. LEMAIRE III
9 CLAYTON ROAD
MIDDLEBORO, MA 02346

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

JENNER AND BLOCK
PATENT DOCKET CLERK
ONE IBM PLAZA
CHICAGO, IL 60611

MAILED
AUG 02 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,508,447
Issue Date: January 21, 2003
Application No. 09/016,495
Filed: January 30, 1998
Attorney Docket No. 24370-10416

ON PETITION

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c), filed July 5, 2011, to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

This patent expired on January 21, 2011 for failure to pay the 7 ½ year maintenance fee. Since this petition was submitted within twenty-four months after the six-month grace period provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e), the petition was timely filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(c).

The maintenance fee is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to undersigned at (571) 272-1642.

The patent file is being forwarded to Files Repository.

April M. Wise
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

KOHLER SCHMID AND PARTNER
RUPPMANNSTR. 27
D 70565 STUTTGART DE
GERMANY

MAILED

SEP 29 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,999,547 :
Issue Date: 7 December, 1999 :
Application No. 09/017,964 : ON PETITION
Filed: 2 February, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No. U167US :

This is a decision on the petition filed on 18 August, 2011, under 37 C.F.R. §1.27(g)(2) requesting that status as a Small Entity be removed.

NOTE:

The correspondence address on the papers considered as a petition is other than that of record. As a courtesy a copy of this decision will be transmitted to the address on the petition, however, all future correspondence will be directed to the address of record until such time that the proper documentation is submitted to direct otherwise.

In view of their duty of candor to the Office to properly inquire to ascertain the accuracy of representations made before the Office (*see*: 37 C.F.R. §1.4, §10.18, MPEP §410), Petitioners always are reminded of the responsibility to review their records and submit accurate information to the Office.

Petitioners also are reminded to chart out the fees paid/fees due/balance due in their submission(s) to the Office. (*See, generally*: 37 C.F.R. §1.27, §1.28, MPEP §509.02 and 509-03.)

Petitioner's submission is **ACCEPTED**.

In accordance with the request, status as a Small Entity will be removed, and Petitioner is required to pay fees at the schedule set forth for not-small entities. **The additional fees were charged as authorized.**

Patent No. 5,999,547
Application No. 09/017,964

The availability of applications and application papers online to applicants/practitioners who diligently associate their Customer Number with the respective application(s) now provides an applicant/practitioner on-demand information as to events/transactions in an application.

Out of an abundance of caution, Petitioners always are reminded that that those registered to practice and all others who make representations before the Office **must** inquire into the underlying facts of representations made to the Office and support averments with the appropriate documentation–since all owe to the Office the continuing duty to disclose.[1]

The instant application is released to the IFW Files Repository in due course.

Telephone inquiries regarding this decision may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3214—it is noted, however, that all practice before the Office is in writing (see: 37 C.F.R. §1.2[2]) and the proper authority for action on any matter in this regard are the statutes (35 U.S.C.), regulations (37 C.F.R.) and the commentary on policy (MPEP). Therefore, no telephone discussion may be controlling or considered authority for Petitioner's action(s).

/John J. Gillon, Jr./
John J. Gillon, Jr.
Senior Attorney
Office of Petitions

CC
PAVIS
GAUTINGER STRASSE 10
CREATIV CENTER
POSTFACH 1546
82305 STARNBERG

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[1] See supplement of 17 June, 1999. The Patent and Trademark Office is relying on Petitioner's duty of candor and good faith and accepting a statement made by Petitioner. See Changes to Patent Practice and Procedure, 62 Fed. Reg. at 53160 and 53178, 1203 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office at 88 and 103 (responses to comments 64 and 109)(applicant obligated under 37 C.F.R. §10.18 to inquire into the underlying facts and circumstances when providing statements to the Patent and Trademark Office).

[2] The regulations at 37 C.F.R. §1.2 provide:

§1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent and Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 5919758
Issue Date: July 6,1999
Application No. 09018092
Filed: February 3,1998
Attorney Docket No. NEDH92-05A2

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed July 19,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of July 19,2011 .
This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5,919,758	1999-07-06	09/018,092	1998-02-03	1440.1122-010

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	◉	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Christine M. Wise Reg. No. 58,073/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-07-19
Name	Christine M. Wise	Registration Number	58073

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
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DENNEMEYER & CO LTD
REGENT HOUSE HEATON LANE
STOCKPORT CHESHIRE
ENGLAND SK4 1BB

MAILED
JUL 29 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,970,278
Issued: October 19, 1999
Application No. 09/020,143
Filed: February 6, 1998
Title of Invention: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS

ON PETITION

This is a decision regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission and loss of small entity status filed July 5, 2011, which is being treated under 37 CFR 1.28.

The request is signed by Gill Lennon accompanied by a statement signed by an Intellectual Property Center Manager, neither of whom is an attorney or agent registered to practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. If the petition is signed by a person not registered to practice before the Office, the petition must indicate that the person signing the petition is the patentee, assignee, or other party in interest. An assignee must comply with the requirements of 37 CFR 3.73(b) which is discussed in MPEP § 324 and MPEP § 2590.

In view thereof, the petition is **DISMISSED**. Status as a small entity cannot be removed until such time as the requirements of 37 CFR 3.73 (b) have been met.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the Office of Petitions Staff at (571) 272-3282.

Patricia Faison-Ball

Patricia Faison-Ball
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
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In re Patent No. 6226412
Issue Date: May 1,2001
Application No. 09020456
Filed: February 9,1998
Attorney Docket No. TTI-100-B

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed October 11,2010 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 7.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of October 11,2010 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6,226,412	2001-05-01	09/020,456	1998-02-09	SBC-01902/03

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity			Small Entity		
	Fee	Code		Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	◉	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Allen M. Krass/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2010-10-11
Name	Allen M. Krass	Registration Number	18277

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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PETER A. BUSINGER
BAKER & BOTTS
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, NY 10112-0228

MAILED
MAY 12 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,058,377	:	
Issued: May 2, 2000	:	
Application No. 09/020,733	:	NOTICE
Filed: February 9, 1998	:	
Attorney Docket No.: A29823FWC-B	:	

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28.

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue patent under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This patent is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this patent must be paid at the large entity rate.

/SDB/

Sherry D. Brinkley
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6298098	2001-10-02	09022467	1998-02-12	STI177

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
◉	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Kendal M. Sheets/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2010-10-15
Name	Kendal M. Sheets	Registration Number	47077

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

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The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

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P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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In re Patent No. 6298098
Issue Date: October 2,2001
Application No. 09022467
Filed: February 12,1998
Attorney Docket No. STI177

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed October 18,2010 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 7.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of October 18,2010 .
This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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PAUL REDMAN
#197-3278 COLONEL TALBOT RD
LONDON ON N6P 1H4

MAILED
MAY 23 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,045,324
Issue Date: April 4, 2000
Application No. 09/023,090
Filed: February 13, 1998
Patentee: Paul Redman

DECISION ON PETITION

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(b), filed May 6, 2011, to accept the unavoidably delayed payment of the maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition under 37 CFR 1.378(b) is **DISMISSED**.

The above-identified patent issued April 4, 2000. Accordingly, the second maintenance fee could have been paid during the period from April 4, 2007 through October 4, 2007 without surcharge, or with a late payment surcharge during the period from October 5, 2007 through April 4, 2008. No maintenance fee having been received, the patent expired on April 5, 2008.

37 CFR 1.378(b) provides that:

> Any petition to accept an unavoidably delayed payment of a maintenance fee must include:
>
> (1) The required maintenance fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(e) through (g) (currently $1,180 for the maintenance fee due at 7.5 years);
>
> (2) The surcharge set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(i)(1) (currently $700); and

> (3) A showing that the delay was unavoidable since reasonable care was taken to ensure that the maintenance fee would be paid timely and that the petition was filed promptly after the patentee was notified of, or otherwise became aware of, the expiration of the patent. The showing must enumerate the steps taken to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee, the date and the manner in which patentee became aware of the expiration of the patent, and the steps taken to file the petition promptly.

The instant petition does not meet requirement (3) above.

With regards to requirement (3), acceptance of a late maintenance fee under the unavoidable delay standard is considered under the same standard for reviving an abandoned application under 35 USC 133. **This is a very stringent standard.** Decisions on reviving abandoned applications on the basis of "unavoidable" delay have adopted the reasonably prudent person standard in determining if the delay was unavoidable:

> The word 'unavoidable' ... is applicable to ordinary human affairs, and requires no more or greater care or diligence than is generally used and observed by prudent and careful men in relation to their most important business. In addition, decisions are made on a "case-by-case basis, taking all the facts and circumstances into account." Smith, 671 F.2d at 538, 213 U.S.P.Q. at 982. Nonetheless, a petition cannot be granted where a petitioner has failed to meet his or her burden of establishing that the delay was "unavoidable." Haines, 673 F. Supp. at 316-17, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d at 1131-32.

Petitioner states that he did not pay the maintenance fee due to the death of his attorney, Michael Sokovich, who "was responsible for maintenance fee reminders." Petitioner explains that the "combination of me moving 2 years ago and Mr. Sokovich passing away, his office and I lost touch." However, petitioner has provided no evidence that that Sokovich undertook the obligation to track the maintenance fees. Notice of the maintenance fee is given to all patentees on the front inside cover of the letters patent. Moreover, assuming *arguendo* that Sokovich had undertaken an obligation to track the maintenance fees for petitioner, petitioner has not informed the Office of when he learned of Sokovich's death, and moreover, upon learning of Sokovich's death, why he was unavoidably prevented from contacting the Office to learn of the requirement to pay maintenance fees.

Conclusion:

Any request for reconsideration of this decision must be filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this decision. Any such petition for reconsideration must be accompanied by the $400 petition fee set forth in §1.17(h). After decision on the petition for reconsideration, no further reconsideration or review of the matter will be undertaken by the Commissioner. Accordingly, on request for reconsideration, it is extremely important that petitioner supply **any** and **all** relevant information and documentation in order to meet his burden of showing unavoidable delay.

If on request for reconsideration, the delayed payment of the maintenance fee is not accepted, then the maintenance fee and the surcharge set forth in §1.20(i) are subject to refund following the decision on the petition for reconsideration, or after the expiration of the time for filing such a petition for reconsideration, if none is filed. (Petitioner may request a refund of the maintenance fee and surcharge by writing to the Office of Finance, Refund Section, Commissioner for Patents, Washington DC 20231. A copy of the last decision rendered should accompany the request for refund).

Further correspondence should be addressed as follows:

By mail: Mail Stop Petitions
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

By FAX: (571)273-8300
Attn: Office of Petitions

Telephone inquiries specific to this decision may be directed to the undersigned at (571)272-3207.

Cliff Congo
Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
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MAILED

SEP 08 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

BACON & THOMAS
625 SLATERS LANE
4TH FLOOR
ALEXANDRIA VA 22314

In re Patent No. 5,937,647 :
Issue Date: August 17, 1999 :
Application No. 09/023,420 : NOTICE
Filed: February 13, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No. EM/3477 :

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28. On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. **See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).**

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This application is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this application must be paid at the large entity rate.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-1642.

/AMW/
April M. Wise
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 6014843
Issue Date: January 18,2000
Application No. 09023445
Filed: February 13,1998
Attorney Docket No. D-6991

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed February 16,2012 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of February 16,2012 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6014843	2000-01-18	09/023,445	1998-02-13	

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity			Small Entity		
	Fee	Code		Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	◉	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

○ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

◉ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

A Joint Patentee and I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature.			
Signature	/Harvel Crumley/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2012-02-16
Name	Harvel Crumley		

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
P.O. BOX 1450
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450
WWW.USPTO.GOV

Paper No.

IP STRATEGIES
12-1/2 Wall Street
Suite 1
Asheville NC 28801

MAILED

DEC 06 2010

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
Scheidt et al. :
Application No. 09/023,672 :
Patent No.: 6,885,747 :
Filed: February 13, 1998 :
Issued: April 26, 2005 :
Attorney Docket No.: STS-119 :
Title: CRYPTOGRAPHIC KEY SPLIT COMBINER :

DECISION ON PETITION PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.28(c)

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.28, received on November 1, 2010. On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 C.F.R. § 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56. 1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989). Therefore, nothing in this notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Petitioner has identified the particular type of fee that was erroneously paid as a small entity, when the small entity fee was actually paid, the small entity fee that was actually paid, the deficiency owed amount, and the total deficiency payment owed.

The deficiency payment in the amount of $810 has been received.

Your fee deficiency submission pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.28(c) is hereby accepted. The petition is **GRANTED** accordingly.

This patent is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this patent must be paid at the large entity rate.

Telephone inquiries regarding *this decision* should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3225.[1]

/Paul Shanoski/
Paul Shanoski
Senior Attorney
Office of Petitions

1 Petitioner will note that all practice before the Office should be in writing, and the action of the Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.2. As such, Petitioner is reminded that no telephone discussion may be controlling or considered authority for Petitioner's further action(s).

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

WENDEROTH LIND & PONACK
2033 K STREET N W
SUITE 800
WASHINGTON DC 20006

MAILED
FEB 03 2012
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,012,377 :
Issued: 01/11/2000 :
Application No. 09/023,794 : NOTICE
Filed: 02/13/1998 :
Attorney Docket No. 518/K16-106 :

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 filed January 11, 2012.

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue patent under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This patent is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this patent must be paid at the large entity rate.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3211.

C. T. Donnell

Christina Tartera Donnell
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

YOUNG & THOMPSON
209 MADISON STREET
SUITE 500
ALEXANDRIA VA 22314

MAILED

JAN 26 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,908,129 :
Issue Date: 1 June, 1999 :
Application No. 09/024,303 : DECISION
Filed: 17 February, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No. 97319US

This is a decision on the petition filed on 28 September, 2010, under 37 C.F.R. §1.27(g)(2) requesting that status as a Small Entity be removed.

NOTE:

In view of their duty of candor to the Office to properly inquire to ascertain the accuracy of representations made before the Office (*see*: 37 C.F.R. §1.4, §10.18, MPEP §410), Petitioners always are reminded of the responsibility to review their records and submit accurate information to the Office.

Petitioner's submission is **ACCEPTED**.

In accordance with the request, status as a Small Entity will be removed, and Petitioner is required to pay fees at the schedule set forth for not-small entities. **The additional fees were charged as authorized.**

The availability of applications and application papers online to applicants/practitioners who diligently associate their Customer Number with the respective application(s) now provides an applicant/practitioner on-demand information as to events/transactions in an application.

Out of an abundance of caution, Petitioners always are reminded that that those registered to practice and all others who make representations before the Office **must** inquire into the underlying facts of representations made to the Office and support averments with the appropriate documentation–since all owe to the Office the continuing duty to disclose.[1]

[1] See supplement of 17 June, 1999. The Patent and Trademark Office is relying on Petitioner's duty of candor and good faith and accepting a statement made by Petitioner. See Changes to Patent Practice and Procedure, 62 Fed. Reg. at 53160 and 53178, 1203 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office at 88

Patent No. 5,908,129
Application No. 09/024,303

The instant application is released to IFW Files Repository in due course.

Telephone inquiries regarding this decision may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3214—it is noted, however, that all practice before the Office is in writing (see: 37 C.F.R. §1.2[2]) and the proper authority for action on any matter in this regard are the statutes (35 U.S.C.), regulations (37 C.F.R.) and the commentary on policy (MPEP). Therefore, no telephone discussion may be controlling or considered authority for Petitioner's action(s).

/John J. Gillon, Jr./
John J. Gillon, Jr.
Senior Attorney
Office of Petitions

and 103 (responses to comments 64 and 109)(applicant obligated under 37 C.F.R. §10.18 to inquire into the underlying facts and circumstances when providing statements to the Patent and Trademark Office).

[2] The regulations at 37 C.F.R. §1.2 provide:

§1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent and Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

VIRGIL DALE OLSON
PO BOX 1006
CAMPBELL CA 95009-1006

MAILED

DEC 01 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,954,295
Issued: September 21, 1999
Application No. 09/024,749
Filed: February 17, 1998
Attorney Docket No. none

ON PETITION

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c), filed September 25, 2011, to accept the delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **DISMISSED**.

If reconsideration of this decision is desired, a petition for reconsideration under 37 CFR 1.378(e) must be filed within TWO (2) MONTHS from the mail date of this decision. No extension of this two-month time limit can be granted under 37 CFR 1.136(a) or (b). This is **not** a final agency action within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. § 704.

Any petition for reconsideration of this decision must be accompanied by the petition fee of $400 as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(f). The petition for reconsideration must include the lacking item(s) noted below, since, after a decision on the petition for reconsideration, no further reconsideration or review of the matter will be undertaken by the Commissioner.

A petition to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee under 35 U.S.C. § 41(c) and 37 CFR 1.378(c) must be accompanied by: (1) a statement that the delay was unintentional; (2) payment of the appropriate maintenance fee, unless previously submitted; (3) payment of the surcharge set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2). This petition lacks items (2) and (3) listed above.

With regards to items (2) and (3), petitioner has submitted $2,105.00 towards the required $2,365.00 small entity eleven and a half year maintenance fee and required $1,640.00 surcharge, thus creating a shortage of $1,900.00. Therefore, as stated above a $400.00 petition fee is also required for any petition for reconsideration, bringing the total to $2300.00. Additionally, it should be noted that the new fee schedule became effective September 26, 2011.

If this petition is not renewed or if renewed and not granted, then petitioner may request a refund of the maintenance and surcharge fees paid. The fee for requesting reconsideration is not refundable.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By Mail: Mail Stop PETITIONS
Commissioner for Patents
Post Office Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By hand: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Petitions
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

The centralized facsimile number is (571) 273-8300.

Telephone inquiries should be directed to the undersigned at (571)-272-7751.

/Joan Olszewski/
Joan Olszewski
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

VIRGIL DALE OLSON
PO BOX 1006
CAMPBELL CA 95009-1006

MAILED
FEB 22 2012
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,954,295 :
Issued: September 21, 1999 :
Application No. 09/024,749 : ON PETITION
Filed: February 17, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No. none :

REQUIREMENT FOR INFORMATION

A renewed petition was filed on January 31, 2012 under 37 CFR 1.378 to accept the delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

A decision on this petition will be held in abeyance for a period of **TWO MONTHS** from the date of this communication to permit petitioner to address the following issues before a decision is rendered. **No extension of this two-month time limit can be granted under 37 CFR 1.136(a) or (b).**

Petitioner has submitted $2,055.00 towards the required small entity eleven and one-half year maintenance fee and $1,640.00 towards the required surcharge fee. However, petitioner has only submitted $310.00 towards the required $400.00 reconsideration fee, thus creating a $90.00 shortage. Therefore, petitioner must now submit a total of $90.00 in order to satisfy the required reconsideration fee. Consequently, the renewed petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c), cannot be accepted at this time.

The response to this Requirement for Information should include a cover letter entitled "Response to Requirement for Information."

At the end of the two month period specified above, a decision will be rendered on the instant petition under 37 CFR 1.378 as supplemented by any information submitted in response to this Requirement for Information.

In order to expedite reinstatement of this patent, petitioner may wish to consider submitting the reply to the requirement for information by facsimile transmission to the telephone number indicated below and to the attention of the undersigned.

By Mail: Mail Stop PETITIONS
Commissioner for Patents
Post Office Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By hand: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Petitions
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

The centralized facsimile number is (571) 273-8300.

Telephone inquiries should be directed to the undersigned at (571)-272-7751.

/Joan Olszewski/
Joan Olszewski
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
7074061	2006-07-11	09024885	1998-02-17	T1680CIP2

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity			Small Entity		
	Fee	Code		Fee	Code
◉	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Kendal M. Sheets/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2010-10-13
Name	Kendal M. Sheets	Registration Number	47077

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

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The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 7074061
Issue Date: July 11,2006
Application No. 09024885
Filed: February 17,1998
Attorney Docket No. T1680CIP2

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed October 14,2010 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 3.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of October 14,2010 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

JOHN F. SALAZAR
MIDDLETON & REUTLINGER
2500 BROWN & WILLIAMSON TOWER
401 S. 4th Street, Suite 2600
LOUISVILLE, KY 40202

MAILED
MAR 27 2012
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,983,129 :
Issue Date: November 9, 1999 :
Application No. 09/026,324 : ON PETITION
Filed: February 19, 1998 :
Patentee(s): Jonathan D. Cowan, et. al. :

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c), filed on February 8, 2012, to accept the delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **dismissed**.

A petition to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee under 35 U.S.C. § 41(c) and 37 CFR 1.378(c) must be accompanied by: (1) a statement that the delay was unintentional; (2) payment of the appropriate maintenance fee, unless previously submitted; (3) payment of the surcharge set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2). The petition lacks item (1) above.

With respect to item (1) above, the statement of unintentional delay is not considered to be submitted by a proper party as required by 37 CFR 1.378(d), which states that any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest.

In this regard, the petition is signed by one of two inventors. An unsigned paper or one not properly signed by a person having authority to prosecute an application or patent is not entered. Therefore, a properly signed petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c), by all the inventors is required, unless there is an assignee of entire, right, title and interest that complied with the requirements of 37 CFR 3.73(b).

37 CFR 3.73(b) provides that: (1) when an assignee seeks to take action in a matter before the Office, the assignee must establish its ownership of the property to the satisfaction of the Commissioner; (2) ownership is established by submitting to the Office, in the Office file related to the matter in which action is sought to be taken, documentary evidence of a chain of title from the original owner to the assignee (e.g., copy of an executed assignment submitted for recording) or by specifying (e.g., reel and frame number) where such evidence is recorded in the Office; (3) the submission establishing ownership must be signed by a party authorized to act on behalf of the assignee; and (4) documents submitted to establish ownership may be required to be recorded as a condition to permitting the assignee to take action in a matter pending before the Office. A blank Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is enclosed for petitioner's convenience.

Further, it is noted that the correspondence address of record differs from the address given in the present petition. Therefore, a courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the address given in the petition. Thereafter, all future communication from the Office will be mailed solely to the correspondence address/fee address of record.

If reconsideration of this decision is desired, a petition for reconsideration under 37 CFR 1.378(e) must be filed within **TWO (2) MONTHS** from the mail date of this decision. No extension of this two-month time limit can be granted under 37 CFR 1.136(a) or (b). This is **not** a final agency action within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. § 704.

Any petition for reconsideration of this decision must be accompanied by the petition fee of $400 as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(f). The petition for reconsideration must include the lacking item(s) noted above, since, after a decision on the petition for reconsideration, no further reconsideration or review of the matter will be undertaken by the Commissioner.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail:
Mail Stop PETITION
Commissioner for Patents
Post Office Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By hand:
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Petitions
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

The centralized facsimile number is (571) 273-8300.

If petitioner does not wish to pursue reinstatement of this expired patent, petitioner may request a refund totaling $4,005, which includes the maintenance fee and surcharge. The request should be made in writing and addressed to: Mail Stop 16, Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. A copy of this decision should accompany petitioner's request.

Telephone inquiries should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3226.

/Andrea Smith/
Andrea Smith
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

Enclosures: Privacy Act Statement; and
Blank Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) (FORM PTO/SB/96)

cc: Jonathan D. Cowan
1103 Hollendale
Goshen, KY 40026

PTO/SB/96 (07-09)
Approved for use through 07/31/2012. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 3.73(b)

Applicant/Patent Owner: _____

Application No./Patent No.: _____ Filed/Issue Date: _____

Titled:

_____, a _____

(Name of Assignee) (Type of Assignee, e.g., corporation, partnership, university, government agency, etc.

states that it is:

1. ☐ the assignee of the entire right, title, and interest in;

2. ☐ an assignee of less than the entire right, title, and interest in (The extent (by percentage) of its ownership interest is _____ %); or

3. ☐ the assignee of an undivided interest in the entirety of (a complete assignment from one of the joint inventors was made)

the patent application/patent identified above, by virtue of either:

A. ☐ An assignment from the inventor(s) of the patent application/patent identified above. The assignment was recorded in the United States Patent and Trademark Office at Reel _____, Frame _____, or for which a copy therefore is attached.

OR

B. ☐ A chain of title from the inventor(s), of the patent application/patent identified above, to the current assignee as follows:

1. From: _____ To: _____

The document was recorded in the United States Patent and Trademark Office at

Reel _____, Frame _____, or for which a copy thereof is attached.

2. From: _____ To: _____

The document was recorded in the United States Patent and Trademark Office at

Reel _____, Frame _____, or for which a copy thereof is attached.

3. From: _____ To: _____

The document was recorded in the United States Patent and Trademark Office at

Reel _____, Frame _____, or for which a copy thereof is attached.

☐ Additional documents in the chain of title are listed on a supplemental sheet(s).

☐ As required by 37 CFR 3.73(b)(1)(i), the documentary evidence of the chain of title from the original owner to the assignee was, or concurrently is being, submitted for recordation pursuant to 37 CFR 3.11.

[NOTE: A separate copy (*i.e.*, a true copy of the original assignment document(s)) must be submitted to Assignment Division in accordance with 37 CFR Part 3, to record the assignment in the records of the USPTO. See MPEP 302.08]

The undersigned (whose title is supplied below) is authorized to act on behalf of the assignee.

_____ _____

Signature Date

_____ _____

Printed or Typed Name Title

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 3.73(b). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

Privacy Act Statement

The **Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579)** requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether disclosure of these records is required by the Freedom of Information Act.
2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.
3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).
5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (*i.e.*, GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspection or an issued patent.
9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 5931444
Issue Date: August 3,1999
Application No. 09026707
Filed: February 20,1998
Attorney Docket No. A97246US

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed September 29,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of September 29,2011 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5931444	1999-08-03	09026707	1998-02-20	

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity			Small Entity		
	Fee	Code		Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	◉	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/WBUSKOP/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-09-29
Name	Wendy Buskop	Registration Number	32202

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

Robert Laukonis
1257 N. Elizabeth Court
Casa Grande, AZ 85122

MAILED

MAR 21 2012

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,975,962 :
Issue Date: November 2, 1999 :
Application No. 09/026,802 : DECISION ON PETITION
Filed: February 20, 1998 :
For: NETWORK SHELF SYSTEM :

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(b), filed February 15, 2012, to accept an unavoidably delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **DISMISSED**.

If reconsideration of this decision is desired, a petition for reconsideration under 37 CFR 1.378(e) must be filed within TWO (2) MONTHS from the mail date of this decision. No extension of this 2-month time limit can be granted under 37 CFR 1.136(a) or (b). **Any such petition for reconsideration must be accompanied by the petition fee of $400 as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(f).** The petition for reconsideration should include an exhaustive attempt to provide the lacking item(s) noted below, since, after a decision on the petition for reconsideration, no further reconsideration or review of the matter will be undertaken by the Director.

The patent issued November 2, 1999. The 11.5 year maintenance fee could have been paid from November 2, 2010 through May 2, 2011, or with a surcharge during the period from May 3, 2011 through November 2, 2011. Accordingly, the patent expired November 2, 2011, for failure to timely submit the maintenance fee.

A petition to accept the delayed payment of a maintenance fee under 35 U.S.C. § 41(c) and 37 CFR 1.378(b) must be accompanied by (1) an adequate showing that the delay was unavoidable, since reasonable care was taken to ensure that the maintenance fee would be paid timely and that the petition was filed promptly after the patentee was notified of, or otherwise became aware of, the expiration of the patent, (2) payment of the appropriate maintenance fee, unless previously submitted, and (3) payment of the surcharge set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(i)(1).

This petition lacks item requirement (1) set forth above.

The Director may accept late payment of the maintenance fee if the delay is shown to the satisfaction of the Director to have been "unavoidable". 35 U.S.C. § 41(c)(1).

Petitioner attributes the failure to timely pay the maintenance fee to a "computer crash" wherein petitioner states:

> "The reason I'm asking for a "PETITION TO ACCEPT UNAVOIDABLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT", is because I keep all my reminders for important dates in my Peachtree Program. I had a computer crash and lost a lot of valuable information. I had a computer tech try to piece things back together. Unfortunately, he was not able to do that. As a result, I never got the reminder that I counted on to make my payment in due time and, I ended up buying a new computer and a lot of the information that was to be transferred was lost. If you look back at my record, you will see that I've always been on time or early with my payments. Hopefully you will accept this reason as valid and accept my payment to continue our patent. Thank you for your consideration."

The showing of record is inadequate to establish unavoidable delay within the meaning of 37 CFR 1.378(b)(3).

The Director may accept late payment of the maintenance fee if the delay is shown to the satisfaction of the Director to have been "unavoidable". See, 35 U.S.C. § 41(c)(1). Acceptance of late payment of a maintenance fee is considered under the same standard as that for reviving an abandoned application under 35 U.S.C. § 133 because 35 U.S.C. § 41(c)(1) uses the identical language, i.e. "unavoidable delay". Ray v. Lehman, 55 F.3d 606, 608-09, 34 USPQ2d 1786, 1787 (Fed. Cir. 1995)(quoting In re Patent No. 4,409,763, 7 USPQ2d 1798, 1800 (Comm'r Pat. 1988)). Decisions on reviving abandoned applications have adopted the "reasonably prudent person" standard in determining if the delay in responding to an Office action was unavoidable. Ex parte Pratt, 1887 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 31, 32-33 (Comm'r Pat. 1887)(the term "unavoidable" "is applicable to ordinary human affairs, and requires no more or greater care or diligence than is generally used and observed by prudent and careful men in relation to their most important business"); In re Mattullath, 38 App. D.C. 497, 514-515 (D.C. Cir. 1912); and Ex parte Henrich, 1913 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 139, 141. In addition, decisions on revival are made on a "case-by-case basis, taking all the facts and circumstances into account." Smith v. Mossinghoff, 671 F.2d 533, 538, 213 USPQ 977, 982 (D.C. Cir. 1982). Finally, a petition to revive an application as unavoidably abandoned cannot be granted where a petitioner has failed to meet his or her burden of establishing the cause of the unavoidable delay. Haines v. Quigg, 673 F. Supp. 314, 316-17, 5 USPQ2d 1130, 1131-32 (N.D. Ind. 1987).

As 35 U.S.C. § 41(b) requires the payment of the fees at specified intervals to maintain a patent in force, rather than some response to a specific action by the Office under 35 U.S.C. § 133, a reasonably prudent person in the exercise of due care and diligence would have taken steps to ensure the timely payment of such maintenance fees. Ray v. Lehman, 55 F.3d at 609, 34 USPQ2d at 1788. That is, an adequate showing that the delay in payment of the maintenance fee at issue was "unavoidable" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 41(c) and 37 C.F.R. § 1.378(b)(3) requires a showing of the steps taken by the responsible party. Id.

Petitioner must establish that petitioner was aware of the need to pay the maintenance fee, and to that end was tracking it, or had engaged someone to track it before the expiration, but when the

fee came due, petitioner was "unavoidably" prevented from making the maintenance fee payment due to financial hardship. Petitioner has failed to satisfy this burden of proof.

Petitioner has failed to establish that steps were in place to ensure the timely payment of the maintenance fee. To this end, petitioner has failed to adequately describe the manner by which petitioner docketed the maintenance fee payment. To the extent that petitioner has relied on the "Peachtree Program" to remind petitioner of important dates, petitioner has failed establish that it was reasonable to rely on this program. Further, petitioner has failed to establish that the maintenance fee due date for the instant petition was entered into the "Peachtree Program." Moreover, petitioner fails to indicate when he became aware that the patent had expired. Petitioner further does not enumerate the steps taken to file the instant petition promptly.

In view of the lack of documentary evidence or detailed declaration of facts, it cannot be found that the entire period of time, from the time that the maintenance fee was due until the filing of a grantable petition, was unavoidable. Accordingly, the petition to reinstate the patent must be dismissed.

Petitioners may request a refund of the previously submitted surcharge and maintenance fee. Petitioners may request a refund by writing to the Finance Office, Refund Section. A copy of this decision should accompany any request for refund.

Any renewed petition must establish that the entire period of delay from the time that the maintenance fee was due until the time of the filing of a grantable petition has been unavoidable. Petitioner is reminded that any renewed petition should entail an exhaustive effort to establish that the failure to timely pay the maintenance fee was unavoidable as after reconsideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.378(e), no further reconsideration regarding unavoidable delay will be undertaken. Petitioner may provide any and all documents and declaration so fact that he wishes the Office to consider prior to making a decision on the request for reinstatement of the patent

ALTERNATE VENUE

Petitioner may wish to consider submitting a petition stating that the failure to timely remit the maintenance fee was unintentional pursuant to 37 CFR 1.378(c). Any petition to accept an unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee filed under paragraph (a) of this section must be filed within twenty-four months after the six-month grace period provided in § 1.362(e) and must include: (1)The required maintenance fee set forth in § 1.20 (e) through (g); (2) The surcharge set forth in § 1.20(i)(2); and (3) A statement that the delay in payment of the maintenance fee was unintentional.

Enclosed please find as a courtesy a copy of PTO/SB/66. Petitioner is advised that the surcharge required under 37 CFR 1.378(c)(2) is currently $1,640.00 and **is not** subject to waiver. The small entity 7.5 year maintenance fee is currently $1,425.00. If desired, the previously submitted fee totaling $2,880.00 can be used in connection with a petition filed pursuant to 37 CFR 1.378(c). However, any request for reconsideration would require the submission of the remaining fee due.

The file does not indicate a change of address has been submitted, although the address given on the petition differs from the address of record. If appropriate, a change of address should be filed in accordance with MPEP 601.03. A courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the address given on the petition; however, the Office will mail all future correspondence solely to the address of record. Enclosed please find PTO/SB/123 which may be used to effect a proper change in correspondence address before the Office.

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned at 571-272-3205.

/ALESIA M. BROWN/

Alesia M. Brown
Attorney Advisor
Office of Petitions

Enclosures

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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MAILED

JUN 13 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

WEINGARTEN SCHURGIN GAGNEBIN & HAYES
TEN POST OFFICE SQUARE
BOSTON, MA 02109

In re Patent No. 5,991,990	:	
Issued: November 30, 1999	:	
Application No. 09/027,234	:	NOTICE
Filed: February 20, 1998	:	
Attorney Docket No.: CSDL1-453AX	:	

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28.

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue patent under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This patent is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this patent must be paid at the large entity rate.

/SDB/

Sherry D. Brinkley
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

BAKER BOTTS LLP
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
44TH FLOOR
NEW YORK NY 10112-4498

MAILED
APR 09 2012
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,965,518 :
Issue Date: October 12, 1999 :
Application No. 09/027,981 : ON PETITION
Filed: February 23, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No. 071950.0176 :

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c), filed January 25, 2012, to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

This patent expired on October 13, 2011 for failure to pay the third maintenance fee. Since this petition was submitted within twenty-four months after the six-month grace period provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e), the petition was timely filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(c).

The maintenance fee is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3208.

/KOC/
Karen Creasy
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6034220	2000-03-07	09028086	1998-02-23	120779-00001

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity			Small Entity		
	Fee	Code		Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	◉	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Joy Mulholland/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2012-03-08
Name	Joy Mulholland	Registration Number	47810

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 6034220
Issue Date: March 7,2000
Application No. 09028086
Filed: February 23,1998
Attorney Docket No.

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed March 8,2012 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of March 8,2012 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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MAILED
OCT 19 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

Pumpkin Masters LLC
Gay Burke
650 South Cherry Street, Suite 1200
Denver CO 80246

In re Application of :
Barden et al. :
Application No. 09/028217 :
Filing or 371(c) Date: 02/23/1998 : ON PETITION
Patent No. 6055738 :
Issue Date: 05/02/2000 :
Title of Invention: :
STENCIL AND KIT FOR :
TRANSFERRING IMAGES AND :
METHOD THEREFOR :

This is a notice regarding request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28. On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. **See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).**

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989).** Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED.**

This application is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this application must be paid at the large entity rate.

A review of the petition reveals that the address appearing on the petition differs from the correspondence address of record. Applicant is advised that, in patented files: requests for changes of correspondence address, powers of attorney, revocations of powers of attorney, withdrawal of attorney and submissions under 37 CFR 1.501: Designation of, or changes to, a fee address, should be addressed to Mail Stop M Correspondence.

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3232.

/DLW/

Derek L. Woods
Attorney
Office of Petitions

CC: COZEN O'CONNOR
277 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10172

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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KENNETH I KOHN
ILENE N MONTGOMERY
30500 NORTHWESTERN HWY SUITE 410
FARMINGTON HILLS MI 48334

MAILED

MAR 28 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

ON PETITION

In re Patent No. 5,891,622
Issue Date: April 6, 1999
Application No. 09/028,543
Filed: February 24, 1998
Attorney Docket No.: 3002-00003

This is a decision on the petition filed September 23, 2010 and supplemented September 27, 2010, under 37 CFR 1.378(b), to accept the delayed payment of the maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **DISMISSED.**

If reconsideration of this decision is desired, a petition for reconsideration under 37 CFR 1.378(e) must be filed within TWO (2) MONTHS from the mail date of this decision. No extension of this 2-month time limit can be granted under 37 CFR 1.136(a) or (b). Any such petition for reconsideration must be accompanied by the petition fee of $400.00 as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(h). The petition for reconsideration should include an exhaustive attempt to provide the lacking item(s) noted below, since, after a decision on the petition for reconsideration, no further reconsideration or review of the matter will be undertaken by the Commissioner.

The patent issued on April 6, 1999. The first maintenance fee due could have been paid during the period from April 6, 2002 through October 7, 2002 or with a surcharge from October 8, 2002 through April 6, 2003. Accordingly, this patent expired on April 6, 2003 for failure to timely remit the first maintenance fee.

A petition to accept the delayed maintenance fee under 35 U.S.C. § 41(c) and 37 CFR 1.378(b) must be accompanied by (1) an adequate, verified showing that the delay was unavoidable, since reasonable care was taken to ensure that the maintenance fee would be paid timely and that the petition was filed promptly after the patentee was notified of, or otherwise became aware of, the expiration of the patent, (2) payment of the appropriate maintenance fee, unless previously submitted, and (3) payment of the surcharge set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(I)(1).

This petition lacks item (1) above.

The statement of unavoidable delay is provided by Denis Callewaert, a joint inventor and as President on behalf of assignee Oxford Biomedical Research, Inc., (Oxford). Mr. Callewaert asserts that "the delay was unavoidable for this Petitioner since reasonable care was taken to ensure that the maintenance fee would be paid timely, and the accompanying petition was filed promptly after I, as the Patentee, became aware of the expiration of the patent." Mr. Callewaert argues that the patent was assigned to Vanderbilt University (Vanderbilt) and Oxford, that Vanderbilt entered into license agreements with both Lipoprotein Diagnostics, Inc. (Lipoprotein) and Oxford and that the licensees had the responsibility to pay the maintenance fees for the instant patent however, the fees were not paid and neither was Callewaert notified that the fees were not paid.

The petition includes a copy of a license agreement (Agreement) between Vanderbilt University and Lipoprotein Diagnostics, Inc., to show the responsibilities of both Vanderbilt and Lipoprotein as it relates to the payment of maintenance fees and to show reliance on Lipoprotein to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee;

> In item 6.0 of this Agreement, Lipoprotein agreed to "pay for all costs incurred in the prosecution and maintenance of patents included in (the) Agreement". The Agreement also required that, should Lipoprotein elect "to no longer prosecute or pay the expenses of a patent application or a patent" encompassed by the Agreement, it was required to "notify Vanderbilt not less than sixty (60) days prior to such action, or deadline required to preserve Patent Rights ....

The record further includes a copy of a license agreement (Agreement) between Vanderbilt University and Oxford Biomedical Research, Inc., to show the responsibilities of both Vanderbilt University and Oxford Biomedical Research, Inc ., as it relates to the payment of maintenance fees;

> Item 6.0 of this license agreement provided that Oxford "in conjunction with Lipoprotein Diagnostics as defined in the simultaneous license agreement between VANDERBILT and Lipoprotein Diagnostic, shall be obligated to make timely payment of all maintenance fees following the issuance of the Patent." Item 6.0 also provided that if Oxford ("Licensee") "in conjunction with Lipoproteins Diagnostics" elected to cease payment of patent maintenance fees, then Oxford would notify Vanderbilt in advance. When read in conjunction with the corresponding provision of the Vanderbilt-Lipoprotein Agreement, the effect of item 6.0 is to acknowledge Lipoprotein's agreement to pay prosecution and act "in conjunction" with Oxford.

A late maintenance fee is considered under the same standard as that for reviving an abandoned application under 35 U.S.C. § 133 because 35 U.S.C. § 41(c)(1) uses identical

language (i.e. "unavoidable delay").[1] Decisions reviving abandoned applications have adopted the reasonably prudent person standard in determining if the delay was unavoidable.[2] In this regard:

> The word 'unavoidable' . . . is applicable to ordinary human affairs, and requires no more or greater care or diligence than is generally used and observed by prudent and careful men in relation to their most important business. It permits them in the exercise of this care to rely upon the ordinary and trustworthy agencies of mail and telegraph, worthy and reliable employees, and such other means and instrumentalities as are usually employed in such important business. If unexpectedly, or through the unforeseen fault or imperfection of these agencies and instrumentalities, there occurs a failure, it may properly be said to be unavoidable, all other conditions of promptness in its rectification being present.[3]

As 35 U.S.C. § 41(c) requires the payment of fees at specified intervals to maintain a patent in force, rather than some response to a specific action by the Office under 35 U.S.C. § 133, a reasonably prudent person in the exercise of due care and diligence would have taken steps to ensure the timely payment of such maintenance fees.[4] That is, an adequate showing that the delay was "unavoidable" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 41(c) and 37 CFR 1.378(b)(3) requires a showing of the steps taken to ensure the timely payment of the maintenance fees for this patent.[5]

The inventor is presumed to be the owner of a patent application and any patent that may issue therefrom, unless there is an assignment.[6] The evidence presented indicates that at all times Vanderbilt and Oxford, as assignees, remained co-owners of the patent but,

---

[1] Ray v. Lehman, 55 F.3d 606, 608-09, 34 USPQ2d 1786, 1787 (Fed. Cir. 1995) (quoting In re Patent No. 4,409,763, 7 USPQ2d 1798, 1800 (Comm'r Pat. 1989)).

[2] Ex parte Pratt, 1887 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 31, 32-33 (Comm'r Pat. 1887)(the term "unavoidable" "is applicable to ordinary human affairs, and requires no more or greater care or diligence than is generally used by prudent and careful men in relation to their most important business").

[3] In re Mattullath, 38 App. D.C. 497, 514-15 (1912)(quoting Ex parte Pratt, 1887 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 31, 32-33 (1887)); see also Winkler v. Ladd, 221 F. Supp. 550, 552, 138 USPQ 666, 167-68 (D.D.C. 1963), aff'd, 143 USPQ 172 (D.C. Cir. 1963); Ex parte Henrich, 1913 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 139, 141 (1913). In addition, decisions on revival are made on a "case-by-case basis, taking all the facts and circumstances into account." Smith v. Mossinghoff, 671 F.2d 533, 538, 213 USPQ 977, 982 (D.C. Cir. 1982). Finally, a petition cannot be granted where a petitioner has failed to meet his or her burden of establishing that the delay was "unavoidable." Haines v. Quigg, 673 F. Supp. 314, 316-17, 5 USPQ2d 1130, 1131-32 (N.D. Ind. 1987).

[4] Ray, 55 F.3d at 609, 34 USPQ2d at 1788.

[5] Id.

[6] 37 CFR 3.73(a)

no evidence has been provided to establish that the delay by assignees Vanderbilt and/or Oxford, in payment of the maintenance fee was unavoidable.

Notwithstanding the license agreements, at the time this patent became expired, it was the assignees that this office recognized as holding the rights, title and interest in this patent and only the assignee's conduct is relevant to the question of the payment of maintenance fees and the expiration of the patent.

The Office's position, with respect to this circumstance, is set forth in the MPEP, as follows:

> The question under 37 CFR 1.137 is whether the delay on the part of the party having the right or authority to reply to avoid abandonment (or not reply) was unavoidable or unintentional. When the applicant assigns the entire right, title, and interest in an invention to a third party (and thus does not retain any legal or equitable interest in the invention), the applicant's delay is irrelevant in evaluating whether the delay was unavoidable or even unintentional. See Kim v. Quigg, 718 F. Supp. 1280, 1284, 12 USPQ2d 1604, 1607-08 (E.D. Va. 1989). When an applicant assigns the application to a third party (e.g., the inventor/applicant's employer), and the third party decides not to file a reply to avoid abandonment, the applicant's actions, inactions or intentions are irrelevant under 37 CFR 1,137, unless the third party has reassigned the application to the applicant prior to the due date for the reply. Id.
>
> Likewise, where the applicant permits a third party (whether a partial assignee, licensee, or other party) to control the prosecution of an application, the third party's decision whether or not to file a reply to avoid abandonment is binding on the applicant. See Winkler, 221 F. Supp. at 552, 138 USPQ at 667. Where an applicant enters an agreement with a third party for the third party to take control of the prosecution of an application, the applicant will be considered to have given the third party the right and authority to prosecute the application to avoid abandonment (or not prosecute), unless, by the express terms of the contract between applicant and the third party, the third party is conducting the prosecution of the application for the applicant solely in a fiduciary capacity. See Futures Technology Ltd. v. Quigg 684 F. Supp. 430, 431, 7 USPQ2d 1588, 1589 (E.D. Va. 1988). Otherwise, the applicant will be considered to have given the third party unbridled discretion to prosecute (or not prosecute) the application to avoid abandonment, and will be bound by the actions or inactions of such third party.

In view thereof, petitioner is reminded that in the absence of an adequate showing of the diligence of any co-assignees or licensees throughout the period in question, the actions

or inactions of such third parties will remain imputed to the inventors.[7]

It is incumbent upon the petitioner to demonstrate, via a documented showing, that the entire delay was unavoidable which would include from the time the maintenance fee was due until the time petitioners became aware that the maintenance fee had not been paid, as well as from that point until the filing of the instant petition.

Any showing of unavoidable delay must include a statement from the principals responsible for payment of the maintenance fees as to why action was not taken to timely submit the required maintenance fee while the patent was under their control.

Finally, the fee for a petition under 37 CFR 1.378(b) is set at $700 not $270 as was indicated in the petition. Further, as the patent is expired, the payment of a surcharge pursuant to 37 CFR 1.20(i)(1) is not necessary. In view thereof, and pursuant to the authorization included with the petition, the maintenance fees in the amount $490 and $1240 and the petition fee in the amount of $700 have been charged to deposit account no. 11-1449.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail: Mail Stop Petitions
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

By FAX: (571) 273-8300
Attn: Office of Petitions

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned Petitions Attorney at (571) 272-3212.

Patricia Faison-Ball
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

[7] See In re Lonardo, 17 USPQ2d 1455 (Comm'r Pat. 1990).

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ILENE N MONTGOMERY
30500 NORTHWESTERN HWY
SUITE 410
FARMINGTON HILLS MI 48334

MAILED

SEP 15 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,891,622 :
Issue Date: April 6, 1999 :
Application No. 09/028,543 : ON PETITION
Filed: February 24, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No.: 3002-00003 :

This is a decision on the PETITION FOR RECONSIDERATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(e), filed May 27, 2011, to accept the delayed payment of the maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **DISMISSED.**

If reconsideration of this decision is desired, a petition for reconsideration under 37 CFR 1.378(e) must be filed within ONE (1) MONTH from the mail date of this decision. No extension of this 1-month time limit can be granted under 37 CFR 1.136(a) or (b).

The patent issued on April 6, 1999. The first maintenance fee due could have been paid during the period from April 6, 2002 through October 7, 2002 or with a surcharge from October 8, 2002 through April 6, 2003. Accordingly, this patent expired on April 6, 2003 for failure to timely remit the first maintenance fee.

A petition filed September 23, 2010 under 37 CFR 1.378(b) was dismissed in a decision mailed March 28, 2011 because the petition failed to provide an adequate showing that the delay was "unavoidable" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 41 (c) and 37 CFR 1.378(b)(3).

Comes now petitioner with the instant request for reconsideration adding, "As a point of clarification, Petitioner for the instant matter is Denis Callewaert of Oxford Biomedical Research and represents assignee Oxford Biomedical Research in this matter. Vanderbilt University and Oxford Biomedical Research are co-assignees".

Regarding the multiple assignees, petitioner is advised that, pursuant to **MPEP § 324**, petitioners are advised that when an assignee seeks to take action in a matter before the Office with respect to a patent application, patent, or reexamination proceeding and the right, title, and interest therein is held by more than one assignee, each partial

assignee must provide a submission under 37 CFR 3.73(b). In each submission, the extent of each assignee's interest must be set forth so that the Office can determine whether it has obtained action by the entirety of the right, title and interest holders (owners). 37 CFR 3.73(c)(2). If the extent of the partial assignee's ownership interest is not set forth in the submission under 37 CFR 3.73(b), the Office may refuse to accept the submission as an establishment of ownership interest.

Furthermore, any petition under **37 CFR 1.378** must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest. A person or organization whose only responsibility insofar as the patent is concerned is the payment of a maintenance fee is not a party in interest for purposes of **37 CFR 1.378**. If the petition is signed by a person not registered to practice before the Office, the petition must indicate that the person signing the petition is the patentee, assignee, or other party in interest. An assignee must comply with the requirements of **37 CFR 3.73(b)** which is discussed in **MPEP § 324**.

In view thereof, reinstatement of the patent cannot be addressed until such time as the noted deficiencies have been cured.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail: Mail Stop Petitions
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

By FAX: (571) 273-8300
Attn: Office of Petitions

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned Petitions Attorney at (571) 272-3212.

Patricia Faison-Ball
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6211859	2001-04-03	09028828	1998-02-24	CT-293

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity			Small Entity		
	Fee	Code		Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
◉	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Kendal M. Sheets/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2010-09-30
Name	Kendal M. Sheets	Registration Number	47077

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 6211859
Issue Date: April 3,2001
Application No. 09028828
Filed: February 24,1998
Attorney Docket No. CT-293

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed October 4,2010 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 7.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of October 4,2010 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 5984926
Issue Date: November 16,1999
Application No. 09028968
Filed: February 24,1998
Attorney Docket No.

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed December 19,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of December 19,2011 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5984926	1999-11-16	09028968	1998-02-24	

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity			Small Entity		
	Fee	Code		Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	◉	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Ramon Pizarro/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-11-16
Name	Ramon L. Pizarro	Registration Number	37207

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

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The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

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ROCHELLE LIEBERMAN
LIEBERMAN & BRANDSDORFER
12221 MCDONALD CHAPEL DRIVE
GAITHERSBURG, MD 20878-2252

MAILED
JAN 12 2012
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,980,595 :
Issue Date: November 9, 1999 :
Application No. 09/029,029 : ON PETITION
Filed: February 2, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No.: 1014-202 :

This is a decision in response to the petition, filed November 29, 2011, to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(c).

The petition is **GRANTED**.

This patent expired on November 9, 2011 for failure to pay the third maintenance fee. Since this petition was submitted within twenty-four months after the six-month grace period provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e), the petition is timely filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(c).

The petition is not signed by a registered patent attorney or agent of record. However, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.34, the signature of Chris A. Caseiro appearing on the correspondence shall constitute a representation to the United States Patent and Trademark Office that he is authorized to represent the particular party on whose behalf he acts. If Mr. Caseiro desires to receive correspondence regarding this patent, then the appropriate power of attorney documents must be submitted. A courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the petitioner herein; however, all future correspondence regarding this patent will be directed solely to the above-noted correspondence address of record.

A petition to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee under 35 U.S.C. 41(c) and 37 CFR 1.378(c) must be accompanied by: (1) a statement that the delay was unintentional; (2) payment of the appropriate maintenance fee, unless previously submitted; and (3) payment of the surcharge set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2).

It is not apparent whether the person signing the statement of unintentional delay was in a position to have firsthand or direct knowledge of the facts and circumstances of the delay at issue. Nonetheless, such statement is being treated as having been made as the result of a reasonable inquiry into the facts and circumstances of such delay. In the event that such an inquiry has not been made, petitioner must make such an inquiry. If such inquiry results in the discovery that the delay in paying the maintenance fee under 37 CFR 1.378(c) was intentional, petitioner must notify the Office. Receipt is acknowledged of the requisite maintenance fee and surcharge.

In view of the above, the 11½ year maintenance fee in this case is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3204.

/SDB/

Sherry D. Brinkley
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

cc: CHRIS A. CASEIRO
VERRILL DANA, LLP
ONE PORTLAND SQUARE
PORTLAND, ME 04112-0586

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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BAKER BOTTS LLP
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
44TH FLOOR
NEW YORK NY 10112-4498

MAILED
JAN 06 2012
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re
Stuart L. Weg
Application No. 09/029,146
Filed: February 27, 1998
Patent No. 6,248,789
Issued: June 19, 2001

DECISION

This is in response to the "PETITION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.28(c) AND CHANGE OF ENTITY STATUS PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. 1.17(g)(2), filed December 9, 2011.

The change of status to large entity has been entered.

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3207.

Cliff Congo
Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

PATRICK T. KING
3361 APTOS RANCHO ROAD
APTOS CA 95003-3964

MAILED

JAN 18 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,927,782

Issue Date: July 27, 1999

Application No. 09/030,698

Filed: February 25, 1998

Attorney Docket No. TGR002

NOTICE VACATING PETITIONS

The purpose of this notice is to advise you that the decision granting the petition mailed in the above-identified patent on September 30, 2003 and the decision automatically granted by Electronic Filing System (EFS) on October 9, 2007 are hereby **VACATED** for the reasons indicated below:

The record discloses the following:

- The patent issued on July 27, 1999.
- The grace period for paying the 3.5 year maintenance fee expired on July 27, 2003.
- On September 12, 2003, a petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c) was timely filed to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee. The petition was granted on September 30, 2003.
- On June 7, 2007 a Letter was mailed to applicant to the current address of record and copied to the below addresses:

  L&P Property Management Company, Inc.
  4095 Firestone Boulevard
  Southgate, CA 90280

  Michael Best & Freidrich LLP
  Martin L. Stern
  401 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 1900
  Chicago, IL 60611-4212

The letter mailed June 7, 2007 (copy enclosed) indicates the below:

"This letter is in regards to the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c) filed September 12, 2003, to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of maintenance fee for the above-identified patent, and the decision in response thereto mailed September 30, 2003.

A response to this letter must be filed within **ONE (1) MONTH** of the mail date set forth above. No extension of this one (1) month time period will be granted under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) or (b).

The patent issued July 27, 1999. The grace period for paying the 3.5 year maintenance fee expired July 27, 2003. While the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c) was timely filed within twenty-

four months after the six-month grace period provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e), it has recently come to the attention of the Office that at the time of submission of the petition, the required fees ($1,640.00 surcharge and 3.5 year small entity maintenance fee of $445.00) were not in fact received by the Office.

As to maintenance fee and surcharge are a prerequisite to reinstatement of a patent pursuant to 37 CFR 1.378(c), petitioner is give one month from the mail date of the instant letter to correct this deficiency.

Absent timely response to this letter, including the required fees, or irrefutable evidence that the fees were in fact received by the Office, petitioner is advised that the previous decision reinstating the patent will be vacated and the patent once again held expired. Moreover, the Office would be precluded from accepting the 7.5 year maintenance fee recently received in connection with this patent."

In view of the above, and since the Office is not in receipt of the payment of the surcharge and the 3.5 year maintenance fee, the petition filed September 12, 2003 and on October 9, 2007 is vacated and reversed to "**DISMISSED**", due to the surcharge and the first maintenance fee not having been paid.

The surcharge and the 7.5 year maintenance fee paid on October 9, 2007 are being refunded to applicant's credit card account as it is the method in which the fee was paid.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be delivered through one of the following mediums:

By mail:	Mail Stop PETITIONS Commissioner for Patents Post Office Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
By hand:	Customer Service Window Mail Stop Petitions Randolph Building 401 Dulany Street Alexandria, VA 22314
By fax:	(571) 273-8300 ATTN: Office of Petitions
By internet:	EFS-Web www.uspto.gov/ebc/efs_help.html (for help using EFS-Web call the Patent Electronic Business Center at (866) 217-9197)

Any questions concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3208.

/KOC/
Karen Creasy
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

Enclosed: Copy of Letter mailed June 7, 2007

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
P.O. BOX 1450
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

Paper No. 10

PATRICK KING
144 Holm Rd # 39
Watsonville, CA 95076

COPY MAILED

JUN 07 2007

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,927,782 :
Issued: July 27, 1999 :
Application No. 09/030,698 : LETTER
Filed: February 25, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No.: TGR002 :

This letter is in regards to the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c) filed September 12, 2003, to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of maintenance fee for the above-identified patent, and the decision in response thereto mailed September 30, 2003.

A response to this letter must be filed within **ONE (1) MONTH** of the mail date set forth above. No extension of this one (1) month time period will be granted under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) or (b).

The patent issued July 27, 1999. The grace period for paying the 3.5 year maintenance fee expired July 27, 2003. While the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c) was timely filed within twenty-four months after the six-month grace period provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e), it has recently come to the attention of the Office that at the time of submission of the petition, the required fees ($1,640.00 surcharge and 3.5 year small entity maintenance fee of $445.00) were not in fact received by the Office.

As the maintenance fee and surcharge are a prerequisite to reinstatement of a patent pursuant to 37 CFR 1.378(c), petitioner is give one month from the mail date of the instant letter to correct this deficiency.

Absent timely response to this letter, including the required fees, or irrefutable evidence that the fees were in fact received by the Office, petitioner is advised that the previous decision reinstating the patent will be vacated and the patent once again held expired. Moreover, the Office would be precluded from accepting the 7.5 year maintenance fee recently received in connection with this patent.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail: **Mail Stop Petition**
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By facsimile: (571) 273-8300

By hand delivery: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Window, **Mail Stop Petition**
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned at 571-272-3205.

Alesia M. Brown
Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

CC: L&P Property Management Company, Inc.
4095 Firestone Boulevard
Southgate, CA 90280

Michael Best & Freidrich LLP
Martin L. Stern
401 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 1900
Chicago, IL 60611-4212

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
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MAILED

APR 07 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

LETANTIA BUSSELL
433 NORTH CAMDEN DRIVE
SUITE 805
BEVERLY HILLS CA 90210

In re Patent No. 6,017,912
Issue Date: January 25, 2000
Application No. 09/031,862
Filed: February 27, 1998
Patentee: Letantia Bussell

DECISION ON PETITION

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(b), filed February 11, 2011, to accept the unavoidably delayed payment of the maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition under 37 CFR 1.378(b) is **DISMISSED**.

The above-identified patent issued January 25, 2000. Accordingly, the second maintenance fee could have been paid during the period from January 26, 2007 through June 25, 2007 without surcharge, or with a late payment surcharge during the period from June 26, 2007 through January 25, 2008. No maintenance fee having been received, the patent expired on January 26, 2008.

Petitioner asserts that the entire period of delay from January 26, 2008 to the filing of the instant petition on February 11, 2011 was unavoidable. Specifically, petitioner states that she was never made aware that the patent was nearing expiration. In addition, petitioner explains that she received a notice of patent expiration in March of 2008, but failed to renew the patent due to administrative staff turnover.

37 CFR 1.378(b) provides that:

> Any petition to accept an unavoidably delayed payment of a maintenance fee must include:
>
> (1) The required maintenance fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(e) through (g);
>
> (2) The surcharge set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(i)(1); and
>
> (3) A showing that the delay was unavoidable since reasonable care was taken to ensure that the maintenance fee would be paid timely and that the petition was filed promptly after the patentee was notified of, or otherwise became aware of, the expiration of the patent. The showing must enumerate the steps taken to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee, the date and the manner in which patentee became aware of the expiration of the patent, and the steps taken to file the petition promptly.

The instant petition does not meet requirements (1) and (3) above.

With regard to requirement (1), petitioner has not submitted the full amount of the second, eight-year maintenance fee. Rather, petitioner only submitted $490, which is the amount of the first, four-year maintenance fee. The eight-year maintenance fee is currently $1,240.

With regard to requirement (3), acceptance of a late maintenance fee under the unavoidable delay standard is considered under the same standard for reviving an abandoned application under 35 USC 133. **This is a very stringent standard.** Decisions on reviving abandoned applications on the basis of "unavoidable" delay have adopted the reasonably prudent person standard in determining if the delay was unavoidable:

> The word 'unavoidable' ... is applicable to ordinary human affairs, and requires no more or greater care or diligence than is generally used and observed by prudent and careful men in relation to their most important business. In addition, decisions are made on a "case-by-case basis, taking all the facts and circumstances into account." Smith, 671 F.2d at 538, 213 U.S.P.Q. at 982. Nonetheless, a petition cannot be granted where a petitioner has failed to meet his or her burden of establishing that the delay was "unavoidable." Haines, 673 F. Supp. at 316-17, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d at 1131-32.

While the delay in payment of the maintenance fee may have been unintentional, petitioner has failed to provide an adequate showing that the delay was unavoidable. Petitioner has not demonstrated that she had took reasonable care to pay the maintenance fee. Petitioner has not enumerated the steps she had in place to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee.

Delay resulting from petitioner's lack of receipt of any maintenance fee reminder(s), or petitioner's being unaware of the need for maintenance fee payments, does not constitute "unavoidable" delay.[1] Under the statutes and regulations, the Office has no duty to notify patentee of the requirement to pay maintenance fees or to notify patentee when the maintenance fee is due. While the Office mails maintenance fee reminders strictly as a courtesy, it is **solely the responsibility of the patentee to ensure that the maintenance fee is timely paid to prevent expiration of the patent.** The failure to receive the reminder does not relieve the patentee of the obligation to timely pay the maintenance fee, nor will it constitute unavoidable delay if the patentee seeks reinstatement under the regulation.[2] Moreover, a patentee who is required by 35 USC 41(c)(1) to pay a maintenance fee is not entitled to any notice beyond that provided by publication of the statute.[3]

Furthermore, the Letters Patent contains a Maintenance Fee Notice that warns that the patent may be subject to maintenance fees if the application was filed on or after December 12, 1980. While the record is unclear if petitioner ever read the Notice, petitioner's failure to read the Notice does not vitiate the Notice, nor does the delay resulting from such failure to read the Notice establish unavoidable delay.[4] The mere publication of the statute was sufficient notice to petitioner.[5]

---

[1] See In re Patent No. 4,409,763, 7 USPQ2d 1798, 1800 (Comm'r Pat. 1988)), aff'd, Rydeen v. Quigg, 748 F. Supp. 900, 16 USPQ2d 1876 (D.D.C. 1990), aff'd, 937 F.2d 623 (Fed. Cir. 1991)(table), cert. denied, 502 U.S. 1075 (1992). See also "Final Rules for Patent Maintenance Fees," 49 Fed. Reg. 34716, 34722-23 (Aug. 31, 1984), reprinted in 1046 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 28, 34 (September 25, 1984).

[2] Rydeen, 748 F. Supp at 905.

[3] Id. at 906.

[4] See Ray v. Lehman, 55 F. 3d 606, 610, 34 USPQ2d 1786, 1789 (Fed. Cir. 1995).

[5] Rydeen at 906.

Conclusion:

Any request for reconsideration of this decision must be filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this decision. Anysuch petition for reconsideration **must be accompanied by the $400** petition fee set forth in § 1.17(f), in addition to the balance of the second maintenance fee due. After decision on the petition for reconsideration, no further reconsideration or review of the matter will be undertaken by the Commissioner. Accordingly, on request for reconsideration, it is extremely important that petitioner supply **any** and **all** relevant information and documentation in order to meet his burden of showing unavoidable delay. This includes statements by all persons with direct knowledge of the cause of the delay, setting forth the facts as they know them.

If on request for reconsideration, the delayed payment of the maintenance fee is not accepted, then the $1240 maintenance fee and the $700 surcharge set forth in §1.20(i) are subject to refund following the decision on the petition for reconsideration, or after the expiration of the time for filing such a petition for reconsideration, if none is filed. (Petitioner may request a refund of the maintenance fee and surcharge by writing to the Mail Stop 16, Director of the USPTO, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria VA 22313-1450). A copy of the last decision rendered should accompany the request for refund).

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail: Mail Stop Petitions
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

By FAX: (571)273-8300
Attn: Office of Petitions

Telephone inquiries specific to this decision may be directed to the undersigned at (571)272-3207.

Cliff Congo
Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www. uspto. gov

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BIRMINGHAM, AL 35242

MAILED

APR 20 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,960,847 :
Issue Date: October 5, 1999 :
Application No. 09/032,712 : NOTICE
Filed: February 27, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No.

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28. On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. **See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).**

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

The file does not indicate a change of address has been submitted, although the address given on the petition differs from the address of record. If appropriate, a change of address should be filed in accordance with MPEP 601.03. A courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the address given on the petition; however, the Office will mail all future correspondence solely to the address of record.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to Irvin Dingle at (571) 272-3210.

Irvin Dingle
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

cc: Kenneth M. Bush
Bush Intellectual Property Law Group
P.O. Box 381146
Birmingham, AL 35238

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
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COHEN & GRIGSBY, P.C.
625 LIBERTY AVENUE
PITTSBURGH PA 15222-3152

MAILED
JUL 11 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,979,649 :
Issued: November 9, 1999 :
Application No. 09/032,715 : ON PETITION
Filed: February 27, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No. 5533.001 :

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 filed June 13, 2011.

On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. **See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).**

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This patent is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this patent must be paid at the large entity rate.

Telephone inquires concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-7751.

/Joan Olszewski/
Joan Olszewski
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 5978978
Issue Date: November 9,1999
Application No. 09033458
Filed: February 28,1998
Attorney Docket No. CLAF-17699

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed February 11,2012 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of February 11,2012 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5978978	1999-11-09	09033458	1998-02-28	

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	◉	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

○ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

◉ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Sole Patentee			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature.			
Signature	/Brian P. Claffey/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2012-02-11
Name	Brian P. Claffey		

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 6249557
Issue Date: June 19,2001
Application No. 09033769
Filed: March 3,1998
Attorney Docket No. 30019.66US01

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed October 4,2010 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 7.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of October 4,2010 .
This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6249557	2001-06-19	09033769	1998-03-03	30019.66US01

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
◉	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Kendal M. Sheets/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2010-10-01
Name	Kendal M. Sheets	Registration Number	47077

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

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The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 6167082
Issue Date: December 26,2000
Application No. 09033770
Filed: March 3,1998
Attorney Docket No. 30019.67USU1

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed October 4,2010 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 7.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of October 4,2010 .
This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6167082	2000-12-26	09033770	1998-03-03	30019.67USU1

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity

	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)
◉	7 ½ year	(1552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)

Small Entity

	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Kendal M. Sheets/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2010-09-30
Name	Kendal M. Sheets	Registration Number	47077

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

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The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 6256401
Issue Date: July 3,2001
Application No. 09033892
Filed: March 3,1998
Attorney Docket No. KWW-002

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed January 25,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 7.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of January 25,2011 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6256401	2001-07-03	09033892	1998-03-03	KWW-002

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	◉	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/mpw/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-01-25
Name	Mark P White	Registration Number	37757

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

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& VILLANUEVA, PC
2018 POWERS FERRY ROAD
SUITE 800
ATLANTA GA 30339

MAILED
FEB 02 2012
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,045,361 :
Issue Date: April 4, 2000 :
Application No. 09/035,041 : NOTICE
Filed: March 5, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No. 02071.0006 :

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28. On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. **See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).**

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This application is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this application must be paid at the large entity rate.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to Diane Goodwyn at (571) 272-6735.

Thurman K. Page
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
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ST JUDE MEDICAL ATRIAL FIBRILLATION DIVISION
LEGAL DEPARTMENT
ONE ST JUDE MEDICAL DRIVE
ST PAUL MN 55117-9913

MAILED
JAN 23 2012
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re
Hosheng Tu
Application No. 09/036,380
Filed: March 6, 1998
Patent No. 5,948,009
Issued: September 7, 1999

DECISION

This is a decision on the fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28(c), filed December 22, 2011.

The fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 of $1700 for the 7.5 year maintenance fee is hereby accepted.

The change of status to large entity has been entered.

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3207.

Cliff Congo
Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

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United States Patent and Trademark Office
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

G ROGER LEE
FISH & RICHARDSON
225 FRANKLIN STREET
BOSTON, MA 02110-2804

In re Patent No. 6,212,529 :
Issue Date: April 3, 2001 :
Application No. 09/036,400 : NOTICE
Filed: March 5, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No. 05110/016001 :

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28. On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. **See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).**

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This application is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this application must be paid at the large entity rate.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-1642.

/AMW/
April M. Wise
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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ST JUDE MEDICAL ATRIAL FIBRILLATION DIVISION
LEGAL DEPARTMENT
ONE ST JUDE MEDICAL DRIVE
ST PAUL MN 55117-9913

MAILED
JAN 23 2012
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re
Rama, et al.
Application No. 09/037,282
Filed: March 9, 1998
Patent No. 5,951,471
Issued: September 14, 1999

DECISION

This is a decision on the fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28(c), filed December 23, 2011.

The fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 of $1700 for the 7.5 year maintenance fee is hereby accepted.

The change of status to large entity has been entered.

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3207.

Cliff Congo
Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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In re Patent No. 6377795
Issue Date: April 23,2002
Application No. 09038190
Filed: March 10,1998
Attorney Docket No.

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed March 11,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 7.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of March 11,2011 .
This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6377795	2002-04-23	09038190	1998-03-10	

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity			Small Entity		
	Fee	Code		Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	◉	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/JBach/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-03-11
Name	Joseph Bach	Registration Number	37771

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 6434444
Issue Date: August 13,2002
Application No. 09038522
Filed: March 11,1998
Attorney Docket No. 13070/40020

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed December 21,2010 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 7.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of December 21,2010 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6,434,444	2002-08-13	09/038,522	1998-03-11	105006.63019US

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity

	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)
◉	7 ½ year	(1552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)

Small Entity

	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Michael H. Jacobs/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2010-12-21
Name	Michael H. Jacobs	Registration Number	41870

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

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LEONARD TACHNER, A PROFESSIONAL LAW CORPORATION
17961 SKY PARK CIRCLE, SUITE 38-E
IRVINE CA 92614

MAILED
FEB 02 2012
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,004,895 :
Issued: December 21, 1999 :
Application No.: 09/038,746 : NOTICE
Filed: March 11, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No. **MOSK-143** :

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28. On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. **See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).**

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This application is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this application must be paid at the large entity rate.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3222.

/Kenya A. McLaughlin/

Kenya A. McLaughlin
Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 6227990
Issue Date: May 8,2001
Application No. 09038812
Filed: March 11,1998
Attorney Docket No. 30434-1

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed April 26,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 7.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of April 26,2011 .
This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6,227,990	2001-05-08	09/038,812	1998-03-11	11-102

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	◉	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

○ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

◉ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

The Assignee of record of the entire interest			
Under 37 CFR 3.71 an assignee becomes of record by filing a statement in compliance with 37 CFR 3.73(b). Signature requirements are set forth in 37 CFR 1.4(d), and the undersigned certifies that he / she is empowered to act on behalf of the assignee of the entire interest			
Signature	/Herbert H. Wise/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-04-26
Name	Herbert H. Wise		
Enter Reel and Frame Number		Remove	
Reel Number	008279	Frame Number	0054
Click ADD for additional Reel Number and Frame Number		Add	

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

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1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

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MERCHANT & GOULD PC
P.O. BOX 2903
MINNEAPOLIS MN 55402-0903

MAILED
FEB 14 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,194,925	:	Paper No. 30
Issue Date: February 27, 2001	:	
Application No. 09/039,344	:	DECISION ON PETITION
Filed: March 13, 1998	:	
Attorney Docket No. **16468**	:	

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c), filed August 09, 2010, to accept the delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **DISMISSED**.

If reconsideration of this decision is desired, a petition for reconsideration under 37 CFR 1.378(e) must be filed within TWO (2) MONTHS from the mail date of this decision. No extension of this two-month time limit can be granted under 37 CFR 1.136(a) or (b). This is **not** a final agency action within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. § 704.

Any petition for reconsideration of this decision must be accompanied by the petition fee of $400 as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(f). The petition for reconsideration must include the lacking item(s) noted below, since, after a decision on the petition for reconsideration, no further reconsideration or review of the matter will be undertaken by the Director.

A petition to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee under 35 U.S.C. 41(c) and 37 CFR 1.378(c) must be accompanied by: (1) a statement that the delay was unintentional; (2) payment of the appropriate maintenance fee, unless previously submitted; (3) payment of the surcharge set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2). This petition lacks item (1) above. The instant patent expired at Midnight on February 27, 2009. Petition indicates that "Gigamax Technologies, Inc. only recently completed purchase of, and clear title to, the assets of Wavecrest Corp. after entering to a conditional purchase agreement on March 03, 2009." It is thus not clear if the person signing on behalf of Gigamax Technologies, Inc. is authorized to make this statement, as the patent had expired prior to its acquisition by Gigamax Technologies, Inc.

The Power of Attorney submitted with the petition on August 09, 2010, has been reviewed. The Power of Attorney was signed by Charles Olson, acting on behalf of the assignee – Gigamax Technologies, Inc. However, the statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) included therewith is not

acceptable since neither the documentary evidence of a chain of title to the assignee nor a statement specifying the correct reel/frame where such evidence is recorded in is included therein. Therefore, the Power of Attorney will not be accepted at this time.

The application file does not indicate a change of address has been filed in this case, although the address given on the petition differs from the address of record. A change of address should be filed in this case in accordance with MPEP 601.03. A courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the address noted on the petition. However, until otherwise instructed, all future correspondence regarding this application will be mailed solely to the address of record.

It is not apparent whether the person signing the statement of unintentional delay was in a position to have firsthand or direct knowledge of the facts and circumstances of the delay at issue. Nevertheless, such statement is being treated as having been made as the result of a reasonable inquiry into the facts and circumstances of such delay. In the event that such an inquiry has not been made, petitioner must make such an inquiry. If such inquiry results in the discovery that the delay in paying the maintenance fee under 37 CFR 1.378(c) was intentional, petitioner must notify the Office.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By Mail:
Mail Stop PETITION
Commissioner for Patents
Post Office Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By hand:
U. S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Petitions
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

The centralized facsimile number is (571) 273-8300.

Telephone inquiries should be directed to Tredelle Jackson at 571-272-2783.

Ramesh Krishnamurthy
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

cc: **ANDREW C. WALSETH**
6550 EDENVALE BLVD.
EDEN PRAIRIE MN 55346

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
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GIGAMAX TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
6550 EDENVALE BLVD.
EDEN PRAIRIE MN 55402-1425

MAILED
JUN 03 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,194,925 :
Issue Date: February 27, 2001 :
Application No. 09/039,344 : DECISION ON PETITION
Filed: March 13, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No. **16468** :

This is a decision on the renewed petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c), filed April 11, 2011, to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

This patent expired at midnight on February 27, 2009 for failure to pay the seven and one-half year maintenance fee. Since this petition was submitted within twenty-four months after the six-month grace period provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e), the petition was timely filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(c).

The maintenance fee is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

The power of attorney filed with the petition is accepted and has been made of record.

A small entity status has been accorded, as requested.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to Tredelle Jackson at (571) 272-2783.

Ramesh Krishnamurthy
Petition Examiner
Office of Petitions

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P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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In re Patent No. 6010416
Issue Date: January 4,2000
Application No. 09039821
Filed: March 16,1998
Attorney Docket No.

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed March 20,2012 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of March 20,2012 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6,010,416	2000-01-04	09/039,821	1998-03-16	

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	◉	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

○ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

◉ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Sole Patentee			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature.			
Signature	/John Frederick/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2012-03-20
Name	John Frederick		

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

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The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

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APR 04 2012
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ADDMG - 27975
1401 CITRUS CENTER 255 SOUTH ORANGE AVENUE
P.O. BOX 3791
ORLANDO FL 32802-3791

In re Patent No. 6,114,862
Issue Date: September 5, 2000
Application No. 09/040,261
Filed: March 9, 1998

: DECISION ON PETITION

This is a decision on the Petition to Expunge Information Under 37 CFR 1.59, filed January 24, 2012, which is being treated as a petition under 37 CFR 1.182 to expunge an assignment document previously recorded against the above-identified patent application.

The balance of a petition fee for petitions under 37 CFR 1.182 has been charged to petitioner's deposit account as authorized.

The petition is **dismissed**. This is not a final agency action.

Petitioner states that the assignment document recorded at reel/frame number 026944/0942 was recorded in error as it was recorded against the wrong patent.

As discussed in section 323.01(d) of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), petitions to correct, modify or "expunge" assignment records are granted only if the petitioner can prove that:

(A) the normal corrective procedures outlined in MPEP § 323.01(a) through §323.01(c) will not provide the petitioner with adequate relief; and
(B) the integrity of the assignment records will not be affected by granting the petition.

Petitioner has not proven either item A or B. Although the petition does explain that the procedures outlined in MPEP § 323.01(a) through § 323.01(c) do not provide adequate relief and that expungement will not affect the integrity of the assignment records, these explanations are not persuasive.

In regard to item A, applicants assert that the corrective procedures outlined in MPEP § 323.01(a) through § 323.01(c) will not provide adequate relief since the document at issue should

not have been filed. However, these corrective procedures are not limited to only typographical errors or errors that are small in degree.

Furthermore, in regard to item B, applicants contend that the integrity of the assignment records will not be affected by the desired expungement. However, the removal of a document in its entirety, as requested, will affect the assignment records in that a competent authority will be unable to review the entire record.

Here, petitioner seeks an extraordinary remedy, properly addressed under 37 CFR 1.182. The USPTO will not normally resort to an extraordinary remedy under 37 CFR 1.182 if the rules of practice and the procedures before the USPTO already provide an avenue for the requested relief. See Cantello v. Rasmussen, 220 USPQ 664, (Comm'r Pats. 1982).

As background, the USPTO simply acts in a ministerial capacity in recording documents that have been submitted for recordation. See 35 USC 261 and 37 CFR 3.11. However, the recording of a document pursuant to 37 CFR 3.11 is **not** a determination by the USPTO of the validity of the document *per se* or the effect that document has on the title to a patent or application. See 37 CFR 3.54. Moreover, it is USPTO policy to maintain a complete history of claimed interests in a given property, and, as such, a recorded assignment document will be retained, even if it is subsequently found to be invalid. In re Raney, 24 USPQ2d 1713 (Comm'r Pat. 1992).

As set forth in MPEP 323, an error in a recorded assignment is not corrected by invalidating the previous document, but by simply submitting a "corrective document" that explains the nature of the recorded document so as to clarify the assignment records. "Corrective documents" are not limited to assignments, but include any documents affecting title to a patent or application. See MPEP § 313. This would include an explanation of the recorded document so as to clarify the assignment records. The new recordation form cover sheet must identify the submission as a "corrective document" submission and indicate the reel and frame number where the incorrectly recorded assignment document appears. The person signing the new recordation form cover sheet must state that the information provided on the new cover sheet is true and correct and that any copy submitted is a true copy of the original document. The original cover sheet should be submitted with the corrective document. The corrective document will be recorded and given a new reel and frame number and recording date. The recording fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.21(h) is required for each patent application and patent against which the corrective document is being recorded. See MPEP § 302.06.

Therefore, the rules of practice and the procedures before the USPTO provide an avenue for the requested relief without relying upon extraordinary measures. As a request for the Office to invalidate an assignment is both extraordinary and contrary to USPTO policy, this petition must be dismissed.

Telephone inquiries concerning this communication in regard to the petition to expunge assignment documents should be directed to Carl Friedman at (571)272-6842.

Christopher Bottorff
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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C/O INTELLEVATE LLC
P.O. BOX 52050
MINNEAPOLIS MN 55402

MAILED

OCT 13 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,007,426 :
Issued: December 28, 1999 :
Application No. 09/040,654 : ON PETITION
Filed: March 17, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No: BLLYP026.US02 :

This is a decision regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission and loss of small entity status filed September 23, 2011 under 37 CFR 1.28.

On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc.. 154 F.33d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. 1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989). Therefore nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby accepted and the petition is **GRANTED**. Status as a small entity has also been removed.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the Office of Petitions Staff at (571) 272-3282.

Patricia Faison-Ball
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 5906282
Issue Date: May 25,1999
Application No. 09040983
Filed: March 18,1998
Attorney Docket No. NOII111920

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed July 11,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of July 11,2011 .
This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5906282	1999-05-25	09040983	1998-03-18	NOII111920

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity			Small Entity		
	Fee	Code		Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
◉	11 ½ year	(1553)	○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Margie B. Aoki/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-07-11
Name	Margie B. Aoki	Registration Number	62644

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
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P.O. Box 1450
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In re Patent No. 6205181
Issue Date: March 20,2001
Application No. 09041193
Filed: March 10,1998
Attorney Docket No. CT-289

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed October 4,2010 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 7.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of October 4,2010 .
This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6205181	2001-03-20	09041193	1998-03-10	CT-289

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity			Small Entity		
	Fee	Code		Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
◉	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Kendal M. Sheets/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2010-09-30
Name	Kendal M. Sheets	Registration Number	47077

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

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HOFFMANN & BARON, LLP
6900 JERICHO TURNPIKE
SYOSSET NY 11791

MAILED

SEP 06 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,022,450 :
Issue Date: February 8, 2000 :
Application No. 09/043,268 : NOTICE
Filed: May 7, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No. 294-44 :

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28, filed August 19, 2011.

On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. **See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).**

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **REJECTED**.

The instant request appears to be on behalf of the assignee; however, the request does not comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b). 37 CFR 3.73(b) provides that: (1) when an assignee seeks to take action in a matter before the Office, the assignee must establish its ownership of the property to the satisfaction of the Commissioner; (2) ownership is established by submitting to the Office, in the Office file related to the matter in which action is sought to be taken, documentary evidence of a chain of title from the original owner to the assignee (*e.g.*, copy of an executed assignment submitted for recording) or by specifying (*e.g.*, reel and frame number) where such evidence is recorded in the Office; (3) the submission establishing ownership must be signed by a party authorized to act on behalf of the assignee; and (4) documents submitted to establish ownership may be required to be recorded as a condition to permitting the assignee to take action in a matter pending before the Office. A 37 CFR 3.73(b) statement is enclosed with this requirement for information.

A courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the address given on the petition; however, the Office will mail all future correspondence solely to the address of record.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail: Mail Stop PETITIONS
Commissioner for Patents
Post Office Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By hand: Customer Window located at:

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

By fax: (571) 273-8300
ATTN: Office of Petitions

Any questions concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3206.

/Liana Walsh/
Liana Walsh
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

cc: DENNEMEYER & CO LTD
REGENT HOUSE HEATON LANE
STOCKPORT CHESHIRE
ENGLAND SK4 1BB

Enclosure: PTO/SB/96

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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HOFFMANN & BARON, LLP
6900 JERICHO TURNPIKE
SYOSSET NY 11791

MAILED
OCT 31 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,022,450	:	
Issued: February 8, 2000	:	
Application No. 09/043,268	:	NOTICE
Filed: May 7, 1998	:	
Attorney Docket No. 294-44	:	

This is a notice regarding your request, filed October 11, 2011, for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28.

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue patent under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This patent is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this patent must be paid at the large entity rate.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3206.

/Liana Walsh/
Liana Walsh
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

CAROL W BURTON
HOLLAND & HART
555 SEVENTEENTH STREET SUITE 3200
P O BOX 8749
DENVER CO 80201

MAILED
OCT 28 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

Patent No. 5,917,111	:	
Application No. 09/045,031	:	
Filed: March 20, 1998	:	ON PETITION
Issued: June 29, 1999	:	
Attorney Docket No. 34061.830010	:	

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c), filed August 18, 2011 and September 30, 2011, to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The patent issued June 29, 1999. The last day of the grace period for paying the 11.5-year maintenance fee was June 29, 2011. Therefore, since this petition was filed within twenty-four months after the six-month grace period provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e), this petition was timely filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(c).

The maintenance fee is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

The file does not indicate a change of address has been submitted, although the address given on the petition differs from the address of record. A courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the address given on the petition.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3206.

/Liana Walsh/
Liana Walsh
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

cc: CARL SCHAUBLE
PRIT INDUSTRIES/PRO-SOL
P.O. BOX 1589
1792 JODIE PARKER ROAD
OZARK, AL 36360-1589

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KNOBBE MARTENS OLSON & BEAR LLP
2040 MAIN STREET
FOURTEENTH FLOOR
IRVINE CA 92614

MAILED
JUN 07 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,539,205 :
Issue Date: March 25, 2003 :
Application No. 09/046,060 : DECISION ON PETITION
Filed: March 23, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No. ROKWELL.011A :

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c), filed May 10, 2011, to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED.**

This patent expired on March 25, 2011 for failure to pay the seven and one-half year maintenance fee. Since this petition was submitted within twenty-four months after the six-month grace period provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e), the petition was timely filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(c).

It is not apparent whether the person signing the statement of unintentional delay was in a position to have firsthand or direct knowledge of the facts and circumstances of the delay at issue. Nevertheless, such statement is being treated as having been made as the result of a reasonable inquiry into the facts and circumstances of such delay. In the event that such an inquiry has not been made, petitioner must make such an inquiry. If such inquiry results in the discovery that the delay in paying the maintenance fee under 37 CFR 1.378(c) was intentional, petitioner must notify the Office. Petitioner will not receive future correspondence related to maintenance fees for the patent unless a "Fee Address" Indication Form (see PTO/SB/47) is submitted.

The maintenance fee is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to the Michelle R. Eason at (571) 272-4231.

The patent file is being forwarded to Files Repository.

Michelle R. Eason
Paralegal Specialist
Office of Petitions

cc: **FARSHAD FARJAMI**
FARJAMI AND FARJAMI, LLP
26522 LA ALAMEDA AVENUE, SUITE 360
MISSION VIEJO, CA 92691

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

ST. JUDE MEDICAL, ATRIAL FIBRILLATION DIVISION
Legal Department
One St. Jude Medical Drive
St. Paul MN 55117-9913

MAILED

JAN 24 2012

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
Chen et al. :
Application No. 09/046,237 : NOTICE
Filed: March 23, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No. OF-040801US :
For: SYSTEM FOR OPERATING A RF ABLATION GENERATOR

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28(c), filed December 20, 2011.

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue patent under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28(c) is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This patent is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this patent must be paid at the large entity rate.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3230.

Shirene Willis Brantley
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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In re Patent No. 6363085
Issue Date: March 26,2002
Application No. 09046442
Filed: March 23,1998
Attorney Docket No.

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed October 22,2010 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 7.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of October 22,2010 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

A31 PTO/SB/66
Approved for use through 04/30/2009. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6363085	2002-03-26	09046442	1998-03-23	4929/0122PUS1

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity			Small Entity		
	Fee	Code		Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	◉	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Joe McKinney Muncy/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2010-10-22
Name	Joe McKinney Muncy	Registration Number	32334

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these record s.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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P.O. Box 1450
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THOMAS J MONAHAN
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE
THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY
113 TECHNOLOGY CENTER
UNIVERSITY PARK PA 16802

MAILED

OCT 01 2010

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
Charles Palmer :
Application No. 09/046,726 :
Filed: March 24, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No. **1242CIP** :

NOTICE

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28.

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This application is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this application must be paid at the large entity rate.

The application file does not indicate a change of address has been filed in this case, although the address given on the petition differs from the address of record. A change of address should be filed in this case in accordance with MPEP 601.03. A courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the address noted on the petition. However, until otherwise instructed, all future correspondence regarding this application will be mailed solely to the address of record.

There is no indication that the person signing the petition was ever given a power of attorney to prosecute the application. If the person signing the petition desires to receive future correspondence regarding this application, the appropriate power of attorney document must be submitted. While a courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the person signing the petition, all future correspondence will be directed to the address currently of record until appropriate instructions are received.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-2783.

/Tredelle D. Jackson/
Paralegal Specialist
Office of Petitions

cc: **DOUGLAS L. WATHEN**
GIFFORD, KRASS, SPRINKLE et al
P.O. BOX 7021
TROY MI 48007-7021

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
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Vern Maine & Associates
547 AMHERST STREET, 3RD FLOOR
NASHUA NH 03063-4000

MAILED

JUL 29 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,019,841 :
Issued: 02/01/2000 :
Application No. 09/046,917 : NOTICE
Filed: 03/24/1998 :
Attorney Docket No. GT81 :

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 filed July 14, 2011.

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue patent under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This patent is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this patent must be paid at the large entity rate.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3211.

Christina Tartera Donnell

Christina Tartera Donnell
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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MOETTELI & ASSOCIATES SARL
ST. LEONHARDSTRASSE 4
ST. GALLEN CH-90-00 CH SWITZERLAND

MAILED
JUN 22 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
John B. MOETTELI :
Patent No. : 6,121,898 : DECISION ON PETITION
Issued: September 19, 2000 :
Application No. 09/047,272 :
Filed: March 24, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No. PUS-A006-001 :

This is a decision on the petition filed February 3, 2011, requesting removal of information from the file record of above identified application.

The petition is **GRANTED to the extent indicated below**.

Petitioner's request "to strike erroneously filed paper" pertains to a "document [that] was filed by a third party on January 4, 2001" ("Document"). Petitioner states that the entry of the document into the file record "is an error of the patent office," as "no legal basis exists for such filing."

As an initial matter, it is noted that the Document was submitted for consideration after the instant patent issued. A review of the file record of the instant application and the Document being sought to be removed indicates that the Document included *inter alia* prior art submission by a third party that is permitted under 37 CFR 1.501. Accordingly, the part of the Document consisting of only the prior art has been retained in the file. The remaining part of the document has been removed from the file record. As of mailing date of this decision, the corresponding images of the expunged portion of the Document in Image File Wrapper (IFW) has been "closed" thereby removing it from a list of publicly available documents associated with this application.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-4914.

Ramesh Krishnamurthy
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
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P.O. Box 1450
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KEN MARTIN
294 WRIGHT AVE.
TORONTO ON 176R -1L9 CA CANADA

MAILED

JUL 01 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
Kenneth W. Martin :
Application No. 09/047,751 : NOTICE UNDER 37 CFR. 1.28(c)
Patent No. 5,973,524 :
Filed: March 25, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No. **MBO-125**

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28. On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. **See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).**

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989).** Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **NOT ACCEPTED.**

The statement of delay is not acceptable. In this regard, petitioner's attention is directed to 37 CFR 1.33(b), which states.

> (b) Amendments and other papers. Amendments and other papers, except for written assertions pursuant to § 1.27(c)(2)(ii) of this part, filed in the application must be signed by:
> (1) A registered patent attorney or patent agent of record appointed in compliance with § 1.32(b);
> (2) A registered patent attorney or patent agent not of record who acts in a representative capacity under the provisions of § 1.34;
> (3) An assignee as provided for under §3.71(b) of this chapter; or
> (4) All of the applicants (§ 1.41(b)) for patent, unless there is an assignee of the entire interest and such assignee has taken action in the application in accordance with § 3.71 of this chapter.

37 CFR 3.71(c) states:

An assignee becomes of record either in a national patent application or a reexamination proceeding by filing a statement in compliance with § 3.73(b) that is signed by a party who is authorized to act on behalf of the assignee.

The itemization must be provided within one (1) month from the date of this decision to avoid the return of the deficiency.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to Michelle R. Eason at (571) 272-4231.

Thurman K. Page
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

Cc: **A J PEACH**
DENNEMEYER & CO STOCKPORT
REGENT HOUSE, HEATON LANE
STOCKPORT, CHESHIRE
ENGLAN SK4 1BB

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re Patent No. 6170832
Issue Date: January 9,2001
Application No. 09048690
Filed: March 26,1998
Attorney Docket No. 1253.003

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed October 14,2010 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 7.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of October 14,2010 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6170832	2001-01-09	09048690	1998-03-26	8124-0001

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity			Small Entity		
	Fee	Code		Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	◉	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

○ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

◉ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

The Assignee of record of the entire interest			
Under 37 CFR 3.71 an assignee becomes of record by filing a statement in compliance with 37 CFR 3.73(b). Signature requirements are set forth in 37 CFR 1.4(d), and the undersigned certifies that he / she is empowered to act on behalf of the assignee of the entire interest			
Signature	/Doug Rode/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2010-10-06
Name	Doug Rode		
Enter Reel and Frame Number		Remove	
Reel Number	025051	Frame Number	0278
Click ADD for additional Reel Number and Frame Number		Add	

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

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Paper No. 19

MAILED

SEP 23 2010

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

Robert E. Adamowski
13232 NE 3th Street
Bellevue, WA 98005

In re Patent No. 5,980,902
Issued: November 9, 1999
Application No.: 09/048,966
Filing Date: March 26, 1998
Attorney Docket No.**53000/1001**

: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

This is a request for information in response to the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(b), filed May 24, 2010, to reinstate the above-cited patent.

Petitioner is allowed a non-extendable period for reply of **TWO (2) MONTHS** from the mailing date of this communication to provide a response. The response should be titled, "Response to Request for Information." If no response is provided within the period set forth, a decision will be made solely on the merits as set forth in the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(b) filed September 28, 2009. No additional fees are due.

The patent issued November 9, 1999. The 7.5 year maintenance fee could have been paid from May 24, 2006, through November 24, 2006, or with a surcharge, as authorized by 37 CFR 1.20(h), during the period from November 25, 2006, to November 9, 2007. Petitioner did not do so. Accordingly, the patent expired at midnight on November 9, 2007.

Petitioner is required to address the following points[1]:

- A successful petition under 37 CFR 1.378(b) must affirmatively identify the cause of the delay in paying the maintenance fee and provide a statement from every person with first-hand knowledge of the circumstances surrounding the delay in paying the maintenance fee. Petitioner must provide statements from any person who may have been charged with paying the maintenance fee and statements from any person with first-hand knowledge of the circumstances surrounding the failure to pay the maintenance fee.

[1] It is noted that the instant petition does not provide much detail as to the reason for the delay in paying the 7.5-year maintenance fee. It appears that the petitioner is asserting that a docketing error was the cause of the delay in paying the 7.5-year maintenance fee. As such, the instant Request for Information is based on the assertion that a docketing error was the cause of the delay in paying the maintenance fee. If this is not the case, petitioner is still required to respond to this Request for Information within the time period allowed setting for the circumstances of the delay in paying the maintenance fee. In so doing, petitioner is cautioned that it is not sufficient to simply state that the delay was unavoidable; petitioner must make a showing—through documentary evidence and statements of persons with first-hand knowledge--that the entire delay was unavoidable.

- 37 CFR 1.378(b)(3) sets forth that a petition submitted under this portion of the Code of Federal Regulations must include a showing which is described as follows:

  A showing that the delay was unavoidable since reasonable care was taken to ensure that the maintenance fee would be paid timely and that the petition was filed promptly after the patentee was notified of, or otherwise became aware of, the expiration of the patent. The showing must enumerate the steps taken to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee, the date and the manner in which patentee became aware of the expiration of the patent, and the steps taken to file the petition promptly.

  Petitioner must, therefore, describe the steps that were in place to ensure that the maintenance fee was timely paid. This showing would include an explanation of who was responsible for paying tracking and paying the maintenance fee and the method this person, or entity, used for tracking the maintenance fee.

- Section 711.03(c)(2) of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, provides, in pertinent part that:

  In addition, decisions on revival are made on a "case-by-case basis, taking all the facts and circumstances into account." *Smith v. Mossinghoff*, 671 F.2d 533, 538, 213 USPQ 977, 982 (D.C. Cir. 1982). Finally, a petition cannot be granted where a petitioner has failed to meet his or her burden of establishing that the delay was "unavoidable." *Haines v. Quigg*, 673 F. Supp. 314, 316-17, 5 USPQ2d 1130, 1131-32 (N.D. Ind. 1987).

  A delay resulting from an error (e.g., a docketing error) on the part of an employee in the performance of a clerical function may provide the basis for a showing of "unavoidable" delay, provided it is shown that:

  (A) the error was the cause of the delay at issue;

  (B) there was in place a business routine for performing the clerical function that could reasonably be relied upon to avoid errors in its performance; and

  (C) the employee was sufficiently trained and experienced with regard to the function and routine for its performance that reliance upon such employee represented the exercise of due care.

A delay resulting from an error, such a docketing error, on the part of an employee in the performance of a clerical function may provide the basis for a showing of unavoidable delay. Such a showing should identify the specific error, the individual who made the error, and the business routine in place for performing the action which resulted in the error. The showing must establish that the individual who erred was sufficiently trained and experienced with regard to the function and routine for its performance that reliance upon such employee represented the exercise of due care. The showing should include information regarding the training provided to the personnel responsible for the docketing error, degree of supervision of their work, examples of other work functions carried out, and checks on the described work which were used to assure proper execution of assigned task.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail: Commissioner for Patent
Mail Stop Petitions
Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1460

By facsimile: (571) 273-8300
Attn: Office of Petitions

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3222.

/Kenya A. McLaughlin/

Kenya A. McLaughlin
Petition Attorney
Office of Petitions

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MAR 25 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

Robert E. Adamowski
13232 NE 3th Street
Bellevue, WA 98005

In re Patent No. 5,980,902 :
Issued: November 9, 1999 :
Application No.: 09/048,966 : ON PETITION
Filing Date: March 26, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No.**53000/1001** :

This is in response to the "Response to Request for Information" filed November 22, 2010, and a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(b), filed May 24, 2010, to reinstate the above-cited patent.

The petition is **dismissed**.

The patent issued November 9, 1999. The 7.5 year maintenance fee could have been paid from May 24, 2006, through November 24, 2006, or with a surcharge, as authorized by 37 CFR 1.20(h), during the period from November 25, 2006, to November 9, 2007. Petitioner did not do so. Accordingly, the patent expired at midnight on November 9, 2007.

A grantable petition under 37 CFR 1.378(b) must be accompanied by a showing to the satisfaction of the Commissioner that the entire delay in paying the required maintenance fee from the due date for the fee until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to this paragraph was unavoidable. The showing of record is not sufficient to establish to the satisfaction of the Commissioner that the delay was unavoidable within the meaning of 37 CFR 1.378(b).

Opinion

Petitioner must establish that petitioner treated the patent the same as a reasonable and prudent person would treat his or her most important business.

The general standard applied by the Office requires petitioner to establish that petitioner treated the patent the same as a reasonable and prudent person would treat his or her most important business.[1]

[1]The Commissioner is responsible for determining the standard for unavoidable delay and for applying that standard. 35 U.S.C. 41(c)(1) states, "The Commissioner may accept the payment of any maintenance fee . . . at any time . . .if the delay is shown *to the satisfaction of the Commissioner* to have been unavoidable." (emphasis added).

"In the specialized field of patent law, . . . the Commissioner of Patent and Trademarks is primarily responsible for the application and enforcement of the various narrow and technical statutory and regulatory provisions. His interpretation of those provisions is entitled to considerable deference." Rydeen v. Quigg, 748 F. Supp. 900, 904, 16 U.S.P.Q2d (BNA) 1876 (D.D.C. 1990), aff'd without opinion Rule 36), 937 F.2d 623 (Fed Cir. 1991) (citing Morganroth v. Quigg, 885 F.2d 843, 848, 12 U.S.P.Q.2d agencys' interpretation of a statute it administers is entitle to deference"); see also Chevron U.S.A. Inc, v. Natural Resources Defense Counsil, Inc., 467 U.S. 837, 844, 81 L. Ed. 694, 104 S. Ct. 2778 (1984) ("if the statute s silent or

However, "[t]he question of whether an applicant's delay in prosecuting an application was unavoidable [will]be decided on a case-by-case basis, taking all of the facts and circumstances into account."[2] Nonawarness of the content of, or misunderstanding of PTO statutes, PTO rules, the MPEP, or the Official Gazette notices does not constitute unavoidable delay.[3] The statute requires a "showing" by petitioner, therefore; petitioner has the burden of proof. The decision will be based solely on the written, administrative record in existence. It is not enough that the delay was unavoidable; petitioner must prove that the delay was unavoidable. A petition will not be granted if petitioner provides insufficient evidence to "show" that the delay was unavoidable.

Petitioner is responsible for possessing knowledge of the need to pay maintenance fees and the due dates for such fees, Petitioner is responsible for instituting a reliable docketing system to remind him or her when maintenance fees become due.

Petitioner is responsible for having knowledge of the need to pay maintenance fees and knowing when the fees are due.[4] The Office has no duty to notify a patentee of the requirement to pay maintenance fees or to notify patentee when a maintenance fee is due.[5] Even if the Office were required to provide notice to

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ambiguous with respect to the specific issue, the question for the court is whether the agency's answer is based on a permissible construction of the statute."))

"The critical phrase 'unless it be shown to the satisfaction of the Commissioner that such delay was unavoidable' has remained unchanged since first enacted in 1861." Smith v. Mossinghoff, 671 F.2d 533, 538, 213 U.S.P.Q. (BNA) 977 (D.C. Cir. 1982). The standard for "unavoidable" delay for reinstating a patent is the same as the unavoidable standard for reviving an application. See Ray v. Lehman, 55 F. 3d 606, 608-609, 34 U.S.P.Q.2d (BNA) 1786, 1781 (Fed Cir. 1995) (Citing In re patent No. 4,409, 763, 7 U.S.P.Q.2d BNA) 1798, 1800 (Comm'r Pat. 1990; Smith v. Mossinghoff, 671 F. 2d 533, 538, 213 U.S.P. Q. (BNA) 977 (D.C. Cir. 1982). The court in In re Mattullath, accepted the standard which had been proposed by Commissioner Hall which "requires no more or greater care or diligence than is generally used and observed by prudent and careful men in relation to their most important business." In re Mattullath, 38 App. D.C. 497, 514-515 (1912) (quoting Ex parte Pratt, 1887 Dec. Comm'r Pat 31, 32-33 (1887)).

[2]Smith v. Mossinghoff, 671 F.2d 533, 538, 213 U.S.P.Q. (BNA) 977 (1982).

[3]See Smith v. Mossinghoff, 671 F. 2d 533, 538, 213 U.S.P.Q. (BNA) 977 (Fed. Cir. 1982) (citing Potter v. Dann, 201 U.S.P.Q. (BNA) 574 (D.D.C. 1978) for the proposition that counsel's nonawarness of PTO rules does not constitute "unavoidable " delay)); Vincent v. Mossinghoff, 1985 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 23119, 13, 230 U.S.P.Q. (BNA) 621 (D.D.C. 1985) (plaintiffs, through their counsel's action, or their own, must be held responsible for having noted the MPEP section and Official Gazette notices expressly stating that the certified mailing procedures outlined in 37 CFR 1.8(a) do not apply to continuation applications.) (Emphasis added).

[4]Nonawarness of PTO statutes, PTO rules, the MPEP, or Official Gazette notices, which state maintenance fee amounts and dates they are due does not constitute unavoidable delay. See Smith v. Mossinghoff, 671 F.2d 533, 538, 213 U.S.P.Q. *BNA) 977 (Fed. Cir. 1982) (citing Potter v. Dann, 201 U.S.P.Q. (BNA) 574 (D.D.C. 1978) for the proposition that counsel's nonawarness of PTO rules does not constitute "unavoidable" delay)); Vincent v. Mossinghoff, 1985 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 23119, 13, 230 U.S.P.Q. (BNA) 621 (D.D.C. 1985) (Plaintiffs, through their counsel's actions, or their own must be held responsible for having noted the MPEP section and Official Gazette notices expressly stating that the certified mailing procedures outlined in 37 CFR 1.8(a) do not apply to continuation applications.) (Emphasis added).

Petitioner must act as a reasonable and prudent person in relation to his most important business. Upon obtaining the patent, a reasonable and prudent person, in relation to his most important business, would become familiar with the legal requirements of that business, in this case, the requirement to pay maintenance fees. In addition, a reasonable and prudent individual would read the patent itself and thereby become aware of the need to pay maintenance fees and the fact that such fee amounts are sometimes changed by law or regulation.

[5]Congress expressly conditioned §§ 133 and 151 [of the United States Code] on a specific type of notice, while no such notice requirements are written into § 41(c) . . . [T]he Commissioner's no timely-notice interpretation." Ray v. Comer, 1994 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 21478, 8-9 (1994), *aff'd on other grounds* Ray v. Lehman, 55 F.3d 606, 34 USPQ2d 1786 (Fed. Cir. 1995) (Citing

applicant of the existence of maintenance fee requirements, such notice is provided by the patent itself.[6]

A reasonable and prudent person, aware of the existence of maintenance fees, would not rely on maintenance fee reminders or on memory to remind him or her when payments would fall due several years in the future. Instead, such an individual would implement a reliable and trustworthy tracking system to keep track of the relevant dates.[7] The individual would also take steps to ensure that the patent information was correctly entered into the tracking system.

Application of the unavoidable standard to the present facts

In the instant petition, petitioner argues that the above-cited patent should be reinstated because the delay in paying the 7.5-year maintenance fee was unavoidable due to docketing and clerical errors that occurred between Mr. Robert Adamowski and Mr. Wil Claus, President and Chief Financial Officer of the assignee, respectively. Petitioner states that the due date for the 7:-5 year maintenance fee for the subject patent was not properly entered on petitioner's calendar.

The petitioner's argument and statements have been considered, but are not persuasive as petitioner has not made the "showing" that is required to satisfy the requirements of 37 CFR 1.378(b). Section 2590 of the MPEP indicates that:

> . . . an error in a docketing system could possibly result in a finding that a delay in payment was unavoidable if it were shown that reasonable care was exercised in designing and operating the system and that the patentee took reasonable steps to ensure that the patent was entered into the system to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee.

Rydeen v. Quigg, 748 F. Supp. 900, 905 (1990), Chevron U.S.A. Inc. v. Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc., 467 U.S. 837, 81 L. ed. 2d 694, 104 S. Ct. 2778 (1984)). "The Court concludes as it did in Rydeen, that as a constitutional matter, 'plaintiff was not entitled to any notice beyond publication of the statute." Id. at 3 (citing Rydeen v. Quigg, 748 F. Supp. at 906, Texaco v. Short, 454 U.S. 516, 536, 70 L. Ed. 2d 738, 102 S. Ct. 781 (1982)).

The Patent Office, as a courtesy tries to send maintenance fee reminders and notices of patent expiration to the address of record. However, the failure to receive the reminder notice, and the lack of knowledge of the requirement to pay the maintenance fee, will not shift the burden of monitoring the time for paying a maintenance fee from the patentee to the Office. See MPEP 2575, 2540, 2590. Petitioner does not have a right to a personalized notice that this patent will expire if a certain maintenance fee is not paid, as the publication of the statute was sufficient notice. See Rydeen v. Quigg, 748 F. Supp. 900, 907 (1990). the ultimate responsibility for keeping track of maintenance fee states lies with the patentee, not the USPTO. Since the mailing of Notices by the Office is completely discretionary and not a requirement imposed by Congress, accepting an argument that failure to receive a Notice is unavoidable delay would result in all delays being unavoidable should the Office discontinue the policy. All petitions could allege non-receipt of the reminder, and therefore all petitions could be granted. This was clearly not the intent of Congress in the creation of the unavoidable standard.

[6]See Ray v. Lehman, 55 F.3d 606, 610; 34 USPQ2d 1786, 1789 (Fed. Cir. 1995). The Letters of Patent contain a Maintenance Fee Notice that warns that the patent may be subject to maintenance fees if the application was filed on or after December 12, 1980. While it is unclear as to who was and is in actual possession of the patent, petitioner's failure to read the Notice does not vitiate the Notice, nor does the delay resulting from such failure to read the Notice establish unavoidable delay.

[7] 37 CFR 1.378(b)(3) precludes acceptance of a late maintenance fee for a patent unless a petitioner can demonstrate that steps were in place to monitor the maintenance fee. The federal Circuit has specifically upheld the validity of this regulation. Ray v. Lehman, 55 F.3d 606, 609; 34 USPQ2d (BNA) 1786 (Fed.Cir. 1995). In Ray v. Lehman, petitioner claimed that he had not known of the existence of the maintenance fees and therefore had no steps in place to pay such fees. The petitioner therefore argues that the PTO's regulation, 37 CFR 1.37(b)(3), supra, arguing that it 'creates a burden that goes well beyond what is reasonably prudent." We disagree, The PTOs' regulation merely sets forth how one is to prove that he was reasonably prudent, i.e., by showing what steps he took to ensure that the maintenance fee would be timely paid, and the steps taken in seeking to reinstate the patent. We do not see these requirements additional to proving unavoidable delay, but as the very elements of unavoidable delay." Id.

Any renewed petition under 37 CFR 1.378(e) filed must provide the following, accordingly:

- Additional information regarding the kind of docketing system the assignee used, its use in the industry, and why it is a reliable system.
- Explain the process used to enter petitioner's data into the docketing system, more specifically, what data integrity and error checks were used in the process.
- Explain, in detail, the tests conducted to verify the completeness and reliability of the data entered into the database and provide statements from employees who were involved with the data entry.
- Explain how the data entry was accomplished and how the error may have occurred.

It is also noted that there appears to be some sort of the clerical error in entry of the due dates for the maintenance fee for the subject patent. Further to this point, Section 711.03(c)(2) provides, in pertinent part that:

> In addition, decisions on revival are made on a "case-by-case basis, taking all the facts and circumstances into account." *Smith v. Mossinghoff*, 671 F.2d 533, 538, 213 USPQ 977, 982 (D.C. Cir. 1982). Finally, a petition cannot be granted where a petitioner has failed to meet his or her burden of establishing that the delay was "unavoidable." *Haines v. Quigg*, 673 F. Supp. 314, 316-17, 5 USPQ2d 1130, 1131-32 (N.D. Ind. 1987).
>
> A delay resulting from an error (e.g., a docketing error) on the part of an employee in the performance of a clerical function may provide the basis for a showing of "unavoidable" delay, provided it is shown that:
>
> (A) the error was the cause of the delay at issue;
>
> (B) there was in place a business routine for performing the clerical function that could reasonably be relied upon to avoid errors in its performance; and
>
> (C) the employee was sufficiently trained and experienced with regard to the function and routine for its performance that reliance upon such employee represented the exercise of due care.

A successful petition under 37 CFR 1.378(b) under the circumstances presented would require petitioner to establish that Mr. Adamowski and Mr. Claus, to whom the clerical error is attributed, were sufficiently trained and experienced relative to the docketing of the maintenance fee payment schedule so as demonstrate that reliance on them represented the exercise of due care. Petitioner offers only sparse details as to the business routine in place for ensuring accurate data entry and maintenance of the data. If petitioner's chooses to file a renewed petition, it must be accompanied by comprehensive and exhaustive evidence that supports petitioner's contention that a clerical/docketing error resulted in the unavoidable delay in paying the 7.5-year maintenance fee.

It is noted that petitioner states that the assignee is a small corporation with limited staff and apparently limited resources. Petitioner intimates that there was not in place an organized docketing and clerical apparatus responsible for docketing the maintenance payments. Petitioner will note, however, that is reasonable to expect that petitioner would have established some kind of docketing system by which to track the payment of maintenance fees and that this task would have been delegated to a person who was familiar with the governing rules and time frames for payment of the maintenance fee. The apparent lack of any organized docketing system or trained employee implies imprudence relative to the maintenance of

patent and belies petitioner's contention that the delay in payment of the maintenance fee was unavoidable. Petitioner is required to address this matter in any renewed petition filed.

Petitioner's Current Options

I. Petitioner may file a request for reconsideration.

If reconsideration of this decision is desired, a petition for reconsideration must be filed within TWO (2) MONTHS from the mail date of this decision.[8] The petition for reconsideration should be titled "Petition for Reconsideration under 37 CFR 1.378(b)." Any petition for reconsideration for this decision must be accompanied by a non-refundable petition fee of $400.00 as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(h).

After a decision on the petition for reconsideration, no further reconsideration or review of the matter will be undertaken by the Commissioner. It is, therefore, extremely important that petitioner supply any and all relevant information and documentation with the request for reconsideration. The Commissioner's decision will be based solely on the administrative record in existence. Petitioner should remember that is not enough that the delay was unavoidable; petitioner must prove that the delay was unavoidable. A petition will not be granted if petitioner provides insufficient evidence "to show" that the delay was unavoidable. If a request for reconsideration is filed, it must establish that the entire delay in the submission of the maintenance fee was unavoidable.

II. Petitioner may request a refund of the maintenance fee and surcharge which accompanied the petition.

Petitioner may request a refund of the maintenance fee and surcharge by writing to the Office of Finance, Refund Section, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231. A copy of this decision should accompany petitioner's request.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail: Commissioner for Patent
Mail Stop Petitions
Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1460

By facsimile: (571) 273-8300
Attn: Office of Petitions

A reasonable and prudent person would not rely on maintenance fee reminders from the Office for two reasons. First, the Office has indicated that such reminders are a mere courtesy and has reserved the right to discontinue such reminders at any time. second, such reminders may be lost in the mail. A reasonable and prudent person, in regard to his most important business would not rely solely on reminders that the Office may or may not send which may or may not be lost in the mail.

[8]No extension of this two-month time limit can be granted under 37 CFR 1.136(a) or (b). This is not a final agency action within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. § 704.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3222.

/Kenya A. McLaughlin/

Kenya A. McLaughlin
Petition Attorney
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
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ANTONELLI TERRY STOUT & KRAUS
1300 NORTH SEVENTEENTH STREET
ARLINGTON VA 22209

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OCT 06 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of
Tsutomu Takahashi et al.
Application No. 09/050,946
Filed: March 31, 1998
Attorney Docket No. 501.36088X00

ON PETITION

This is a decision on the petition to withdraw the holding of abandonment, filed September 9, 2011 which is treated under 37 CFR 1.181.[1]

The petition under 37 CFR 1.181 is **GRANTED**.

A Notice of Allowance was mailed March 1, 1999. Payment of the issue fee was due not later than June 1, 1999. The application became abandoned June 2, 1999 for failure to timely pay the issue fee. Accordingly, a Notice of Abandonment was mailed November 3, 1999.

Petitioners argue that on June 1, 1999, the Issue Fee was paid although with an incorrect application number and thus the application became abandoned. Notwithstanding, petitioners argue that while the incorrect application number was included, other identifiers were present. Submitted as proof is a copy of the Issue Fee Transmittal and a postcard receipt date stamped on June 1, 1999 by the USPTO.

While the requirement for filing papers with the USPTO is that every paper bear an appropriate application no. or identifier, petitioner is correct that other identifiable information was found to be on the papers filed as the response. As such, the papers were not previously matched with the correct application and thus it appeared that the response was not timely.

A review of the file reveals that the response filed June 1, 1999 was filed in the wrong application file. However, the evidence submitted corroborates a timely submission of the Issue Fee. Accordingly, the Notice of Abandonment mailed November 3, 1999 was mailed in error and is hereby withdrawn. No petition fee is due and none has been charged.

---

[1] A review of the record reveals that a petition to withdraw the holding of abandonment was filed November 23, 1999 however no decision was rendered and as such, the instant petition was resubmitted.

This matter will be referred to the Publishing Division to be processed into a Patent.

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned Petitions Attorney at (571) 272-3212.

Patricia Faison-Ball
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
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DENNIS H LAMBERT
7000 VIEW PARK DRIVE
BURKE VA 22015

MAILED

JAN 23 2012

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No.5,971,141 :
Issue Date: 26 October, 1999 :
Application No. 09/052,175 : DECISION ON PETITION
Filed: 31 March, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No. 56733 :

This is a decision on the petition filed on 28 December, 2011, and properly treated as a petition pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.378(b)[1] requesting acceptance of payment of a maintenance fee for the above-referenced patent as having been delayed due to unavoidable delay.

NOTE:

Petitioner avers that the unavoidable delay herein was the use of an out-of-date fee schedule that Petitioner previously printed out, and the resultant submission of a less-than-sufficient amount for the third maintenance fee.

However, Petitioner told only part of the story.

The record reflects that:

- Petitioner waited until 25 October, 2011—the day before the expiration of the patent at midnight 26 October, 2011—to submit the third maintenance fee.
- At that time Petitioner submitted not only an insufficient maintenance fee (*i.e.*, $2,065.00 rather than $2,365.00), but, also, an insufficient surcharge (*i.e.*, $65.00 rather than $75.00).
- Petitioner, thus, effectively acknowledged that he failed to refer to the Office website (www.uspto.gov), and in particular the current fee schedule at the Office

[1] A grantable petition to accept a delayed maintenance fee payment under 37 C.F.R. §1.378(b) must be include
(1) the required maintenance fee set forth in §1.20(e) through (g);
(2) the surcharge set forth in §1.20(l)(1); and
(3) a showing that the delay was unavoidable since reasonable care was taken to ensure that the maintenance fee would be paid timely and that the petition was filed promptly after the patentee was notified of, or otherwise became aware of, the expiration of the patent. The showing must enumerate the steps taken to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee, the date and the manner in which patentee became aware of the expiration of the patent, and the steps taken to file the petition promptly.

website (http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/ac/qs/ope/fee092611.htm), and with specificity the maintenance fee section of the current fee schedule at the Office website (http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/ac/qs/ope/fee092611.htm#maintain) before submitting the third maintenance fee.

- Petitioner averred that this failure on his part constituted unavoidable delay.
- The petition is accompanied by a statement from Petitioner's administrative assistant, who averred that she used an old fee schedule, rather than the current fee schedule that became effective 26 September, 2011—a month before the patent expired.
- Petitioner averred and complained that "[t]he patent had expired by the time Petitioner learned that an insufficient fee had been paid."
- Petitioner further averred that "the person making the payment inadvertently picked up and relied upon an incorrect Patent Office fee schedule."
- The record—based upon papers submitted on petition by Petitioner—reflects that while someone else may have transmitted the papers and fees, Petitioner—who is the one registered to practice before the Office—signed and submitted the payment.

The petition pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.378(b) is **DISMISSED**.

If reconsideration of this decision is desired, a petition for reconsideration under 37 C.F.R. §1.378(e) must be filed within TWO (2) MONTHS from the mail date of this decision.

No extension of this 2-month time limit can be granted under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) or (b).

A petition for reconsideration **must** be accompanied by the petition fee of $400.00 as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(f).

The petition for reconsideration **shall** include an exhaustive attempt to provide the lacking item(s) noted below, since, after a decision on the petition for reconsideration, the Director will undertake no further reconsideration or review of the matter.

This is **not** a final agency action within the meaning of 5 U.S.C.§704.

A petition to accept the delayed payment of a maintenance fee under 35 USC §41(c) and 37 C.F.R. §1.378(b) must be accompanied by:

> *(1) an adequate showing that the delay was unavoidable, since reasonable care was taken to ensure that the maintenance fee would be paid timely;*
>
> *(2) payment of the appropriate maintenance fee, unless previously submitted; and*
>
> *(3) payment of the surcharge set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.20(i)(1).*

The instant petition fails to satisfy requirement (1), listed/described above.

BACKGROUND

Patent No. 5,971,141 (the '141 patent) issued on 26 October, 1999. The third maintenance fee could have been paid during the period from 26 October, 2010, through midnight 26 April, 2011, or, with a surcharge, during the period from 27 April, 2011, through midnight 26 October, 2011. Accordingly, the patent expired after midnight 26 October 2011, for failure to pay timely the third maintenance fee.

The instant petition (with fee) pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.378(b) was filed on 28 December, 2011—it is noted that Petitioner could have chosen to submit a petition pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.378(c), averring unintentional delay, but apparently chose not to do so.

STATUTE AND REGULATION

The grant of authority at 35 U.S.C. §41(c)(1) provides that:

> The Director may accept the payment of any maintenance fee required by subsection (b) of this section...after the six-month grace period if the delay is shown to the satisfaction of the Director to have been unavoidable.

The regulations 37 C.F.R. §1.378(b)(3) thus set forth that any petition to accept delayed payment of a maintenance fee must include:

> A showing that the delay was unavoidable since reasonable care was taken to ensure that the maintenance fee would be paid timely and that the petition was filed promptly after the patentee was notified of, or otherwise became aware of, the expiration of the patent. The showing must enumerate the steps taken to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee, the date, and the manner in which patentee became aware of the expiration of the patent, and the steps taken to file the petition promptly. (Emphasis supplied.)

Out of an abundance of caution, Petitioners always are reminded that those registered to practice and all others who make representations before the Office **must** inquire into the underlying facts of representations made to the Office and support averments with the appropriate documentation–since all owe to the Office the continuing duty of candor and duty to disclose.[2]

OPINION

The Director may accept late payment of the maintenance fee under 35 U.S.C. §41(c) and 37 C.F.R. §1.378(b) if the delay is shown to the satisfaction of the Director to have been "unavoidable."[3]

A late maintenance fee is considered under the same standard as that for reviving an abandoned application under 35 U.S.C. §133 because 35 U.S.C. §41(c)(1) uses the identical language, i.e., "unavoidable" delay.[4] Decisions reviving abandoned applications have adopted the reasonably prudent person standard in determining if the delay was unavoidable.[5] In addition, decisions on revival are made on a "case-by-case basis, taking all the facts and circumstances into account."[6] Finally, a petition to revive an application or reinstate a patent as abandoned or expired due to unavoidable delay cannot be granted where a Petitioner has failed to meet his or her burden of establishing the cause of the unavoidable delay.[7]

Petitioner's Contentions as to Unavoidable Delay

Petitioner Dennis H. Lambert (Reg. No. 25,071) sought relief on behalf of the patentee (Office record reflects no assignee data recorded in this matter) pursuant to the regulations at 37 C.F.R. §1.378, averring unavoidable delay.

Patent No. 5,971,141 (the '141 patent) issued on 26 October, 1999. The third maintenance fee could have been paid during the period from 26 October, 2010, through midnight 26 April, 2011, or, with a surcharge, during the period from 27 April, 2011, through midnight 26 October, 2011. Accordingly, the patent expired after midnight 26 October 2011, for failure to pay timely the third maintenance fee.

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[2] See supplement of 17 June, 1999. The Patent and Trademark Office is relying on Petitioner's duty of candor and good faith and accepting a statement made by Petitioner. See Changes to Patent Practice and Procedure, 62 Fed. Reg. at 53160 and 53178, 1203 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office at 88 and 103 (responses to comments 64 and 109)(Petitioner obligated under 37 C.F.R. §10.18 to inquire into the underlying facts and circumstances when providing statements to the Patent and Trademark Office).

[3] 35 U.S.C. §41(c)(1).

[4] *Ray v. Lehman*, 55 F.3d 606, 608-09, 34 USPQ2d 1786, 1787 (Fed. Cir. 1995)(quoting In re Patent No. 4,409,763, 7 USPQ2d 1798, 1800 (Comm'r Pat. 1988)).

[5] *Ex parte Pratt*, 1887 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 31, 32-33 (Comm'r Pat. 1887) (the term "unavoidable" "is applicable to ordinary human affairs, and requires no more or greater care or diligence than is generally used and observed by prudent and careful man in relation to their most important business"); *In re Mattullath*, 38 App. D.C. 497, 514-15 (D.C. Cir. 1912); *Ex parte Henrich*, 1913 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 139, 141 (Comm'r Pat. 1913).

[6] *Smith v. Mossinghoff*, 671 F.2d 533, 538, 213 USPQ 977, 982 (D.C. Cir. 1982).

[7] *Haines v. Quigg*, 673 F. Supp. 314, 5 USPQ2d 1130 (N.D. Ind. 1987).

The instant petition (with fee) pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.378(b) was filed on 28 December, 2011—it is noted that Petitioner could have chosen to submit a petition pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.378(c), averring unintentional delay, but apparently chose not to do so.

The sum and substance of the petition is set forth by Petitioner and in the statement of his administrative assistant Christine A. Lambert (Ms. Lambert). There Petitioner contends that:

- Petitioner submitted on 25 October, 2011—the day before the expiration of the patent at midnight 26 October, 2011—the third maintenance fee.[8]

- At that time Petitioner submitted not only an insufficient maintenance fee (*i.e.*, $2,065.00 rather than $2,365.00),[9] but, also, an insufficient surcharge (*i.e.*, $65.00 rather than $75.00).[10]

- Petitioner, thus, effectively acknowledged that he failed to refer to the Office website (www.uspto.gov), and in particular the current fee schedule at the Office website (http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/ac/qs/ope/fee092611.htm), and with specificity the maintenance fee section of the current fee schedule at the Office website (http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/ac/qs/ope/fee092611.htm#maintain) before submitting the third maintenance fee.[11]

- Petitioner averred that this failure on his part constituted unavoidable delay.

- The petition is accompanied by a statement from Petitioner's administrative assistant, who averred that she used an old fee schedule, rather than the current fee schedule that became effective 26 September, 2011—a month before the patent expired.[12]

- Petitioner averred and complained that "[t]he patent had expired by the time Petitioner learned that an insufficient fee had been paid."[13]

- Petitioner further averred that "the person making the payment inadvertently picked up and relied upon an incorrect Patent Office fee schedule."[14]

- The record—based upon papers submitted on petition by Petitioner—reflects that someone else may have transmitted the papers and fees, Petitioner signed and submitted the payment.[15]

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[8] Petition of 28 December, 2011, at page 1-2, and the statement of Ms. Lambert, at page 1-2.
[9] Petition of 28 December, 2011, at page 1-2, and the statement of Ms. Lambert, at page 1-2.
[10] Neither the petition nor the statement reflect this fact.
[11] Petition of 28 December, 2011, at page 1-2, and the statement of Ms. Lambert, at page 1-2.
[12] The statement of Ms. Lambert, at page 1-2.
[13] Petition of 28 December, 2011, at page 1-2, and affirmed by the statement of Ms. Lambert, at page 1-2.
[14] Petition of 28 December, 2011, at page 1-2, and affirmed by the statement of Ms. Lambert, at page 1-2.
[15] The copy of the Maintenance Fee Transmittal Form submitted as an attachment to the petition.

Thus, the record reflects that the instant matter is not one of a docketing or calendaring problem—but rather the failure of Petitioner to attend to changes made by the Office a month earlier and announced long before that. (There is no showing that the docketing/calendaring of maintenance fees for the instant matter was improperly performed. Thus, there is no showing of a failure that was systemic—such as that which occurs when a computer or computer program fails.)

The error was of a not-unfamiliar form: plain human error, which is a delay that is not unavoidable but unintentional—however such a consideration is not before the Office.

In any case, such facts as have been recited do not suggest diligence—at least a level of diligence as required herein—on the part of those who were supposed to attend to this matter.

The provisions of 35 U.S.C. §41(c)(1) do not require an affirmative finding that the delay was avoidable, but only an explanation as to why the Petitioner has failed to carry his or her burden to establish that the delay was unavoidable.[16] The provisions of 35 U.S.C. §133 do not require the Commissioner to affirmatively find that the delay was avoidable, but only to explain why the applicant's petition was unavailing.

Petitioner is reminded that it is the patentee's/assignee's burden under the statutes and regulations to make a showing to the satisfaction of the Director that the delay in payment of a maintenance fee is unavoidable.[17]

This the Petitioner and/ or patentee has/have not done.

At bottom, the question is one of diligence.[18]

Because 35 U.S.C. § 41(b) requires the payment of fees at specified intervals to maintain a patent in force, rather than some response to a specific action by the Office under 35 USC § 133, a reasonably prudent person in the exercise of due care and diligence would have taken steps to ensure the timely payment of such maintenance fees.[19] That is, an adequate showing that the delay in payment of the maintenance fee at issue was "unavoidable" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 41(c) and 37 C.F.R. §1.378(b)(3) requires a showing of the steps taken by the responsible party to ensure the timely payment of the third/last maintenance fee for this patent.[20] There are three periods to be considered during the evaluation of a petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.378(b):

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[16] *See Commissariat A. L'Energie Atomique v. Watson*, 274 F.2d 594, 597, 124 USPQ 126, 128 (D.C. Cir. 1960).

[17] *See Rydeen v. Quigg*, 748 F. Supp. 900, 16 USPQ2d 1876 (D.D.C. 1990), aff'd 937 F.2d 623 (Fed. Cir. 1991)(table), *cert. denied*, 502 U.S. 1075 (1992); *Ray v. Lehman, supra.*

[18] *See: Changes to Patent Practice and Procedure; Final Rule Notice*, 62 *Fed. Reg.* at 53158-59 (October 10, 1997), 1203 *Off. Gaz. Pat. Office* at 86-87 (October 21, 1997). *See also: Ray v. Lehman, supra.*

[19] *Ray*, 55 F.3d at 609, 34 USPQ2d at 1788.

[20] *Id.*

(1) The delay in reply that originally resulted in expiration;

(2) The delay in filing an initial petition pursuant to §1.378(b) to reinstate the patent; and

(3) The delay in filing a grantable petition pursuant to §1.378(b) to reinstate the patent.[21]

At the outset and as of this writing, the showing is not persuasive with regards to the nature of the delay in reply that originally resulted in expiration or as to the filing of the initial petition (Items 1 and 2), which are the periods pertinent at this time.

Petitioner must provide documentary foundations in support of a showing of unavoidable delay.

Thus, at this writing the statements and papers presented in/with the petition fail to satisfy the showing required to establish unavoidable delay within the meaning of 37 C.F.R. §1.378(b).

A showing of diligence in matters before the Office is essential to support a finding of unavoidable delay herein.[22] There is no "sliding scale" based upon the priority given to this maintaining this patent in force, or more diligently seeking reinstatement, *vis-a-vis* other matters by Petitioner. The issue is solely whether the maintenance, or reinstatement, of the patent at issue was actually conducted with the care or diligence that is generally used and observed by prudent and careful persons in relation to their most important business.

At this writing the record fails to adequately evidence the exercise of due care and diligence observed by prudent and careful persons, in relation to their most important business, which is necessary to establish unavoidable delay.[23]

The record at this writing does not provide a clear showing that reasonable steps were taken to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee. In fact, the record indicates that no steps were taken by Patentee(s) and/or Assignee to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee.

The provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.378(b) preclude acceptance of the delayed payment of the maintenance fee due to unavoidable delay. The regulations at 37 C.F.R. §1.378(b)(3) state that any petition to accept delayed payment of a maintenance fee must include:

> A showing that the delay was unavoidable since reasonable care was taken to ensure that the maintenance fee would be paid timely and that the petition was filed promptly after the patentee was notified of, or otherwise became aware of, the expiration of the patent. The showing must enumerate the steps taken to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee, the date, and the manner in which

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[21] *See* Changes to Patent Practice and Procedure; Final Rule Notice, 62 Fed. Reg. 53131 at 53158 (October 10, 1997).

[22] *See Futures Technology, Ltd. v. Quigg*, 684 F. Supp. 430, 431, 7 USPQ2d 1588 (E.D. Va. 1988)(applicant's diligent inquiry into the status of the application is required to show unavoidable delay); *Douglas v. Manbeck*, 21 USPQ2d 1697, 1699-1700 (E.D. Pa. 1991), *aff'd*, 975 F.2d 869, 24 USPQ2d 1318 (Fed. Cir. 1992) (even representation by counsel does not relieve the applicant from his obligation to exercise diligence before the USPTO; applicant's lack of diligence extending two and one half years overcame and superseded any omissions by his counsel).

[23] *Pratt, supra.*

patentee became aware of the expiration of the patent, and the steps taken to file the petition promptly.

In any future filing, this showing should include, but is not limited to, docket records, tickler reports, and file jacket entries for this application, and documents regarding the alleged cause of the delay and copies of any documents referred to in Petitioner's statement as to the cause of the unavoidable delay are required. All the causes which contributed to the failure to timely pay the maintenance fee must be presented and supported with appropriate evidence.[24] (In general, a Petitioner should identify the party(ies) responsible for making the payment: A showing must be made (with supporting documents) outlining the efforts made to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee--including scheduling and calendaring information, appointment of an individual with the authority and responsibility to pay the fee, and detailing of the causes for a failure in that process.)

Thus, as of this writing, the Office is unable to grant the relief sought.

In summary, the showing of record has been considered, but does not rise to the level of unavoidable delay. Rather, the showing of record is of possible a lack of diligence. (*See*: http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/mpep/documents/2500_2590.htm#sect2590)

CONCLUSION

For the reasons stated above, the delay in this case cannot be regarded as unavoidable within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §41(c)(1) and 37 C.F.R. §1.378(b).

Accordingly, the petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.378(b) is **dismissed**.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By Mail:
Mail Stop PETITION
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

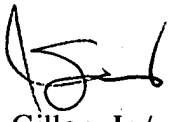
By hand:
U. S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Petitions
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

[24] The showing must also enumerate the date and the manner in which patentee became aware of the expiration of the patent, and the steps taken to file the petition promptly. Statements from all persons who contributed to the delay are also required.

Patent No.5,971,141
Application No. 09/052,175

By facsimile: **(571) 273-8300**
Attn: Office of Petitions

Telephone inquiries regarding this decision may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3214—it is noted, however, that all practice before the Office is in writing (see: 37 C.F.R. §1.2[25]) and the proper authority for action on any matter in this regard are the statutes (35 U.S.C.), regulations (37 C.F.R.) and the commentary on policy (MPEP). Therefore, no telephone discussion may be controlling or considered authority for Petitioner's action(s).



/John J. Gillon, Jr./
John J. Gillon, Jr.
Senior Attorney
Office of Petitions

[25] The regulations at 37 C.F.R. §1.2 provide:

§1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent and Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of Petitioners or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
P.O. BOX 1450
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

CRAIG J ARNOLD
AMSTER ROTHSTEIN & EBENSTEIN
90 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK NY 10016

MAILED

JUL 11 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,997,868	:	
Issued: 12/07/1999	:	
Application No. 09/052,199	:	NOTICE
Filed: 03/31/1998	:	
Attorney Docket No. 50425/41	:	

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 filed June 16, 2011.

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue patent under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This patent is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this patent must be paid at the large entity rate.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3211.

C. T. Donnell

Christina Tartera Donnell
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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AUG 01 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

M. Sharon Rogone
Small Beginnings, Inc.
17229 #E7 Lemon Street
Hesperia, CA 92345

In re Patent No. 6,210,320 :
Issued: April 3, 2001 : ON PETITION
Application No.: 09/053,346 :
Filing Date: April 1, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No. :

This is a request for information in response to the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(b), filed July 11, 2011.

The petition is **dismissed**.

A review of the petition document reveals that it is signed only by M. Sharon Rogone who is one of two joint inventors. It is noted that 37 CFR 1.33(b) provides, that:

> (b) *Amendments and other papers*. Amendments and other papers, except for written assertions pursuant to § 1.27(c)(2)(ii) of this part, filed in the application must be signed by:
>
> (1) A registered patent attorney or patent agent of record appointed in compliance with § 1.32(b);
>
> (2) A registered attorney or agent not of record who acts in a representative capacity under the provisions of § 1.34;
>
> (3) An assignee as provided for under § 3.71(b) of this chapter; or
>
> (4) All of the applicants (§ 1.41(b)) for patent, unless there is an assignee of the entire interest and such assignee has taken action in the application in accordance with § 3.71 of this chapter.

The petition must be dismissed, without prejudice, because it is only signed by one of the join inventors. The renewed petition must be signed by either all of the join inventors, a registered patent attorney, or an authorized representative of the assignee that is empowered under 37 CFR 3.73(b).

It is noted that petition under 37 CFR 1.378(b) filed in U.S. Patent No. 5,613,502 was accompanied by several supporting documents which were not made a part of this petition, notwithstanding petitioner's request. These documents are material to the instant petition, however. Petitioner is cautioned, however, that each patent matter is exclusive in, and of, itself. Accordingly, petitioner is required to file the supporting documents in the subject application, and, going forward, a separate "Response to Request for Information" and any other filings should be filed in each patent matter.

It is further noted that the address cited on the petition differs from the address of record. Petitioner should file a request to change the correspondence address with the Response to Request for Information.

The address cited on the petition differs from the address of record. Although a courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the address cited on the petition, all future correspondence will be mailed solely to the address of record until appropriate written instructions to the contrary are received.

Any inquiries related to this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3222.

/Kenya A. McLaughlin/

Kenya A. McLaughlin
Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

Enclosure: Form PTO/SB/96

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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SEP 07 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

(Mary) Sharon Rogone (AKA LEE)
140430 Choco Rd.
Apple Valley CA 92307

In re Patent No. 6,210,320 :
Issued: April 3, 2001 : REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
Application No.: 09/053,346 :
Filing Date: April 1, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No. :

This is a request for information in response to the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(b), filed August 26, 2011.

Petitioner is allowed a non-extendable period for reply of **TWO (2) MONTHS** from the mailing date of this communication to provide a response. The response should be titled, "Response to Request for Information." If no response is provided within the period set forth, a decision will be made solely on the merits as set forth in the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(b) filed July 11, 2011. No additional fees are due.

The patent issued April 3, 2001. The 3.5 year maintenance fee could have been paid from April 3, 2004, through October 3, 2004, or with a surcharge, as authorized by 37 CFR 1.20(h), during the period from October 4, 2004, to April 3, 2005. Petitioner did not do so. Accordingly, the patent expired at midnight on April 3, 2005. It is noted that the period for paying the 7.5-year maintenance fee has also passed.

Petitioner is required to address the following points:

- Petitioner states that Mr. Kenneth Crouteau was hired as the Chief Operating Officer of Small Beginnings, Inc. around late 2004. Petitioner further states that Mr. Crouteau and Mrs. Rogone were informed by a previous attorney of the need to pay maintenance fees on the patents and Mrs. Rogone believed she put all relevant due dates on a master calendar. In some portions of the Response to Request for Information, petitioner states that Mr. Crouteau was largely responsible for tracking and paying the maintenance fees and in other portions petitioner indicates that Mrs. Rogone shared that responsibility. Petitioner is required to clarify who was finally responsible for tracking and paying the maintenance fee.
- It is noted that petitioner states that Mr. Crouteau really became indisposed in 2006 with many hardships that befell him. Petitioner is required to explain if any steps were taken during this period to transfer responsibility for tracking and paying the maintenance fee to someone other than Mr. Crouteau or Mrs. Rogone who was also suffering her own hardships.
- It is noted that the subject patent expired in April 2005, and that the window for payment of the 3.5-year maintenance fee opened in April 2004. Petitioner is required to explain whether Mr. Ted Lopez had a responsibility to pay the 3.5-year maintenance fee before responsibility for paying the maintenance fees was transferred to Mr. Crouteau and/or Mrs. Rogone.
- Petitioner is required to provide more detail for the method/system used to track and pay the maintenance fee. Specifically, petitioner is required to establish that there was a business routine

in place for tracking and paying the maintenance fee that could be reasonably relied upon to ensure the timely payment of the maintenance fee.

- If petitioner is asserting that Mr. Crouteau was chiefly responsible for tracking and paying the maintenance fee for a portion of the relevant period, i.e., Late 2004 until the present, petitioner must establish that Mr. Crouteau's delay was unavoidable. Petitioner states that Mr. Crouteau was indisposed as of 2006, with familial hardships and illnesses. Yet, there is a period from late 2004 until 2006 where petitioner has not clarified Mr. Crouteau's role. Petitioner must explain whether Mr. Crouteau was responsible for tracking and paying the maintenance fee from Late 2004 until 2006. Further, petitioner asserts that Ms. Crouteau was suffered ill health during a portion of the relevant period, i.e., from March 2009, until he passed away in 2010. Petitioner is required to document the period of Mr. Crouteau's ill health. This can be done by submitting copies of medical records and/or notations from the treating physician. Petitioner is cautioned to redact any personal identifiers, i.e., social security numbers and account numbers, as these filings may be accessible to the public.
- Petitioner states that in early 2010, petitioner discovered the patent was expired. Yet, the first petition to reinstate the patent was not filed until July 2011. Petitioner states that during this time, petitioner was researching how to reinstate the patent and trying communicate with the USPTO regarding the same. It seems, however, that well over one year passed between the time petitioner discovered the patent was expired and the petition to reinstate the patent was filed. Petitioner must explain how this entire period of delay was unavoidable.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail: Commissioner for Patent
Mail Stop Petitions
Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1460

By facsimile: (571) 273-8300
Attn: Office of Petitions

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3222.

/Kenya A. McLaughlin/

Kenya A. McLaughlin
Petition Attorney
Office of Petitions

cc:
M. Sharon Rogone
Small Beginnings, Inc.
17229 #E7 Lemon Street
Hesperia, CA 92345

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United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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DEC 05 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

((Mary) Sharon Rogone (AKA LEE)
140430 Choco Rd.
Apple Valley CA 92307

In re Patent No. 6,210,320 :
Issued: April 3, 2001 : REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
Application No.: 09/053,346 :
Filing Date: April 1, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No. :

This is a request for information in response to the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(b), filed October 5, 2011.

Petitioner is allowed a non-extendable period for reply of **TWO (2) MONTHS** from the mailing date of this communication to provide a response. The response should be titled, "Response to Request for Information." If no response is provided within the period set forth, a decision will be made solely on the merits as set forth in the petitions under 37 CFR 1.378(b) filed July 11, 2011 and August 26, 2011. No additional fees are due.

The patent issued April 3, 2001. The 3.5 year maintenance fee could have been paid from April 3, 2004, through October 3, 2004, or with a surcharge, as authorized by 37 CFR 1.20(h), during the period from October 4, 2004, to April 3, 2005. Petitioner did not do so. Accordingly, the patent expired at midnight on April 3, 2005. It is noted that the period for paying the 7.5-year maintenance fee has also passed. Petitioner is required to address the following points:

- It is noted that petitioner states that Mrs. Rogone was responsible for tracking and paying the maintenance fee for the subject patent, including maintaining the master docket calendar on which maintenance fee due dates were entered. Petitioner asserts that, as a result of many hardships that befell Mrs. Rogone and her employees, the master docket calendar on which the maintenance fee due dates were docketed was forgotten about and later found in the files and papers of Mr. Crouteau. Section 711.03(c)(2) of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, provides, in pertinent part that:

  In addition, decisions on revival are made on a "case-by-case basis, taking all the facts and circumstances into account." *Smith v. Mossinghoff*, 671 F.2d 533, 538, 213 USPQ 977, 982 (D.C. Cir. 1982). Finally, a petition cannot be granted where a petitioner has failed to meet his or her burden of establishing that the delay was "unavoidable." *Haines v. Quigg*, 673 F. Supp. 314, 316-17, 5 USPQ2d 1130, 1131-32 (N.D. Ind. 1987).

  A delay resulting from an error (e.g., a docketing error) on the part of an employee in the performance of a clerical function may provide the basis for a showing of "unavoidable" delay, provided it is shown that:

  (A) the error was the cause of the delay at issue;

(B) there was in place a business routine for performing the clerical function that could reasonably be relied upon to avoid errors in its performance; and

(C) the employee was sufficiently trained and experienced with regard to the function and routine for its performance that reliance upon such employee represented the exercise of due care.

A delay resulting from an error, such a docketing error, on the part of an employee in the performance of a clerical function may provide the basis for a showing of unavoidable delay. Such a showing should identify the specific error (which petitioner states is the failure to consult with the master docket calendar), the individual who made the error, and the business routine in place for performing the action which resulted in the error. The showing must establish that the individual who erred was sufficiently trained and experienced with regard to the function and routine for its performance that reliance upon such employee represented the exercise of due care. The showing should include information regarding the training provided to the personnel responsible for the docketing error, degree of supervision of their work, examples of other work functions carried out, and checks on the described work which were used to assure proper execution of assigned task.

- Petitioner is required to succinctly state the circumstances that may have affected Mrs. Rogone from the date the maintenance fee payment window opened, i.e., October 3, 2004, until July 2011, that may have prevented Mrs. Rogone from looking into the status of the patent and/or consulting with the master docket calendar to discover the maintenance fee was coming due. As petitioner states that Mrs. Rogone was chiefly responsible for tracking and paying the maintenance fees and maintaining the master docket calendar, this inquiry is directed to Mrs. Rogone only and not meant to solicit any other circumstances relating to Mr. Crouteau or other employees.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail: Commissioner for Patent
Mail Stop Petitions
Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1460

By facsimile: (571) 273-8300
Attn: Office of Petitions

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3222.

/Kenya A. McLaughlin/

Kenya A. McLaughlin
Petition Attorney
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 6126367
Issue Date: October 3,2000
Application No. 09053525
Filed: March 31,1998
Attorney Docket No. 27139-PA

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed September 28,2010 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 7.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of September 28,2010 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6126367	2000-10-03	09053525	1998-03-31	

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity			Small Entity		
	Fee	Code		Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	◉	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

○ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

◉ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

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Sole Patentee			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature.			
Signature	/ Gary J. Reed/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2010-05-25
Name	Gary J. Reed		

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 6191793
Issue Date: February 20,2001
Application No. 09053591
Filed: April 1,1998
Attorney Docket No. 11103

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed October 4,2010 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 7.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of October 4,2010 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6191793	2001-02-20	09053591	1998-04-01	11103

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
◉	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Kendal M. Sheets/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2010-09-30
Name	Kendal M. Sheets	Registration Number	47077

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

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5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6912588	2005-06-28	09054304	1998-04-02	P8895

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☒ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
◉	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Jeffrey S. Draeger/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2010-08-08
Name	Jeffrey S. Draeger	Registration Number	41000

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

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5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

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9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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In re Patent No. 6912588
Issue Date: June 28,2005
Application No. 09054304
Filed: April 2,1998
Attorney Docket No. SERVNOW.004A

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed August 2,2010 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 3.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of August 2,2010 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re Patent No. 6146342
Issue Date: November 14,2000
Application No. 09054387
Filed: April 3,1998
Attorney Docket No.

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed September 23,2010 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 7.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of September 23,2010 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

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Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6,146,342	2000-11-14	09054387	1998-04-03	

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	◉	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

○ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

◉ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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Sole Patentee			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature.			
Signature	/Harry Glen/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2010-09-23
Name	Harry Glen		

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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KENNETH C. SPAFFORD
708 SMITHSON AVENUE
ERIE PA 16511

MAILED
JUL 19 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
Anthony A. Anthony :
Application No. 09/056,379 : NOTICE UNDER 37 CFR. 1.28(c)
Patent No. 6,018,448 :
Filed: April 07, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No. X2YA0026U-US

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28.

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue patent under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This patent is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this patent must be paid at the large entity rate.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to Michelle R. Eason at (571) 272-4231.

Thurman K. Page
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

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MAILED
OCT 03 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

BRIAN STEINBERGER/UCF
101 BREVARD AVENUE
COCOA, FL 32922

In re Patent No. 6,039,541 :
Issue Date: March 21, 2000 :
Application No. 09/056,428 : NOTICE
Filed: April 7, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No. UCF-185 :

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28. On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. **See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).**

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989).** Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED.**

This application is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this application must be paid at the large entity rate.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-1642.

/AMW/
April M. Wise
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6030241	2000-02-29	09056913	1998-04-08	

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
◉	11 ½ year	(1553)	○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Alison L. McCarthy/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2012-04-19
Name	Alison L. McCarthy	Registration Number	51998

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

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1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

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In re Patent No. 6030241
Issue Date: February 29,2000
Application No. 09056913
Filed: April 8,1998
Attorney Docket No. 4936X4

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed April 19,2012 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of April 19,2012 .
This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

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OCT 06 2011
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DONALD L WOOD
YOUNG MACFARLANE & WOOD
3001 W BIG BEAVER
SUITE 624
TROY MI 48084-3109

In re Patent No. 5,937,707	:	
Issue Date: August 17, 1999	:	
Application No. 09/057,301	:	ON PETITION
Filed: April 8, 1998	:	
Attorney Docket No. 65.748-418	:	

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c), filed September 22, 2011, to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

This patent expired on August 18, 2011, for failure to pay the eleven and one-half year maintenance fee. Since this petition was submitted within twenty-four months after the six-month grace period provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e), the petition was timely filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(c).

The maintenance fee is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

It is not apparent whether the person signing the statement of unintentional delay was in a position to have firsthand or direct knowledge of the facts and circumstances of the delay at issue. Nevertheless, such statement is being treated as having been made as the result of a reasonable inquiry into the facts and circumstances of such delay. In the event that such an inquiry has not been made, petitioner must make such an inquiry. If such inquiry results in the discovery that the delay in paying the maintenance fee under 37 CFR 1.378(c) was intentional, petitioner must notify the Office.

The application file does not indicate a change of address has been filed in this case, although the address given on the petition differs from the address of record. A change of address should be filed in this case in accordance with MPEP 601.03. A courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the address noted on the petition. However, until otherwise instructed, all future correspondence regarding this application will be mailed solely to the address of record.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to Kimberly Inabinet at (571) 272-4618.

The patent file is being forwarded to Files Repository.

/Kimberly Inabinet/

Kimberly Inabinet
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

cc: Thomas E. Anderson
Gifford, Krass, Sprinkle, Anderson & Citkowski, P.C.
P.O. Box 7021
Troy, MI 48007-7021

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

GARY A. WALPERT
HALE AND DORR LLP
60 STATE STREET
BOSTON MA 02109

MAILED
MAR 05 2012
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
Charles R. Gentzler :
Application No. 09/057380 :
Filing or 371(c) Date: 04/08/1998 : ON PETITION
Patent No. 6028477 :
Issue Date: 02/22/2000 :
Title of Invention: :
ADAPTIVE BIASING IN A POWER :
AMPLIFIER :

This is a notice regarding request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28. On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. **See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).**

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989).** Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED.**

This application is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this application must be paid at the large entity rate.

A review of the petition reveals that the address appearing on the petition differs from the correspondence address of record. Applicant is advised that, in patented files: requests for changes of correspondence address, powers of attorney, revocations of powers of attorney, withdrawal of attorney and submissions under 37 CFR 1.501: Designation of, or changes to, a fee address, should be addressed to Mail Stop M Correspondence.

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3232.

/DLW/

Derek L. Woods
Attorney
Office of Petitions

CC: BREVETAX LLC
8100 VISTA POINT LANE
FAIRFAX STATION, VA 22039

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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PPG INDUSTRIES INC
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPT
ONE PPG PLACE
PITTSBURGH PA 15272

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JAN 24 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of	:	
George A. Neuman, et al.	:	
Application No. 09/057,677	:	DECISION ON PETITION
Filed: April 9, 1998	:	
Attorney Docket No. 1048D2	:	

This is a decision on the petition under the unintentional provisions of 37 CFR 1.137(b), filed January 7, 2011, to revive the above-identified application.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

This application became abandoned for failure to timely pay the issue fee on or before April 8, 2010, as required by the Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due, mailed January 8, 2010. Accordingly, the date of abandonment of this application is April 9, 2010.

The petition satisfies the requirements of 37 CFR 1.137(b) in that petitioner has supplied (1) the reply in the form of payment of the issue fee of $1,510, (2) the petition fee of $1,620; and (3) a proper statement of unintentional delay.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to Terri Johnson at (571) 272-2991.

This application is being referred to the Office of Management for processing into a patent.

/Terri Johnson/
Terri Johnson
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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In re Patent No. 6208724
Issue Date: March 27,2001
Application No. 09057681
Filed: April 9,1998
Attorney Docket No. 11983.0008

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed October 4,2010 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 7.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of October 4,2010 .
This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6208724	2001-03-27	09057681	1998-04-09	11983.0008

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity

	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)
◉	7 ½ year	(1552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)

Small Entity

	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Kendal M. Sheets/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2010-09-30
Name	Kendal M. Sheets	Registration Number	47077

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

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The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6212603	2001-04-03	09057941	1998-04-09	002379P031

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity			Small Entity		
	Fee	Code		Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
◉	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Kendal M. Sheets/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2010-09-30
Name	Kendal M. Sheets	Registration Number	47077

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

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The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

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3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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P.O. Box 1450
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In re Patent No. 6212603
Issue Date: April 3,2001
Application No. 09057941
Filed: April 9,1998
Attorney Docket No. 002379P031

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed October 4,2010 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 7.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of October 4,2010 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

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OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, L.L.P.
1940 DUKE STREET
ALEXANDRIA VA 22314

MAILED
DEC 09 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

Patent No. 5,921,998	:	
Application No. 09/058,183	:	
Filed: April 10, 1998	:	ON PETITION
Issued: July 13, 1999	:	
Attorney Docket No. 10451-57	:	

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c), filed November 14, 2011, to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The patent issued July 13, 1999. The last day of the grace period for paying the 11.5-year maintenance fee was July 13, 2011. Therefore, since this petition was filed within twenty-four months after the six-month grace period provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e), this petition was timely filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(c).

The maintenance fee is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

It is not apparent whether the statement of unintentional delay was signed by a person who would have been in a position of knowing that the delay in filing a timely response was unintentional. Nevertheless, in accordance with 37 CFR 10.18, the statement is accepted as constituting a certification of unintentional delay. However, in the event that petitioner has no knowledge that the delay in paying the maintenance fee was in fact unintentional, petitioner must make such an inquiry to ascertain that, in fact, the delay was unintentional. If petitioner discovers that the delay in paying the maintenance fee was intentional, petitioner must so notify the Office. Also, it is not apparent whether the person signing the instant petition was ever given a power of attorney or authorization of agent to prosecute this patent. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.34(a), the signature appearing on the petition shall constitute a representation to the United States Patent and Trademark Office that he/she is authorized to represent the particular party in whose behalf he/she acts. A courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the address on the petition.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3206.

/Liana Walsh/
Liana Walsh
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

cc: JOSEPH M. ROLNICKI
EVANS & DIXON, L.L.C.
211 N. BROADWAY, SUITE 2500
ST. LOUIS, MO 63102

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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6129998	2000-10-10	09058262	1998-04-10	RES2000-04A

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity			Small Entity		
	Fee	Code		Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	◉	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

○ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

◉ The assignee of record of the entire interest

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The Assignee of record of the entire interest			
Under 37 CFR 3.71 an assignee becomes of record by filing a statement in compliance with 37 CFR 3.73(b). Signature requirements are set forth in 37 CFR 1.4(d), and the undersigned certifies that he / she is empowered to act on behalf of the assignee of the entire interest			
Signature	/Mark S. Frater/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2010-09-03
Name	Mark S. Frater, President, R.E. Service Company		
Enter Reel and Frame Number		Remove	
Reel Number	009117	Frame Number	0451
Click ADD for additional Reel Number and Frame Number		Add	

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

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2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 6129998
Issue Date: October 10,2000
Application No. 09058262
Filed: April 10,1998
Attorney Docket No. RES2000.04A

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed September 4,2010 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 7.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of September 4,2010 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6876654	2005-04-05	09058335	1998-04-10	081674-0238256

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity

	Fee	Code
◉	3 ½ year	(1551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)
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Small Entity

	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

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I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

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Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Kendal M. Sheets/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2010-10-12
Name	Kendal M. Sheets	Registration Number	47077

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In re Patent No. 6876654
Issue Date: April 5,2005
Application No. 09058335
Filed: April 10,1998
Attorney Docket No. 081674-0238256

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed October 12,2010 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 3.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of October 12,2010 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 6259780
Issue Date: July 10,2001
Application No. 09058778
Filed: April 13,1998
Attorney Docket No. PIC003

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed October 4,2010 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 7.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of October 4,2010 .
This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6259780	2001-07-10	09058778	1998-04-13	PIC003

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity

	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)
◉	7 ½ year	(1552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)

Small Entity

	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Kendal M. Sheets/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2010-10-01
Name	Kendal M. Sheets	Registration Number	47077

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5966696	1999-10-12	09059592	1998-04-14	PRVU0002

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity			Small Entity		
	Fee	Code		Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	◉	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/MAG/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2012-03-06
Name	Michael A. Glenn	Registration Number	30176

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

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The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re Patent No. 5966696
Issue Date: October 12,1999
Application No. 09059592
Filed: April 14,1998
Attorney Docket No. PRVU0002

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed March 6,2012 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of March 6,2012 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Paper No. 8

ROBINSON HELICOPTER COMPANY
TIM A. GOETZ
24747 CRENSHAW BOULEVARD
TORRANCE CA 90505

MAILED

DEC 07 2010

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,000,658 :
Issue Date: 12/14/1999 :
Application Number: 09/059994 : DECISION ON PETITION
Filing Date: 04/13/1998 :
For: AN IMPROVED TOILET PAPER :
DISPENSER :

This is a decision on the petition filed on October 5, 2010, under 37 CFR § 1.378(b) to accept the delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **dismissed**.

If reconsideration of this decision is desired, a petition for reconsideration under 37 CFR 1.378(e) must be filed within TWO (2) MONTHS from the mail date of this decision. No extension of this 2-month time limit can be granted under 37 CFR 1.136(a) or (b). Any such petition for reconsideration must be accompanied by the petition fee of $400.00 as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(f). The petition for reconsideration should include an exhaustive attempt to provide the lacking item(s) noted below, since, after a decision on the petition for reconsideration, no further reconsideration or review of the matter will be undertaken by the Director.

The patent issued December 14, 1999. The first maintenance fee was timely paid. The second maintenance fee could have been paid from December 14, 2006 through June 14, 2007, or, with a surcharge during the period from June 15, 2007 through December 14, 2007. Accordingly, the patent expired at midnight on December 14, 2007, for failure to timely submit the maintenance fee.

Petitioner, *pro se*, asserts that payment of the maintenance fee was unavoidably delayed due to financial hardship. In pertinent part, petitioner, Tommie McCall, Jr., has been laid-off from his job since October 28, 2007. In support, petitioner has provided copies of tax returns for 2007, 2008, and 2009, as well as documentation of receipt of unemployment benefits, as well as a letter from his mortgage lender acknowledging petitioner had contacted the lender for assistance in dealing with a financial hardship.

A petition to accept the delayed maintenance fee under 35 U.S.C. § 41(c) and 37 CFR 1.378(b) must be accompanied by (1) an adequate, verified showing that the delay was unavoidable, since reasonable care was taken to ensure that the maintenance fee would be paid timely and that the petition was filed promptly after the patentee was notified of, or otherwise became aware of, the expiration of the patent, (2) payment of the appropriate maintenance fee, unless previously submitted, and (3) payment of the surcharge set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(i)(1).

This petition lacks requirement (1).

The Director may accept late payment of the maintenance fee if the delay is shown to the satisfaction of the Director to have been "unavoidable".[1]

The showing of record is inadequate to establish unavoidable delay within the meaning of 37 CFR 1.378(b)(3).

A late maintenance fee is considered under the same standard as that for reviving an abandoned application under 35 U.S.C. § 133 because 35 U.S.C. § 41(c)(1) uses identical language (i.e. "unavoidable delay").[2] Decisions reviving abandoned applications have adopted the reasonably prudent person standard in determining if the delay was unavoidable.[3] In this regard:

> The word 'unavoidable' . . . is applicable to ordinary human affairs, and requires no more or greater care or diligence than is generally used and observed by prudent and careful men in relation to their most

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[1] 35 U.S.C. § 41(c)(1).

[2] Ray v. Lehman, 55 F.3d 606, 608-09, 34 USPQ2d 1786, 1787 (Fed. Cir. 1995) (quoting In re Patent No. 4,409,763, 7 USPQ2d 1798, 1800 (Comm'r Pat. 1989)).

[3] Ex parte Pratt, 1887 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 31, 32-33 (Comm'r Pat. 1887)(the term "unavoidable" "is applicable to ordinary human affairs, and requires no more or greater care or diligence than is generally used by prudent and careful men in relation to their most important business").

> important business. It permits them in the exercise of this care to rely upon the ordinary and trustworthy agencies of mail and telegraph, worthy and reliable employees, and such other means and instrumentalities as are usually employed in such important business. If unexpectedly, or through the unforeseen fault or imperfection of these agencies and instrumentalities, there occurs a failure, it may properly be said to be unavoidable, all other conditions of promptness in its rectification being present.[4]

A patent owner's failure to pay a maintenance fee may be considered to have been "unavoidable" if the patent owner "exercised the due care of a reasonably prudent person."[5] This determination is to be made on a "case-by-case basis, taking all the facts and circumstances into account."[6] Unavoidable delay under 35 U.S.C. § 41(b) is measured by the same standard as that for reviving an abandoned application under 35 U.S.C. § 133.[7] Under 35 U.S.C. § 133, the Director may revive an abandoned application if the delay in responding to the relevant outstanding Office requirement is shown to the satisfaction of the Director to have been "unavoidable". Decisions on reviving abandoned applications have adopted the reasonably prudent person standard in determining if the delay was unavoidable.[8] However, a petition to revive an application as unavoidably abandoned cannot be granted where a petitioner has failed to meet his or her burden of establishing the cause of the unavoidable delay.[9] In view of In re Patent No. 4,409,763, this same standard will be applied to determine whether "unavoidable" delay within the meaning of 37 CFR 1.378(b) occurred.

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[4] In re Mattullath, 38 App. D.C. 497, 514-15 (1912)(quoting Ex parte Pratt, 1887 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 31, 32-33 (1887)); see also Winkler v. Ladd, 221 F. Supp. 550, 552, 138 USPQ 666, 167-68 (D.D.C. 1963), aff'd, 143 USPQ 172 (D.C. Cir. 1963); Ex parte Henrich, 1913 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 139, 141 (1913). In addition, decisions on revival are made on a "case-by-case basis, taking all the facts and circumstances into account." Smith v. Mossinghoff, 671 F.2d 533, 538, 213 USPQ 977, 982 (D.C. Cir. 1982). Finally, a petition cannot be granted where a petitioner has failed to meet his or her burden of establishing that the delay was "unavoidable." Haines v. Quigg, 673 F. Supp. 314, 316-17, 5 USPQ2d 1130, 1131-32 (N.D. Ind. 1987).

[5] Ray v. Lehman, 55 F.3d 606, 608-09 (Fed.Cir.), cert. denied, -- U.S. ---, 116 S.Ct. 304, L.Ed.2d 209 (1995).

[6] Smith v. Mossinghoff, 671 F.2d 533, 538, 213 USPQ 977, 982 (D.C. Cir. 1982).

[7] In re Patent No. 4,409,763, 7 USPQ2d 1798, 1800 (PTO Comm'r 1988).

[8] Ex parte Pratt, 1887 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 31, 32-33 (Comm'r Pat. 1887)(the term "unavoidable" "is applicable to ordinary human affairs, and requires no more or greater care or diligence than is generally used and observed by prudent and careful men in relation to their most important business"); In re Mattullath, 38 App. D.C. 497, 514-15 (D.C. Cir. 1912); Ex parte Henrich, 1913 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 139, 141 (Comm'r Pat. 1913).

[9] Haines v. Quigg, 673 F. Supp. 314, 5 USPQ2d 1130 (N.D. Ind. 1987).

This petition does not satisfy the requirement of 37 CFR 1.378(b)(3). The statements presented in the petition fail to satisfy the showing required to establish unavoidable delay within the meaning of 37 CFR 1.378(b).

As 35 U.S.C. § 41(c) requires the payment of fees at specified intervals to maintain a patent in force, rather than some response to a specific action by the Office under 35 U.S.C. § 133, a reasonably prudent person in the exercise of due care and diligence would have taken steps to ensure the timely payment of such maintenance fees.[10] That is, an adequate showing that the delay was "unavoidable" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 41(c) and 37 CFR 1.378(b)(3) requires a showing of the steps taken to ensure the timely payment of the maintenance fees for this patent.[11]

Petitioner has not presented a sufficient showing of unavoidable delay resulting from financial hardship. A complete showing is required of petitioner's, or the party responsible for payment of the maintenance fee's, financial condition including all income, expense, assets, credit, and obligations which made the delay from December 14, 2007, the date the maintenance fee was due, until the filing of a grantable petition, unavoidable. Petitioner must provide verified copies of any available documents or records (*e.g.*, copies of all bank statements and other documents as detailed below) covering the entire period between December 14, 2007, and the filing of a grantable petition, including the maintenance fee payment.

In this regard, while it is noted petitioner has supplied tax returns showing his income, petitioner must fully document his financial position by providing a statement of his assets, liabilities, and expenses. In summary, petitioner must explain what assets are owned, as well as how much money is owed to creditors and what expenses petitioner has been incurring from the date the maintenance fee was due, December 14, 2007, until the date of the filing of a grantable petition.

Petitioner may provide this documented showing by supplying copies of mortgage documents showing the monthly mortgage payment as well as the balance due, documentation of other loan payments (*i.e*, vehicle loans or credit card statements), other expenses (*i.e.*, utilities, food, and clothing), as well as a statement of

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[10] Ray, 55 F.3d at 609, 34 USPQ2d at 1788.

[11] Id.

all assets owned by petitioner (*e.g.*, petitioner's home, vehicles, investments, bank accounts, and personal property).

Any renewed petition must be explained by a thoroughly documented showing as listed above.

Likewise, petitioner should explain whether he had sufficient credit available to charge the maintenance fee during the period when it could have been timely paid. Petitioner should also explain whether any other sources of income, such as loans or gifts, were available that could have been used to timely pay the maintenance fee.

Further, in this regard, as petitioner's wife was employed, and petitioner was receiving unemployment benefits, during the time between the date the maintenance fee was due and the filing of the subject petition, petitioner must explain why the maintenance fee could not have been more timely paid using these sources of funds.

In this regard, a showing of diligence in matters before the USPTO is essential to support a finding of unavoidable delay herein.[12] There is no "sliding scale" based upon the priority given to this maintaining this patent in force, or more diligently seeking reinstatement, *vis-a-vis* other matters by petitioner; the issue is solely whether the maintenance, or reinstatement, of the patent at issue was actually conducted with the care or diligence that is generally used and observed by prudent and careful persons in relation to their most important business. The delay was not unavoidable, because had petitioner exercised the due care and diligence of a reasonably prudent person, petitioner would have been able to act to pay the fee or seek reinstatement in a timely fashion. The record fails to adequately evidence that petitioner exercised the due care and diligence observed by prudent and careful persons, in relation to their most important business, which is necessary to establish unavoidable delay.[13]

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[12] See Futures Technology, Ltd. v. Quigg, 684 F. Supp. 430, 431, 7 USPQ2d 1588 (E.D. Va. 1988)(applicant's diligent inquiry into the status of the application is required to show unavoidable delay); Douglas v. Manbeck, 21 USPQ2d 1697, 1699-1700 (E.D. Pa. 1991), *aff'd*, 975 F.2d 869, 24 USPQ2d 1318 (Fed. Cir. 1992) (even representation by counsel does not relieve the applicant from his obligation to exercise diligence before the USPTO; applicant's lack of diligence extending two and one half years overcame and superseded any omissions by his counsel).

[13] Pratt, supra.

In summary, while the Office is mindful of petitioner's predicament, the showing of record does not rise to the level of unavoidable delay. Accordingly, the petition must be dismissed.

Petitioner is cautioned to avoid submitting personal information in a patent application that may contribute to identity theft. If personal information such as social security numbers, bank account numbers, or credit card numbers are included in documents submitted to the USPTO (other than a check or credit card authorization form PTO-2038 submitted for payment purposes), petitioners should consider redacting such personal information from the documents before submitting them to the USPTO. This type of personal information is never required by the USPTO to support a petition or an application. Petitioner is advised that any information submitted in an application is available to the public after publication of the application (unless a non-publication request in compliance with 37 CFR 1.213(a) is made in the application) or issuance of a patent. Furthermore, information from an abandoned application may also be available to the public if the application is referenced in a published application or an issued patent (see 37 CFR 1.14). Checks and credit card authorization forms PTO-2038 submitted for payment purposes are not retained in the application file and therefore are not publicly available.

Petitioner should note that if this petition is not renewed, or if renewed and not granted, then the maintenance fee and post-expiration surcharge are refundable. The $400.00 petition fee for seeking reconsideration is not refundable. Any request for refund should be in writing to the address noted below.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail:
Mail Stop Petition
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By FAX:
(571) 273-8300
Attn: Office of Petitions

By hand:
Customer Service Window
Mail Stop Petition
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

The address in the petition is different than the correspondence address. A courtesy copy of this decision will be mailed to the address in the petition. All future correspondence, however, will be mailed solely to the address of record. A change of correspondence address should be filed if the correspondence address needs to be updated.

Telephone inquiries should be directed to the undersigned at 571-272-3231.

Douglas I. Wood
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

Encl: Change of Correspondence Address--Patent

Cc:

TOMMIE MCCALL, JR.
15625 PRINCE DRIVE
SOUTH HOLLAND IL 60473

PTO/SB/123 (11-08)
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CHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS
Patent

Address to:
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Patent Number	
Issue Date	
Application Number	
Filing Date	
First Named Inventor	
Attorney Docket Number	

Please change the Correspondence Address for the above-identified patent to:

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I am the:

☐ Patentee.

☐ Assignee of record of the entire interest. See 37 CFR 3.71.
Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is enclosed. (Form PTO/SB/96).

☐ Attorney or agent of record. Registration Number _____.

Signature	
Typed or Printed Name	
Date	Telephone

NOTE: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) are required. Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required, see below*.

☐ *Total of _____ forms are submitted.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.33. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 3 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Mail Stop Post Issue, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

Privacy Act Statement

The **Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579)** requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether disclosure of these records is required by the Freedom of Information Act.
2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.
3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).
5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (*i.e.*, GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspection or an issued patent.
9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Paper No. 10

TOMMIE MCCALL, JR.
15625 PRINCE DR.
SOUTH HOLLAND IL 60473

MAILED

FEB 24 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,000,658	:	
Issue Date: 12/14/1999	:	
Application Number: 09/059,994	:	REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
Filing Date: 04/13/1998	:	
For: AN IMPROVED TOILET PAPER DISPENSER	:	

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(e),[1] filed on January 31, 2011, requesting reconsideration of a prior decision which refused to accept under § 1.378(b) the delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-referenced patent.

The petition is again **dismissed**.

If reconsideration of this decision is desired, a petition for reconsideration under 37 CFR 1.378(e) must be filed within TWO (2) MONTHS from the mail date of this decision. No extension of this 2-month time limit can be granted under 37 CFR 1.136(a) or (b). No further fee is due for seeking reconsideration.

The patent issued on December 14, 1999. The first maintenance fee was timely paid. The second maintenance fee couls have been paid from December 14, 2006 through June 14, 2007, or with a surcharge during the period from June 15, 2007 through December 14, 2007. Accordingly, the patent expired at midnight on December 14, 2007, for failure to timely remit the maintenance

[1] A grantable petition to accept a delayed maintenance fee payment under 37 CFR 1.378(b) must be include

(1) the required maintenance fee set forth in § 1.20(e) through (g);
(2) the surcharge set forth in §1.20(i)(1); and
(3) a showing that the delay was unavoidable since reasonable care was taken to ensure that the maintenance fee would be paid timely and that the petition was filed promptly after the patentee was notified of, or otherwise became aware of, the expiration of the patent. The showing must enumerate the steps taken to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee, the date and the manner in which patentee became aware of the expiration of the patent, and the steps taken to file the petition promptly.

fee. The petition under 37 CFR 1.378(b) filed on October 5, 2010, was dismissed on December 7, 2010. This request for reconsideration, accompanied by a check for $400.00, was filed on January 31, 2011.

The Director may accept late payment of the maintenance fee if the delay is shown to the satisfaction of the Director to have been "unavoidable".[2] A patent owner's failure to pay a maintenance fee may be considered to have been "unavoidable" if the patent owner "exercised the due care of a reasonably prudent person."[3] This determination is to be made on a "case-by-case basis, taking all the facts and circumstances into account."[4] Unavoidable delay under 35 U.S.C. § 41(b) is measured by the same standard as that for reviving an abandoned application under 35 U.S.C. § 133.[5] Under 35 U.S.C. § 133, the Director may revive an abandoned application if the delay in responding to the relevant outstanding Office requirement is shown to the satisfaction of the Director to have been "unavoidable". Decisions on reviving abandoned applications have adopted the reasonably prudent person standard in determining if the delay was unavoidable.[6] However, a petition to revive an application as unavoidably abandoned cannot be granted where a petitioner has failed to meet his or her burden of establishing the cause of the unavoidable delay.[7] In view of In re Patent No. 4,409,763,[8] this same standard will be applied to determine whether "unavoidable" delay within the meaning of 37 CFR 1.378(b) occurred.

This petition does not satisfy the requirement of 37 CFR 1.378(b)(3). The statements presented in the petition fail to satisfy the showing required to establish unavoidable delay within the meaning of 37 CFR 1.378(b).

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2 35 U.S.C. § 41(c)(1).

3 Ray v. Lehman, 55 F.3d 606, 608-09 (Fed.Cir.), cert. denied, -- U.S. ---, 116 S.Ct. 304, L.Ed.2d 209 (1995).

4 Smith v. Mossinghoff, 671 F.2d 533, 538, 213 USPQ 977, 982 (D.C. Cir. 1982).

5 In re Patent No. 4,409,763, 7 USPQ2d 1798, 1800 (PTO Comm'r 1988).

6 Ex parte Pratt, 1887 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 31, 32-33 (Comm'r Pat. 1887)(the term "unavoidable" "is applicable to ordinary human affairs, and requires no more or greater care or diligence than is generally used and observed by prudent and careful men in relation to their most important business"); In re Mattullath, 38 App. D.C. 497, 514-15 (D.C. Cir. 1912); Ex parte Henrich, 1913 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 139, 141 (Comm'r Pat. 1913).

7 Haines v. Quigg, 673 F. Supp. 314, 5 USPQ2d 1130 (N.D. Ind. 1987).

8 7 USPQ2d 1798, 1800 (Comm'r Pat. 1988), aff'd sub nom. Rydeen v. Quigg, 748 937 F.2d 623 (Fed. Cir. 1991) (table), cert. denied, 502 U.S. 1075 (1992).

Specifically, petitioner states that he relied on registered patent practitioner Michael R. McKenna for payment of the maintenance fee.

Petitioner further states:

> By the time the second (maintenance) fee was due, I was reading in the newspaper, and saw on T.V. that a man went to his (McKenna's) office on the 23rd fl. and shot Mr. McKenna several times in the head and seriously injured his secretary. The man was apprehended by security and asked why he killed Mr. McKenna.... I called his office 6 mos. later and was told that Mr. McKenna's files would be turned over to another attorney. Call back later. When I called back, amazingly Mr. McKenna's secretary answered the phone. I told her how sorry I was about her and Mr. McKenna. She told me that it would take some time to go through Mr. McKenna's files. I believe I asked her about my maintenance fee. I think she told me I will be sent a letter. After that conversation I never called back.

Petitioner has further stated that he lacked sufficient funds to pay for the maintenance fee.

With regard to petitioner's assertion of financial incapacity, petitioner has failed to establish that the entire delay, from the date the maintenance fee was due until the date the initial petition was filed, was unavoidable. Specifically, it is noted that petitioner has provided copies of his bank statements covering the period from October 26, 2007, through December 24, 2010. The following statement dates and ending balance amounts are noted:

Statement Date	Ending Balance Amount
May 23, 2008	$1,642.42
June 25, 2008	$2,783.67
July 25, 2008	$1,612.67
October 24, 2008	$3,007.72
November 25, 2008	$2,155.46
December 24, 2008	$3,978.15
January 23, 2009	$1,862.22
March 25, 2009	$1,448.78

April 24, 2010	$2,108.05
May 22, 2009	$1,628.71
July 24, 2009	$1,745.96
October 23, 2009	$1,573.84
December 24, 2009	$2,618.56
January 25, 2010	$2,697.54
April 23, 2010	$2,333.98
May 25, 2010	$1,608.82
July 23, 2010	$1,252.22
September 24, 2010	$1,658.73

As such, the showing of record is that, at least on the above-referenced dates, petitioner had sufficient funds in his bank account to pay the maintenance fee ($1,180.00 if paid prior to October 2, 2008, $1,240.00 if paid on or after October 2, 2008). Additionally, petitioner has not shown that the unavoidable surcharge of $700.00 could not have been paid during this time. Rather than being "unavoidably" prevented from maintaining this patent in force, or more timely seeking reinstatement, petitioner made the business decision to subordinate more timely action in this patent to other financial and business interests, which mitigates away from a finding of unavoidable delay. That petitioner by a deliberately chosen course of action, subordinated the above-identified patent to other matters constitutes an intentional delay in seeking the maintenance or reinstatement of the above-identified patent; it does not represent the care or diligence that is generally used and observed by prudent and careful persons in relation to their most important business.[9] Rather, a delay based upon deliberate business decisions, actions or inactions, which led to a purposeful failure to timely prosecute, is not unavoidable delay.[10] There is no "sliding scale" based upon the priority given to this patent *vis-a-vis* other financial obligations by petitioner; the issue is solely whether the maintenance, or reinstatement, of the patent at issue was actually conducted with the care or diligence that is generally used and observed by prudent and careful persons in relation to their most important business. The financial analysis above indicates that above-identified patent was not considered by petitioner, as his most important business until October 5, 2010, and, consequently, the prosecution (*i.e.*, maintenance and reinstatement) of the above-

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[9] See Smith v. Diamond, 209 USPQ 1091, 1093 (D.D.C. 1981).

[10] See, Winkler v. Ladd, 221 F.Supp 550, 552, 138 USPQ 666, 667 (D.D.C. 1963) (bankruptcy trustee's business decision to forego incurring further prosecution expenses and to permit abandonment is binding and not unavoidable delay, when revival subsequently sought).

identified patent was conducted with significantly less care or diligence that is generally used and observed by prudent and careful persons in relation to their most important business between at least May 23, 2008 and October 5, 2010.

In summary, the showing of record is inadequate to establish unavoidable delay. Rather, than unavoidable delay, the showing of record is that petitioner's decided that the timely payment of the maintenance fee in this patent was not among petitioner's most important business. Rather, paying the maintenance fee for this patent was less important than other activities, and petitioner failed to take adequate precautions to ensure that maintenance fees were timely paid. As petitioner has not shown that it exercised the standard of care observed by a reasonable person in the conduct of his or her most important business, the petition will be dismissed.[11]

With regard to period (1), a delay resulting from an error (*e.g.*, a docketing error) on the part of an employee in the performance of a clerical function may provide the basis for a showing of "unavoidable" delay, provided it is shown that:

(1) the error was the cause of the delay at issue;

(2) there was in place a business routine for performing the clerical function that could reasonably be relied upon to avoid errors in its performance;

(3) and the employee was sufficiently trained and experienced with regard to the function and routine for its performance that reliance upon such employee represented the exercise of due care.[12]

An adequate showing requires:

(A) Statements by all persons with direct knowledge of the circumstances surrounding the delay, setting forth the facts as they know them.

(B) Petitioner must supply a thorough explanation of the docketing and call-up system in use and must identify the type of records kept and the person responsible for the maintenance of

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[11] See note 6, supra.
[12] See MPEP 711.03(c)(III)(C)(2).

the system. This showing must include copies of mail ledgers, docket sheets, filewrappers and such other records as may exist which would substantiate an error in docketing, and include an indication as to why the system failed to provide adequate notice that a reply was due.

(C) Petitioner must supply information regarding the training provided to the personnel responsible for the docketing error, degree of supervision of their work, examples of other work functions carried out, and checks on the described work which were used to assure proper execution of assigned tasks.

The present petition lacks the showing required by (1), (2), and (3) above.

The Office is requesting further information to determine whether the maintenance fee was docketed by McKenna prior to his death, and whether another attorney was tracking the maintenance fee for payment thereof afterwards.

At the outset, it is noted that petitioner has not provided statements from all of the persons with direct knowledge of the circumstances surrounding the delay, setting forth the facts as they know them. Petitioner should endeavor to attain a statement from McKenna's former secretary, explaining the docketing system in place by McKenna at the time of his death. Further, petitioners must determine which, if any, registered patent practitioner assumed responsibility for the tracking and payment of the maintenance fee after McKenna's files were transferred. Statements of first hand knowledge setting forth the facts as they know them must be provided by all individuals with knowledge of the circumstances surrounding the delay in payment of the maintenance fee.

Further, petitioner must supply a thorough explanation of the docketing and call-up system in use and must identify the type of records kept and the person responsible for the maintenance of the system. This showing must include copies of mail ledgers, docket sheets, filewrappers and such other records as may exist which would substantiate an error in docketing, and include an indication as to why the system failed to provide adequate notice that a reply was due.

Lastly, petitioner must supply information regarding the training provided to the personnel responsible for the docketing error,

degree of supervision of their work, examples of other work functions carried out, and checks on the described work which were used to assure proper execution of assigned tasks.

Therefore, any showing of unavoidable delay must include a statement from petitioner's patent attorney, as well as any other attorney(s) of record during the period that payment of the maintenance fee was delayed, as to why action was not taken to timely submit the required maintenance fee while the patent was under that agent's control. Petitioner should send a letter (accompanied by a copy of this decision) to the registered patent practitioner who took over tracking and payment of the maintenance fee from McKenna by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, indicating to the agent that the USPTO is requesting his assistance in determining the circumstances surrounding the expiration of this patent, and is specifically requesting the practitioner to provide a statement as to: (1) whether, and when, he first became aware that the first maintenance fee for this patent was due, and (2) why the maintenance fee was not timely submitted. Such statements should be accompanied by copies of any documents relevant to payment of the maintenance fee. In the event that the practitioner fails to provide a statement within a person (*e.g.*, within one (1) month) specified in such letter, petitioner should submit a copy of such letter and the return receipt indicating its delivery to the patent attorney or agent with any petition for reconsideration under 37 CFR 1.378(e).

The above paragraph notwithstanding, petitioner is reminded that the failure of communication between an applicant and counsel is not unavoidable delay.[13] Specifically, delay resulting from a lack of proper communication between a patent holder and a registered representative as to who bore the responsibility for payment of a maintenance fee does not constitute unavoidable delay within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 41(c) and 37 CFR 1.378(b).[14] Moreover, the Office is not the proper forum for resolving a dispute as to the effectiveness of communications between parties regarding the responsibility for paying a maintenance fee.[15]

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[13] In re Kim, 12 USPQ2d 1595 (Comm'r Pat. 1988).

[14] See Ray v. Lehman, 55 F.3d 606, 610, 34 USPQ2d 1786, 1789 (Fed. Cir. 1995).

[15] Id.

If petitioner is unable to locate the former secretary, petitioner should provide a showing of the attempts made to contact her and obtain a statement concerning the payment of the maintenance fee. Furthermore, petitioner must provide an affidavit or declaration of facts by the current administrative assistant, setting forth the facts as she knows them surrounding the delay in payment of the maintenance fee for the subject patent.

Additionally, petitioner must supply a thorough explanation of the docketing and call-up system in use and must identify the type of records kept and the person responsible for the maintenance of the system at McKenna's firm and at the successor law firm, if any. This showing must include copies of mail ledgers, docket sheets, filewrappers and such other records as may exist which would substantiate an error in docketing, and include an indication as to why the system failed to provide adequate notice that a reply was due. Petitioner should provide a copy of the spreadsheet and any other documentation utilized in the tracking and payment of maintenance fees.

In summary, the showing of record is inadequate to establish unavoidable delay. Petitioner has provided no evidence to substantiate a claim of docketing error. Rather, the showing of record is that petitioner failed to ensure that a reliable tracking system was in place such that the new administrative assistant could access the system and determine the due date for the payment of the maintenance fee for the subject patent. Rather, petitioners simply relied on the first administrative assistant, and were unable to access any of the information compiled by her after her resignation from the Company. As petitioner has not shown that it exercised the standard of care observed by a reasonable person in the conduct of his or her most important business, the petition will be dismissed.[16]

A reply to this communication should be filed within TWO (2) MONTHS to be considered timely. **No extensions of time are permitted under 37 CFR 1.136(a).**

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[16] See note 4, supra.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail: Mail Stop Petition
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By FAX: (571) 273-8300
Attn: Office of Petitions

By hand: Customer Service Window
Mail Stop Petition
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Telephone inquiries should be directed to the undersigned at 571-272-3231.

D Wood

Douglas I. Wood
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
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P.O. Box 1450
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Paper No.

TOMMIE MCCALL, JR.
15625 PRINCE DR.
SOUTH HOLLAND IL 60473

MAILED
APR 18 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,000,658 :
Issue Date: 12/14/1999 :
Application Number: 09/059,994 : ON PETITION
Filing Date: 04/13/1998 :
For: AN IMPROVED TOILET PAPER :
DISPENSER :

This is a decision on the request for reconsideration filed on April 4, 2011, which is treated as a twice renewed petition under 37 CFR 1.378(e), requesting reconsideration of a prior decision which refused to accept under 37 CFR 1.378(b)[1] the delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-referenced patent.

The request to accept the delayed payment of the maintenance fee is **DENIED**.[2]

BACKGROUND

The patent issued on December 14, 1999. The first maintenance fee was timely paid. The second maintenance fee could have been paid from December 14, 2006, through June 14, 2007, or, with a surcharge during the period from June 15, 2007 through December 14, 2007. Accordingly, the patent expired at midnight on December 14, 2007, for failure to timely remit the maintenance

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[1] A grantable petition to accept a delayed maintenance fee payment under 37 CFR 1.378(b) must be include

(1) the required maintenance fee set forth in § 1.20(e) through (g);
(2) the surcharge set forth in §1.20(I)(1); and
(3) a showing that the delay was unavoidable since reasonable care was taken to ensure that the maintenance fee would be paid timely and that the petition was filed promptly after the patentee was notified of, or otherwise became aware of, the expiration of the patent. The showing must enumerate the steps taken to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee, the date and the manner in which patentee became aware of the expiration of the patent, and the steps taken to file the petition promptly.

[2] This decision may be regarded as a final agency action within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. § 704 for purposes of seeking judicial review. See MPEP 1002.02.

fee. The petition under 37 CFR 1.378(b) filed on October 5, 2010, was dismissed on December 7, 2010. On January 31, 2011, a request for reconsideration under 37 CFR 1.378(e) was filed. On February 24, 2011, a Request for Information was mailed in response to the request for reconsideration.

On April 4, 2011, the subject second request for reconsideration was filed. Petitioner states, in pertinent part:

> I cannot possible give you all the information you've ask (*sic*) for. I only have (3) pages of information that I located in my files. I have nothing else to give you. If this is not sufficient, for re-consideration of [my] Patent, I am requesting that you return to me $1940.00 that covered the maintenance fee, and or, surcharge fee.

STATUTE AND REGULATION

35 U.S.C. § 41(c)(1) states that:

> The Director may accept the payment of any maintenance fee required by subsection (b) of this section...after the six-month grace period if the delay is shown to the satisfaction of the Director to have been unavoidable.

37 CFR 1.378(b)(3) states that any petition to accept delayed payment of a maintenance fee must include:

> A showing that the delay was unavoidable since reasonable care was taken to ensure that the maintenance fee would be paid timely and that the petition was filed promptly after the patentee was notified of, or otherwise became aware of, the expiration of the patent. The showing must enumerate the steps taken to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee, the date, and the manner in which patentee became aware of the expiration of the patent, and the steps taken to file the petition promptly.

OPINION

The Director may accept late payment of the maintenance fee under 35 U.S.C. § 41(c) and 37 CFR 1.378(b) if the delay is shown to the satisfaction of the Director to have been "unavoidable."[3]

A late maintenance fee is considered under the same standard as that for reviving an abandoned application under 35 U.S.C. § 133 because 35 U.S.C. § 41(c)(1) uses the identical language, *i.e.*, "unavoidable" delay.[4] Decisions reviving abandoned applications have adopted the reasonably prudent person standard in determining if the delay was unavoidable.[5] In addition, decisions on revival are made on a "case-by-case basis, taking all the facts and circumstances into account."[6] Finally, a petition to revive an application as unavoidably abandoned cannot be granted where a petitioner has failed to meet his or her burden of establishing the cause of the unavoidable delay.[7]

As 35 USC § 41(b) requires the payment of fees at specified intervals to maintain a patent in force, rather than some response to a specific action by the Office under 35 USC § 133, a reasonably prudent person in the exercise of due care and diligence would have taken steps to ensure the timely payment of such maintenance fees.[8] That is, an adequate showing that the delay in payment of the maintenance fee at issue was "unavoidable" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 41(c) and 37 CFR 1.378(b)(3) requires a showing of the steps taken by the responsible party to ensure the timely payment of the second maintenance fee for this patent.[9]

35 U.S.C. § 41(c)(1) does not require an affirmative finding that the delay was avoidable, but only an explanation as to why the petitioner has failed to carry his or her burden to establish that the delay was unavoidable.[10] 35 U.S.C. § 133 does not

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[3] 35 U.S.C. § 41(c)(1).

[4] Ray v. Lehman, 55 F.3d 606, 608-09, 34 USPQ2d 1786, 1787 (Fed. Cir. 1995)(quoting In re Patent No. 4,409,763, 7 USPQ2d 1798, 1800 (Comm'r Pat. 1988)).

[5] Ex parte Pratt, 1887 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 31, 32-33 (Comm'r Pat. 1887) (the term "unavoidable" "is applicable to ordinary human affairs, and requires no more or greater care or diligence than is generally used and observed by prudent and careful man in relation to their most important business"); In re Mattullath, 38 App. D.C. 497, 514-15 (D.C. Cir. 1912); Ex parte Henrich, 1913 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 139, 141 (Comm'r Pat. 1913).

[6] Smith v. Mossinghoff, 671 F.2d 533, 538, 213 USPQ 977, 982 (D.C. Cir. 1982).

[7] Haines v. Quigg, 673 F. Supp. 314, 5 USPQ2d 1130 (N.D. Ind. 1987).

[8] Ray, 55 F.3d at 609, 34 USPQ2d at 1788.

[9] Id.

[10] See Commissariat A. L'Energie Atomique v. Watson, 274 F.2d 594, 597, 124 USPQ 126, 128 (D.C. Cir. 1960).

require the Director to affirmatively find that the delay was avoidable, but only to explain why the applicant's petition was unavailing. Petitioner is reminded that it is the patentee's burden under the statutes and regulations to make a showing to the satisfaction of the Director that the delay in payment of a maintenance fee is unavoidable.[11]

Petitioner was advised, in the Request for Information mailed on February 24, 2011, to include an exhaustive attempt to provide the information required by the above-referenced Request for Information, since, after a decision on the petition for reconsideration, no further reconsideration or review of the matter will be undertaken by the Director. However, petitioner states that no additional information is available.

The showing of record, therefore, is that petitioner has not shown that he exercised the standard of care observed by a reasonable person in the conduct of his or her most important business. Accordingly, the petition will be denied.[12]

CONCLUSION

The prior decision which refused to accept under § 1.378(b) the delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent has been reconsidered. For the above stated reasons, the delay in this case cannot be regarded as unavoidable within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 41(c)(1) and 37 CFR 1.378(b).
The petition under 37 CFR 1.378(e) is **DENIED**. As stated in 37 CFR 1.378(e), no further reconsideration or review of the decision refusing to accept the delayed payment of the maintenance fee under § 1.378(b) will be undertaken. This decision may be regarded as a final agency action within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. § 704 for purposes of seeking judicial review.[13]

Since this patent will not be reinstated, the maintenance fee and surcharge fee will be refunded to applicant, as requested. The $400.00 fee for reconsideration was paid separately and is not refundable.

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[11] See Rydeen v. Quigg, 748 F. Supp. 900, 16 USPQ2d 1876 (D.D.C. 1990), aff'd 937 F.2d 623 (Fed. Cir. 1991)(table), *cert. denied*, 502 U.S. 1075 (1992); Ray v. Lehman, supra.
[12] See note 5, supra.
[13] See MPEP 1001.02.

As stated in 37 CFR 1.378(e), no further reconsideration or review of this matter will be undertaken.

Telephone inquiries should be directed to Senior Petitions Attorney Douglas I. Wood at 571-272-3231.

Anthony Knight
Director
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 6204857
Issue Date: March 20,2001
Application No. 09061383
Filed: April 16,1998
Attorney Docket No. 11115

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed October 4,2010 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 7.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of October 4,2010 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6204857	2001-03-20	09061383	1998-04-16	11115

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
◉	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Kendal M. Sheets/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2010-09-30
Name	Kendal M. Sheets	Registration Number	47077

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

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BRUMBAUGH GRAVES DONOHUE & RAYMOND
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK NY 10112

MAILED

APR 11 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent of Galin et al. :
Patent No. 6,143,028 :
Issued: November 7, 2000 : NOTICE
Application No. 09/063,624 :
Filed: April 30, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No. 28648-PCT-US//
068566.0186

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28, filed March 4, 2011.

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue patent under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

Pursuant to petitioner's authorization, deposit account no. 02-4377 will be charged $1825.00.

This patent is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this patent must be paid at the large entity rate.

The file does not indicate a change of address has been submitted, although the address given on the petition differs from the address of record. If appropriate, a change of fee address (form PTO/SB/47) and a request for customer number (form PTO/SB/125) should be filed in accordance with Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, section 2540. A courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the address on the petition. However, the Office will mail all future correspondence solely to the address of record.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3230.

Shirene Willis Brantley
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

CC. LISA B. KOLE
BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA, 44TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, NY 10012-4498

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 6221679
Issue Date: April 24,2001
Application No. 09064957
Filed: April 23,1998
Attorney Docket No. PEAK-001PR07

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed April 21,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 7.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of April 21,2011 .
This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6221679	2001-04-24	09064957	1998-04-23	SD5775.6/S91484

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity			Small Entity		
	Fee	Code		Fee	Code
◯	3 ½ year	(1551)	◯	3 ½ year	(2551)
◉	7 ½ year	(1552)	◯	7 ½ year	(2552)
◯	11 ½ year	(1553)	◯	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

◯ A sole patentee

◯ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

◯ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

◯ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Madelynne J. Farber/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-04-21
Name	Madelynne J. Farber	Registration Number	45410

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

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5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
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In re Patent No. 6223755
Issue Date: May 1,2001
Application No. 09065195
Filed: April 23,1998
Attorney Docket No. PEAK-001PR16

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed April 21,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 7.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of April 21,2011 .
This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6223755	2001-05-01	09065195	1998-04-23	SD5775.15/S91493

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity

	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)
◉	7 ½ year	(1552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)

Small Entity

	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

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I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

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○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

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Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Madelynne J. Farber/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-04-21
Name	Madelynne J. Farber	Registration Number	45410

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2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

ST. JUDE MEDICAL, ATRIAL FIBRILLATION DIVISION
Legal Department
One St. Jude Medical Drive
St. Paul MN 55117-9913

MAILED

JAN 24 2012

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
Tu et al. :
Application No. 09/065,230 :
Filed: April 20, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No. OF-041601US :
For: CATHETER SYSTEM HAVING
COOLED MULTIPLE-NEEDLE
ELECTRODE AND METHODS THEREOF

NOTICE

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28(c), filed December 20, 2011.

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue patent under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28(c) is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This patent is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this patent must be paid at the large entity rate.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3230.

Shirene Willis Brantley
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP
1300 NORTH SEVENTEENTH STREET
SUITE 1800
ARLINGTON VA 22209-3873

MAILED
DEC 15 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,073,756 :
Issue Date: June 13, 2000 :
Application No. 09/065,449 : NOTICE
Filed: April 24, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No. 670.36221X00 :

This is a notice regarding your request, November 21, 2011, for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28.

On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. **See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).**

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This patent is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this patent must be paid at the large entity rate.

/Liana Walsh/
Liana Walsh
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov
DTW Mar-12

BAKER & RANNELLS, PA
575 ROUTE 28
SUITE 102
RARITAN NJ 08869

MAILED
MAR 29 2012
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,918,318 :
Issue Date: 07/06/1999 :
Application Number: 09/065,696 : ON PETITION
Filing Date: 04/24/1998 :
For: ATTACHMENT DEVICE FOR :
CLOTHING ITEMS :

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c), filed on February 23, 2012, to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

This patent expired on July 6, 2011 for failure to timely pay the third maintenance fee. Since this petition was submitted within twenty-four months after the six-month grace period provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e), the petition was timely filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(c).

The maintenance fee is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

Receipt of the revocation and power of attorney is acknowledged. Notification of the acceptance of the revocation and new power of attorney will be mailed under separate cover. All correspondence will be mailed to the new address of record.

The address in the petition is different than the correspondence address. A courtesy copy of the decision will be mailed to the address in the petition. All future correspondence, however, will be mailed solely to the address of record.

Telephone inquiries related to this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3231.

Douglas I. Wood
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

Cc:

MICHAEL HOLTON
11469 BENSHOFF AVE
BROOKSVILLE FL 34601

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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ST JUDE MEDICAL ATRIAL FIBRILLATION DIVISION
LEGAL DEPARTMENT
ONE ST JUDE MEDICAL DRIVE
ST PAUL MN 55117-9913

MAILED
JAN 23 2012
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re
De La Rama, et al.
Application No. 09/066,265
Filed: April 24, 1998
Patent No. 5,992,418
Issued: November 30, 1999

DECISION

This is a decision on the fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28(c), filed December 22, 2011.

The fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 of $1700 for the 7.5 year maintenance fee is hereby accepted.

The change of status to large entity has been entered.

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3207.

Cliff Congo
Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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BRIAN STEINBERGER/UCF
101 BREVARD AVENUE
COCOA FL 32922

MAILED

OCT 27 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,996,898 :
Issued: December 7, 1999 :
Application No. 09/067,236 : ON PETITION
Filed: April 27, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No: UCF-191CIP :

This is a decision regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission and loss of small entity status filed October 12, 2011 under 37 CFR 1.28.

On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc.. 154 F.33d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. 1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989). Therefore nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby accepted and the petition is **GRANTED**. Status as a small entity has also been removed.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the Office of Petitions Staff at (571) 272-3282.

Patricia Faison-Ball
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

DAVIS CHIN
10281 WEST LINCOLN HIGHWAY
FRANKFORT IL 60423

MAILED
APR 11 2012
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,966,330 :
Issued: October 12, 1999 :
Application No. 09/070,181 : ON PETITION
Filed: April 30, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No. 97A-1887 :

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c), filed February 21, 2012, to accept the delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

This patent expired on October 13, 2011 for failure to pay the eleven and one-half year maintenance fee. Since this petition was submitted within twenty-four months after the six-month grace period provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e), the petition was timely filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(c).

The maintenance fee is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-7751.

/Joan Olszewski/
Joan Olszewski
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

REINHART BOERNER VAN DEUREN S.C.
ATTN: LINDA KASULKE, DOCKET COORDINATOR
1000 NORTH WATER STREET
SUITE 2100
MILWAUKEE WI 53202

MAILED

MAR 22 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
Bonewitz, et al. :
Application No. 09/070,266 :
Filed: April 30, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No. 5491-20 :

NOTICE

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28.

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue patent under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This patent is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this patent must be paid at the large entity rate.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3205.

/ALESIA M. BROWN/

Alesia M. Brown
Attorney Advisor
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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HUNTON & WILLIAMS LLP
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT
2200 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20037

MAILED

OCT 18 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,036,661 :
Issue Date: March 14, 2000 :
Application No. 09/071,016 : NOTICE
Filed: May 1, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No. 69643.001200

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28. On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. **See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).**

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to Irvin Dingle at (571) 272-3210.

Irvin Dingle
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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In re Patent No. 5937617
Issue Date: August 17,1999
Application No. 09071196
Filed: May 1,1998
Attorney Docket No. FMC2172P0360

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed January 30,2012 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of January 30,2012 .
This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5937617	1999-08-17	09071196	1998-05-01	INN01660P00470US

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity			Small Entity		
	Fee	Code		Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
◉	11 ½ year	(1553)	○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Stephen D. Geimer/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2012-01-30
Name	Stephen D. Geimer	Registration Number	28846

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6,375,630	2002-04-23	09/071,357	1998-04-28	37503-00001

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	◉	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Mord Michael Lewis/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-01-21
Name	Mord Michael Lewis	Registration Number	50478

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 6375630
Issue Date: April 23,2002
Application No. 09071357
Filed: April 28,1998
Attorney Docket No. INSEA-57866

: DECISION GRANTING PETITION
: UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed January 21,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 7.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of January 21,2011 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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KILPATRICK TOWNSEND & STOCKTON LLP
TWO EMBARCADERO CENTER
EIGHTH FLOOR
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94111-3834

MAILED
FEB 23 2012
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,169,816 :
Issued: January 2, 2001 :
Application No. 09/072,502 : ON PETITION
Filed: May 4, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No.: 92101-576391 (002I 10US) :

This is a decision regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission and loss of small entity status filed February 2, 2012, which is being treated under 37 CFR 1.28.

On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc.. 154 F.33d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. 1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989). Therefore nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission in the amount of $1300.00 under 37 CFR 1.28 has been applied and is hereby accepted. The petition is therefore **GRANTED**.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the Office of Petitions Staff at (571) 272-3282.

Patricia Faison-Ball

Patricia Faison-Ball
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.
1100 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON DC 20005

MAILED

NOV 17 2010

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
Richard A. Lang et al. :
Application No. 09/073,452 : NOTICE
Patent No. 7,272,298 :
Filed: May 06, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No. PA3099US

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28.

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue patent under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This patent is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this patent must be paid at the large entity rate.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-2783.

/Tredelle D. Jackson/
Paralegal Speciaist
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

Beck & Thomas, P.C.
SUITE 100
1575 McFARLAND ROAD
PITTSBURGH PA 15216-1808

MAILED

OCT 27 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent of	:	
Peter M. Hall	:	
Patent No. 5,892,160	:	
Issue Date: 04/06/1999	:	
Application No.: 09/075103	:	DECISION
Filing or 371(c) Date: 05/08/1998	:	ON PETITION
Title of Invention:	:	
ISOTHERMAL FLOW CONTROLLER	:	
FOR AIR SAMPLER	:	

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR § 1.378(b), to reinstate the above-identified patent, filed October 7, 2011.

The petition is **DISMISSED**.

Any further petition to revive the above-identified application must be submitted within TWO (2) MONTHS from the mail date of this decision. Extensions of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) are permitted. The reconsideration request should include a cover letter entitled "Renewed Petition under 37 CFR 1.137." This is **not** final agency action within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. § 704.

Background

The patent issued April 6, 1999. Patentee could have paid the seven and one half (7½) year maintenance fee between April 6, 2006, and October 6, 2006, without a surcharge, or within the six (6) month grace period between October 7, 2006 and April 6, 2007. Patentee failed to do so; accordingly, the patent became expired on midnight of April 6, 2007.

The present petition

Patentee/Petitioner, files the present petition and provides that Counsel for SKC retired, and shortly thereafter Carol Krause, the person responsible for maintaining SKC's intellectual property matters also retired. At that time, the patent files for SKC were transferred to petitioner petitioner herein, Beck & Thomas. Petitioner provides further that payment of the seven and one half (7½) year maintenance fee was unavoidably delayed because the patent file was thought to have been transferred by SKC, Inc. ("SKC"), to petitioner, by May 2006. However, the present

patent was not included in the transfer of files, and therefore not included in Beck & Thomas' docket. In September 2011 SKC discovered while performing an internal audit that the present patent was expired for failing to pay the seven and one half (7½) year maintenance fee. A Power of Attorney was filed on October 7, 2011, and petitioner now files the present petition.

Applicable Law, Rules and MPEP

37 CFR 1.378(b) provides that a patent may be reinstated at any time following expiration of the patent for failure to timely pay a maintenance fee. A petition to accept late payment of a maintenance fee, where the delay was unavoidable, must include:

> (A) the required maintenance fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g);
> (B) the surcharge set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(i)(1); and
> (C) a showing that the delay was unavoidable since reasonable care was taken to ensure that the maintenance fee would be paid timely and that the petition was filed promptly after the patentee was notified of, or otherwise became aware of, the expiration of the patent.

The required showing must enumerate the steps taken to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee, the date and the manner in which patentee became aware of the expiration of the patent, and the steps taken to file the petition promptly. Furthermore, an adequate showing requires *a statement by all persons with direct knowledge of the cause of the delay*, setting forth the facts as they know them. Copies of all documentary evidence referred to in a statement should be furnished as exhibits to the statement. (Emphasis supplied).

As language in 35 U.S.C. § 41(c)(1) is identical to that in 35 U.S.C. § 133 (i.e., "unavoidable" delay), a late maintenance fee for the unavoidable delay standard is considered under the same standard for reviving an abandoned application under 35 U.S.C. § 133. *See Ray v. Lehman*, 55 F.3d 606, 608-09, 34 USPQ2d 1786, 1787 (Fed. Cir. 1995) (quoting In re Patent No. 4,409,763, 7 USPQ2d 1798, 1800 (Comm'r Pat. 1988), aff 'd sub nom. Rydeen v. Quigg, 748 F. Supp. 900, 16 USPQ2d 1876 (D.D.C. 1990), aff 'd, 937 F.2d 623 (Fed. Cir. 1991) (table), cert. denied, 502 U.S. 1075 (1992)). See MPEP § 711.03(c) for a general discussion of the "unavoidable" delay standard.

As 35 U.S.C. § 41(c) requires the payment of fees at specified intervals to maintain a patent in force, rather than some response to a specific action by the Office under 35 U.S.C. § 133, a reasonably prudent person in the exercise of due care and diligence would have taken steps to ensure the timely payment of such maintenance fees. Ray, 55 F.3d at 609, 34 USPQ2d at 1788. That is, an adequate showing that the delay in payment of the maintenance fee at issue was "unavoidable" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 41(c) and 37 CFR 1.378(b)(3) requires a showing of the steps taken to ensure the timely payment of the maintenance fees for this patent. Id. Thus, where the record fails to disclose that the patentee took reasonable steps, or discloses that the patentee took no steps, to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee, 35 U.S.C. 41(c) and 37 CFR 1.378(b)(3) preclude acceptance of the delayed payment of the maintenance fee under 37 CFR 1.378(b).

In view of the requirement to enumerate the steps taken to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee, the patentee's lack of knowledge of the need to pay the maintenance fee and the failure to receive the Maintenance Fee Reminder do not constitute unavoidable delay. See Patent No. 4,409,763, supra. See also Final Rule entitled "Final Rules for Patent Maintenance Fees," published in the Federal Register at 49 Fed. Reg. 34716, 34722-23 (August 31, 1984), and republished in the Official Gazette at 1046 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 28, 34 (September 25, 1984). Under the statutes and rules, the Office has no duty to notify patentees of the requirement to pay maintenance fees or to notify patentees when the maintenance fees are due. It is solely the responsibility of the patentee to assure that the maintenance fee is timely paid to prevent expiration of the patent. The lack of knowledge of the requirement to pay a maintenance fee and the failure to receive the Maintenance Fee Reminder will not shift the burden of monitoring the time for paying a maintenance fee from the patentee to the Office. Thus, evidence that despite reasonable care on behalf of the patentee and/or the patentee's agents, and reasonable steps to ensure timely payment, the maintenance fee was unavoidably not paid, could be submitted in support of an argument that the delay in payment was unavoidable.

An error in a docketing system could possibly result in a finding that a delay in payment was unavoidable if it were shown that reasonable care was exercised in designing and operating the system and that the patentee took reasonable steps to ensure that the patent was entered into the system to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fees.

A showing of unavoidable delay will (in addition to the above) require: (1) evidence concerning the procedures in place that should have avoided the error resulting in the delay; (2) evidence concerning the training and experience of the persons responsible for the error; and (3) copies of any applicable docketing records to show that the error was in fact the cause of the delay. See MPEP § 711.03(c)(III)(C)(2).

A delay resulting from an error (e.g., a docketing error) on the part of an employee in the performance of a clerical function may provide the basis for a showing of "unavoidable" delay, provided it is shown that:

(A) the error was the cause of the delay at issue;

(B) there was in place a business routine for performing the clerical function that could reasonably be relied upon to avoid errors in its performance; and

(C) the employee was sufficiently trained and experienced with regard to the function and routine for its performance that reliance upon such employee represented the exercise of due care. See In re Egbers, 6 USPQ2d 1869, 1872 (Comm'r Pat. 1988), rev'd on other grounds sub nom., Theodor Groz & Sohne & Ernst Bechert Nadelfabrik KG v. Quigg, 10 USPQ2d 1787 (D.D.C. 1988); In re Katrapat, 6 USPQ2d 1863, 1867-68 (Comm'r Pat. 1988).

Opinion

Petitioner files the present petition and avers that payment of the seven and one half (7½) year maintenance fee was unavoidably delayed because the patent file was thought to have been transferred by SKC, Inc. ("SKC"), to petitioner herein, Beck & Thomas, by May 2006. However,

the present patent was not included in the transfer of files, and therefore not included in Beck & Thomas' docket. Petitioner is advised that a breakdown of communication between petitioner and their client is not considered to be grounds for granting a petition for late payment of the maintenance fee under the unavoidable standard. *See, Ray v. Lehman*, 55 F.3d 606, 608-09, 34 USPQ2d 1786, 1787 (Fed. Cir. 1995).

Further to this, a showing is required that the delay was unavoidable since reasonable care was taken to ensure that the maintenance fee would be paid timely. Here, petitioner provides only that the file for the present patent was not transferred from SKC to Beck & Thomas. As noted supra, an error in a docketing system could possibly result in a finding that a delay in payment of the maintenance fee was unavoidable. However, it requires a showing that reasonable care was exercised in designing and operating the system and that the patentee took reasonable steps to ensure that the patent was entered into the system to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fees. Said showing requires: (1) evidence concerning the procedures in place that should have avoided the error resulting in the delay; (2) evidence concerning the training and experience of the persons responsible for the error; and (3) copies of any applicable docketing records to show that the error was in fact the cause of the delay. See MPEP § 711.03(c)(III)(C)(2).

Moreover, as noted above an adequate showing requires a statement by all persons with direct knowledge of the cause of the delay, setting forth the facts as they know them. Copies of all documentary evidence referred to in a statement should be furnished as exhibits to the statement. Here, Petitioner notes that Counsel for SKC retired, and shortly thereafter Carol Krause, the person responsible for maintaining SKC's intellectual property matters also retired. Petitioner has not provided any statements from any persons with direct knowledge of the cause of the error resulting in the delay, evidence concerning the training and experience of the persons responsible for the error, or copies of any applicable docketing records to show that the error was in fact the cause of the delay.

Conclusion

Patentee has failed to demonstrate that the failure to pay the maintenance fee was unavoidable. The petition is dismissed.

Petitioner's current options

I. Petitioner may file a request for reconsideration.

If reconsideration of this decision is desired, a petition for reconsideration must be filed within TWO (2) MONTHS from the mail date of this decision. The petition for reconsideration should be entitled "Petition for Reconsideration under 37 CFR 1.378(b)." Any petition for reconsideration of this decision must be accompanied by a non-refundable petition fee of $400.

After a decision on the petition for reconsideration, no further reconsideration or review of the matter will be undertaken by the Commissioner. Therefore, it is extremely important that petitioner supply **any** and **all** relevant information and documentation with his request for reconsideration. The Commissioner's decision will be based solely on the administrative record in existence. Petitioner should remember that it is not enough that the delay was unavoidable;

petitioner must prove that the delay was unavoidable. A petition will not be granted if petitioner provides insufficient evidence to 'show' that the delay was unavoidable. Therefore, if a request for reconsideration is filed, it must establish that the entire delay in the submission of the maintenance fee was unavoidable.

II. Petitioner may request a refund of the maintenance fee and surcharge which accompanied the petition.

Petitioner may request a refund of the maintenance fee and surcharge by writing to the Office of Finance, Refund Section, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC, 20231. A copy of this decision should accompany petitioner's request.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail: Mail Stop PETITIONS
Director for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By FAX: (571) 273-0025
Attn: Office of Petitions

By hand: Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3232.

/DLW/

Derek L. Woods
Attorney
Office of Petitions

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6212172	2001-04-03	09075415	1998-05-08	225289

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
◉	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Kendal M. Sheets/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2010-09-30
Name	Kendal M. Sheets	Registration Number	47077

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 6212172
Issue Date: April 3,2001
Application No. 09075415
Filed: May 8,1998
Attorney Docket No. 225289

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed October 4,2010 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 7.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of October 4,2010 .
This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

JOHN F MCKENNA
CESARI AND MCKENNA
30 ROWES WHARF
BOSTON MA 02110

MAILED

MAR 12 2012

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,100,615
Issued: August 8, 2000
Application No.: 09/076,317
Filed: May 11, 1998
Attorney Docket No: **102047-0003**

: NOTICE

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28. On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. **See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).**

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This application is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this application must be paid at the large entity rate.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3222.

/Kenya A. McLaughlin/

Kenya A. McLaughlin
Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

Cc:
Katten Muchin Rosemann LLP
525 West Monroe Street
Chicago, IL 60661

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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In re Patent No. 5934820
Issue Date: August 10,1999
Application No. 09079242
Filed: May 14,1998
Attorney Docket No. 1945

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed March 22,2012 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of March 22,2012 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5934820	1999-08-10	09079242	1998-05-14	HINV101.01

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity			Small Entity		
	Fee	Code		Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	◉	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Joseph W. Holland/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2012-03-22
Name	Joseph W. Holland	Registration Number	38919

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

Intellectual Property Dept.
Dewitt Ross & Stevens SC
2 East Mifflin Street
Suite 600
Madison WI 53703-2865

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NOV 08 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent of	:	
Paul et al.	:	
Patent No.: 6,112,136	:	
Issue Date: 08/29/2000	:	
Application No. 09/079298	:	
Filing or 371(c) Date: 05/12/1998	:	ON PETITION
Title of Invention:	:	
SOFTWARE MANAGEMENT OF AN	:	
INTELLIGENT POWER	:	
CONDITIONER WITH BACKUP SYSTEM	:	
OPTION EMPLOYING TREND ANALYSIS	:	
FOR EARLY PREDICTION OF AC POWER	:	
LINE FAILURE	:	

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR § 1.378(b), filed October 12, 2011, to reinstate the above-identified patent.

The petitions are DISMISSED.

If reconsideration of this decision is desired, a petition for reconsideration must be filed within TWO (2) MONTHS from the mail date of this decision. The petition for reconsideration should be entitled "Petition for Reconsideration under 37 CFR 1.378(e)." Any petition for reconsideration of this decision must be accompanied by a non-refundable petition fee of $400 as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(h).

Background

The patent issued August 29, 2000. Petitioner/Patentee could have paid the seven and one half (7½) year maintenance fee between August 29, 2007, and February 29, 2008, without a surcharge, or within the six (6) month grace period between March 1, 2008 and August 29, 2008. Petitioner/Patentee failed to do so; accordingly, the patent became expired on August 30, 2008.

The present petition

Petitioner files the present petition and provides that petitioner is the assignee of the present patent by virtue of an assignment on May 12, 1998, recorded in this Office at Reel 009184, Frame 0533. Prior to the assignment, petitioner obtained an interest in the patent through a Security Agreement conveyed to petitioner on September 27, 2991.

Petitioner and current assignee of the patent, by and through its President, Gary Jungwirth, timely paid the first 3½) year maintenance fee which was accepted by this Office without question. Thereafter, on July 28, 2004, petitioner sent a notice to this Office to change the correspondence address to that of Gary Jungwirth.

Petitioner thereafter received a Notice of Patent Expiration on September 29, 2008, and on October 20, 2008, petitioner filed a petition to accept an unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee. The petition as dismissed in a decision mailed November 17, 2008, because petitioner had not established that he was authorized to act on behalf of the assignee.

On February 4, 2009, petitioner filed a facsimile message to this Office to the effect that he had telephoned this Office several times and had not received a call back from anyone. Petitioner subsequently sent a letter via facsimile to this Office attempting to resolve the matter. On April 27, 2009, petitioner filed a statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b), along with a check for $400.00.

Petitioner in response received a letter from this Office on July 15, 2009, informing petitioner that the statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) failed to list the Reel and Frame number for the assignment recorded for this patent.

Petitioner thereafter, on July 21, 2009, averred that he had completed the form (Statement Under 37 CFR 3.73(b)), along with payment of $400.00.

This Office again mailed a Requirement for Information on March 16, 2010, onforming petitioner that he still had not demonstrated that he was authorized to act on behalf of the assignee.

The 24-month period for filing a petition to reinstate the patent based upon unintentional delay having expired, petitioner files the present petition.

Petitioner initially takes issue with the fact that the Office challenged petitioner's right to timely pay the first maintenance fee, but thereafter the Office denied (dismissed) petitioner's petition to accept an unintentionally delayed payment of the second maintenance fee. Petitioner cites to 37 CFR 1.366, which states in relevant part that any person or organization may pay the maintenance fee. Petitioner asserts that it was reasonable for petitioner to assume that the unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee would be accepted since the first maintenance fee, timely paid, was accepted.

Petitioner argues that the Security Agreement did not transfer ownership of the patent, and despite the Security Agreement petitioner should have been allowed to pay the maintenance fee

because petitioner was the rightful owner of the patent at the time payment of the seven and one half (7½) year maintenance fee was attempted.

Applicable Law, Rules and MPEP

37 CFR 1.378(b) provides that a patent may be reinstated at any time following expiration of the patent for failure to timely pay a maintenance fee. A petition to accept late payment of a maintenance fee, where the delay was unavoidable, must include:

> (A) the required maintenance fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g);
> (B) the surcharge set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(i)(1); and
> (C) a showing that the delay was unavoidable since reasonable care was taken to ensure that the maintenance fee would be paid timely and that the petition was filed promptly after the patentee was notified of, or otherwise became aware of, the expiration of the patent.

The required showing must enumerate the steps taken to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee, the date and the manner in which patentee became aware of the expiration of the patent, and the steps taken to file the petition promptly. Furthermore, an adequate showing requires a statement by all persons with direct knowledge of the cause of the delay, setting forth the facts as they know them. Copies of all documentary evidence referred to in a statement should be furnished as exhibits to the statement. (Emphasis supplied).

As language in 35 U.S.C. § 41(c)(1) is identical to that in 35 U.S.C. § 133 (i.e., "unavoidable" delay), a late maintenance fee for the unavoidable delay standard is considered under the same standard for reviving an abandoned application under 35 U.S.C. § 133. See Ray v. Lehman, 55 F.3d 606, 608-09, 34 USPQ2d 1786, 1787 (Fed. Cir. 1995) (quoting In re Patent No. 4,409,763, 7 USPQ2d 1798, 1800 (Comm'r Pat. 1988), aff 'd sub nom. Rydeen v. Quigg, 748 F. Supp. 900, 16 USPQ2d 1876 (D.D.C. 1990), aff 'd, 937 F.2d 623 (Fed. Cir. 1991) (table), cert. denied, 502 U.S. 1075 (1992)). See MPEP § 711.03(c) for a general discussion of the "unavoidable" delay standard.

Because 35 U.S.C. § 41(c) requires the payment of fees at specified intervals to maintain a patent in force, rather than some response to a specific action by the Office under 35 U.S.C. § 133, a reasonably prudent person in the exercise of due care and diligence would have taken steps to ensure the timely payment of such maintenance fees. Ray, 55 F.3d at 609, 34 USPQ2d at 1788. That is, an adequate showing that the delay in payment of the maintenance fee at issue was "unavoidable" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 41(c) and 37 CFR 1.378(b)(3) requires a showing of the steps taken to ensure the timely payment of the maintenance fees for this patent. Id. Thus, where the record fails to disclose that the patentee took reasonable steps, or discloses that the patentee took no steps, to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee, 35 U.S.C. 41(c) and 37 CFR 1.378(b)(3) preclude acceptance of the delayed payment of the maintenance fee under 37 CFR 1.378(b).

In view of the requirement to enumerate the steps taken to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee, the patentee's lack of knowledge of the need to pay the maintenance fee

and the failure to receive the Maintenance Fee Reminder does not constitute unavoidable delay. See Patent No. 4,409,763, supra. See also Final Rule entitled "Final Rules for Patent Maintenance Fees," published in the Federal Register at 49 Fed. Reg. 34716, 34722-23 (August 31, 1984), and republished in the Official Gazette at 1046 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 28, 34 (September 25, 1984). Under the statutes and rules, the Office has no duty to notify patentees of the requirement to pay maintenance fees or to notify patentees when the maintenance fees are due. It is solely the responsibility of the patentee to assure that the maintenance fee is timely paid to prevent expiration of the patent. The lack of knowledge of the requirement to pay a maintenance fee and the failure to receive the Maintenance Fee Reminder will not shift the burden of monitoring the time for paying a maintenance fee from the patentee to the Office. Thus, evidence that despite reasonable care on behalf of the patentee and/or the patentee's agents, and reasonable steps to ensure timely payment, the maintenance fee was unavoidably not paid, could be submitted in support of an argument that the delay in payment was unavoidable.

Moreover, the Patent and Trademark Office must rely on the actions or inactions of duly authorized and voluntarily chosen representatives of the applicant, and applicant is bound by the consequences of those actions or inactions. Link v. Wabash, 370 U.S. 626, 633-34 (1962); Huston v. Ladner, 973 F.2d 1564, 1567, 23 USPQ2d 1910, 1913 (Fed. Cir. 1992); see also Haines v. Quigg, 673 F. Supp. 314, 317, 5 USPQ2d 1130, 1132 (D.N. Ind. 1987). Specifically, petitioner's delay caused by the actions or inactions of his voluntarily chosen representative does not constitute unavoidable delay within the meaning of 35 USC 133 or 37 CFR 1.137(a). Haines v. Quigg, 673 F. Supp. 314, 5 USPQ2d 1130 (D. Ind. 1987); Smith v. Diamond, 209 USPQ 1091 (D.D.C. 1981); Potter v. Dann, 201 USPQ 574 (D.D.C. 1978); Ex parte Murray, 1891 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 130, 131 (Comm'r Pat. 1891). In re Mattullath, 38 App. D.C. 497, 514-15 (1912)(quoting Ex parte Pratt, 1887 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 31, 32-33 (1887)); see also Winkler v. Ladd, 221 F. Supp. 550, 552, 138 USPQ 666, 167-68 (D.D.C. 1963), aff'd, 143 USPQ 172 (D.C. Cir. 1963); Ex parte Henrich, 1913 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 139, 141 (1913).

Opinion

Initially it is noted that petitioner is correct that anyone may pay the maintenance fee. However, once the patent is expired, one of the requirements of a grantable petition to accept an unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee is a statement that the delay in payment of the maintenance fee was unintentional. The statement is only acceptable from a party responsible for payment of the maintenance fee.

In this instance, petitioner attempted to pay the maintenance fee based upon an unintentionally delayed payment, but failed to demonstrate that he was authorized to pay the maintenance fee on behalf of the party responsible for payment of the maintenance fee, the assignee.

The applicable rule, 37 CFR 1.378(d), states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest." (Emphasis supplied).

Petitioner repeatedly failed to demonstrate that he was authorized to act on behalf of the assignee. The applicable rule 37 CFR 3.73(b), provides:

> (1) In order to request or take action in a patent or trademark matter, the assignee must establish its ownership of the patent or trademark property of paragraph (a) of this section to the satisfaction of the Director. The establishment of ownership by the assignee may be combined with the paper that requests or takes the action. Ownership is established by submitting to the Office a signed statement identifying the assignee, accompanied by either:
> (i) Documentary evidence of a chain of title from the original owner to the assignee (e.g., copy of an executed assignment). For trademark matters only, the documents submitted to establish ownership may be required to be recorded pursuant to § 3.11 in the assignment records of the Office as a condition to permitting the assignee to take action in a matter pending before the Office. For patent matters only, the submission of the documentary evidence must be accompanied by a statement affirming that the documentary evidence of the chain of title from the original owner to the assignee was or concurrently is being submitted for recordation pursuant to § 3.11; or
> (ii) A statement specifying where documentary evidence of a chain of title from the original owner to the assignee is recorded in the assignment records of the Office (e.g., reel and frame number).

(Emphasis supplied).

Petitioner failed to provide either "documentary evidence of a chain of title from the original owner to the assignee," or "a statement specifying where documentary evidence of a chain of title from the original owner to the assignee is recorded in the assignment records of the Office (e.g., reel and frame number)."

As to petitioner's attempts to contact this Office via telephone, petitioner is directed to 37 CFR 1.2, which states:

> All business with the Patent and Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

Regarding unavoidable delay, as noted supra, language in 35 U.S.C. § 41(c)(1) is identical to that in 35 U.S.C. § 133 (i.e., "unavoidable" delay), and a late maintenance fee for the unavoidable delay standard is considered under the same standard for reviving an abandoned application under 35 U.S.C. § 133. The standard for revival of an abandoned application makes it clear that a delay resulting from the lack of knowledge or improper application of the patent statute, rules of practice or the MPEP, however, does not constitute "unavoidable" delay. See Haines, 673 F. Supp. at 317, 5 USPQ2d at 1132; Vincent v. Mossinghoff, 230 USPQ 621, 624 (D.D.C. 1985); Smith v. Diamond, 209 USPQ 1091 (D.D.C. 1981); Potter v. Dann, 201 USPQ 574 (D.D.C. 1978); Ex parte Murray, 1891 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 130, 131 (1891).

Moreover, a delay caused by an applicant's lack of knowledge or improper application of the patent statute, rules of practice or the MPEP is not rendered "unavoidable" due to: (A) the applicant's reliance upon oral advice from USPTO employees; or (B) the USPTO's failure to advise the applicant of any deficiency in sufficient time to permit the applicant to take corrective action. See In re Sivertz, 227 USPQ 255, 256 (Comm'r Pat. 1985).

It was petitioner's responsibility to either retain counsel or to familiarize himself with the laws, rules of practice and MPEP. The rules of practice do not diverge depending upon whether one is an attorney or an applicant appearing before this office in proper person. It is Applicant's obligation to inform himself about the obligations associated with prosecuting his application. See, California Med. Prods. V. Tecnol Med., 921 F.Supp 1219 (D. Del. 1995).

Conclusion

Patentee has failed to demonstrate that the failure to pay the maintenance fee was unavoidable.

The petition is dismissed.

Petitioner's current options

I. Petitioner may file a request for reconsideration.

If reconsideration of this decision is desired, a petition for reconsideration must be filed within TWO (2) MONTHS from the mail date of this decision. The petition for reconsideration should be entitled "Petition for Reconsideration under 37 CFR 1.378(b)." Any petition for reconsideration of this decision must be accompanied by a non-refundable petition fee of $400 as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(h).

After a decision on the petition for reconsideration, no further reconsideration or review of the matter will be undertaken by the Commissioner. Therefore, it is extremely important that petitioner supply **any** and **all** relevant information and documentation with his request for reconsideration. The Commissioner's decision will be based solely on the administrative record in existence. Petitioner should remember that it is not enough that the delay was unavoidable; petitioner must prove that the delay was unavoidable. A petition will not be granted if petitioner provides insufficient evidence to 'show' that the delay was unavoidable. Therefore, if a request for reconsideration is filed, it must establish that the entire delay in the submission of the maintenance fee was unavoidable.

II. Petitioner may file a (renewed) petition stating that the delay was unintentional[1].

[1] Under 35 U.S.C. 41(c)(1), the Director of the Office may accept late payment of any maintenance fee filed within 24 months after the 6-month grace period, if the delay in payment is shown to the satisfaction of the Director of the Office to have been unintentional. Here, the maintenance fee was filed within 24 months after the six month grace period had expired, and a renewed petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c) based upon an unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee is available.

Petition to reinstate based upon an unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee under 37 CFR 1.378(c)

Patentee is strongly urged to file a petition stating that the delay was unintentional. Public Law 97-247, § 3, 96 Stat. 317 (1982), which revised patent and trademark fees, amended 35 U.S.C. § 41(a)(7) to provide for the revival of an "unintentionally" abandoned application without a showing that the delay in was "unavoidable." An "unintentional" petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b) must be accompanied by the required fee.

The filing of a petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c) cannot be intentionally delayed and therefore must be filed promptly. A person seeking revival due to unintentional delay can not make a statement that the delay was unintentional unless the entire delay, including the delay from the date it was discovered that the application was abandoned until the filing of the petition to reinstate under 37 CFR 1.378(c), was unintentional. A statement that the delay was unintentional is not appropriate if petitioner intentionally delayed the filing of a petition to reinstate the patent under 37 CFR 1.378(c).

37 CFR 1.378(c) states that "any petition to accept an unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee filed under paragraph (a) of this section must be filed within twenty-four months after the six-month grace period provided in § 1.362(e) and must include:
(1) The required maintenance fee set forth in § 1.20 (e) through (g);
(2) The surcharge set forth in § 1.20(i)(2); and
(3) A statement that the delay in payment of the maintenance fee was unintentional.

III. Petitioner may request a refund of the maintenance fee and surcharge which accompanied the petition.

Petitioner may request a refund of the maintenance fee and surcharge by writing to the Office of Finance, Refund Section, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC, 20231. A copy of this decision should accompany petitioner's request.

Applicant is advised that, in patented files: requests for changes of correspondence address, powers of attorney, revocations of powers of attorney, withdrawal of attorney and submissions under 37 CFR 1.501: Designation of, or changes to, a fee address, should be addressed to Mail Stop M Correspondence.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail: Mail Stop PETITIONS
Director for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By FAX: (571) 273-8300
Attn: Office of Petitions

By hand: Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3232.

/DLW/

Derek L. Woods
Attorney
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
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Intellectual Property Dept.
Dewitt Ross & Stevens SC
2 East Mifflin Street
Suite 600
Madison WI 53703-2865

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JAN 17 2012

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent of	:	
Paul et al.	:	
Patent No.: 6,112,136	:	
Issue Date: 08/29/2000	:	
Application No. 09/079298	:	
Filing or 371(c) Date: 05/12/1998	:	ON PETITION
Title of Invention: SOFTWARE - MANAGEMENT OF AN INTELLIGENT POWER CONDITIONER WITH BACKUP SYSTEM OPTION EMPLOYING TREND ANALYSIS FOR EARLY PREDICTION OF AC POWER LINE FAILURE	:	

This is a decision on the renewed petition under 37 CFR § 1.378(c), filed December 9, 2011, to reinstate the above-identified patent.

The petition is GRANTED.

The patent issued August 29, 2000. The grace period for paying the seven and one-half (7½) year maintenance fee expired on August 29, 2008. Therefore, since the original petition and the maintenance fee were filed within twenty-four months after the six-month grace period provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e), this renewed petition was timely filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(c).

Accordingly, the maintenance fee in this case is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is hereby reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

The fee for reconsideration of a petition under 37 CFR § 1.378(c), is $400.00, and the request for a refund of the petition fee of $400.00 is dismissed.

The file is being forwarded to the files repository.

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3232.

/DLW/

Derek L. Woods
Attorney
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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FEB 04 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

Timothy H. Van Dyke
390 No. Orange Avenue
Suite 2500
Orlando, FL 32801

In re Patent No. 7,129,391 :
Issue Date: October 31, 2006 :
Application No. 09/079,640 : NOTICE
Filed: May 15, 1998 :
Patentee(s): Henry Daniell :

This is a Notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28, filed on November 22, 2010.

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. 1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989). Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**. Therefore, status as a small entity has been removed and any future fee(s) submitted must be paid at the large entity rate.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3226.

Andrea Smith
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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WOOTEN & SHADDOCK,
PLC / ALLIANT TECHSYSTEMS INC.
1435 CROSSWAYS BOULEVARD
SUITE 303
CHESAPEAKE VA 23320

MAILED

AUG 15 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No.: 5,974,718 :
Issue Date: 2 November, 1999 :
Application No. 09/080,163 : DECISION
Filed: 15 May, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No. 22389-US-01 :

This is a decision on the petition filed on 29 June, 2011, under 37 C.F.R. §1.27(g)(2) requesting that status as a Small Entity be removed.

NOTE:

In view of their duty of candor to the Office to properly inquire to ascertain the accuracy of representations made before the Office (*see*: 37 C.F.R. §1.4, §10.18, MPEP §410), Petitioners always are reminded of the responsibility to review their records and submit accurate information to the Office.

Petitioner's submission is **ACCEPTED**.

In accordance with the request, status as a Small Entity will be removed, and Petitioner is required to pay fees at the schedule set forth for not-small entities. **The additional fees were charged as authorized**.

The availability of applications and application papers online to applicants/practitioners who diligently associate their Customer Number with the respective application(s) now provides an applicant/practitioner on-demand information as to events/transactions in an application.

Out of an abundance of caution, Petitioners always are reminded that that those registered to practice and all others who make representations before the Office **must** inquire into the

underlying facts of representations made to the Office and support averments with the appropriate documentation–since all owe to the Office the continuing duty to disclose.[1]

The instant application is released to the IFW Files Repository in due course.

Telephone inquiries regarding this decision may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3214—it is noted, however, that all practice before the Office is in writing (see: 37 C.F.R. §1.2[2]) and the proper authority for action on any matter in this regard are the statutes (35 U.S.C.), regulations (37 C.F.R.) and the commentary on policy (MPEP). Therefore, no telephone discussion may be controlling or considered authority for Petitioner's action(s).

/John J. Gillon, Jr./
John J. Gillon, Jr.
Senior Attorney
Office of Petitions

[1] See supplement of 17 June, 1999. The Patent and Trademark Office is relying on Petitioner's duty of candor and good faith and accepting a statement made by Petitioner. See Changes to Patent Practice and Procedure, 62 Fed. Reg. at 53160 and 53178, 1203 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office at 88 and 103 (responses to comments 64 and 109)(applicant obligated under 37 C.F.R. §10.18 to inquire into the underlying facts and circumstances when providing statements to the Patent and Trademark Office).

[2] The regulations at 37 C.F.R. §1.2 provide:

§1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent and Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 5934118
Issue Date: August 10,1999
Application No. 09081630
Filed: May 19,1998
Attorney Docket No. HNS-001-P2

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed August 26,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of August 26,2011 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5934118	1999-08-10	09081630	1998-05-19	

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	◉	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

○ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

◉ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Sole Patentee			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature.			
Signature	/Douglas L Henness/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-08-26
Name	Douglas L Henness		

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

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EDMUND J. SEASE
801 GRAND AVENUE
SUITE 3200
DES MOINES IA 50309

MAILED

APR 11 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
Richard E. Ostlund :
Patent No. 5,932,562 : NOTICE
Application No. 09/084,561 :
Filed: May 26, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No.

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 February 23, 2011.

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This application is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this application must be paid at the large entity rate.

The application file does not indicate a change of address has been filed in this case, although the address given on the petition differs from the address of record. A change of address should be filed in this case in accordance with MPEP 601.03. A courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the address noted on the petition. However, until otherwise instructed, all future correspondence regarding this application will be mailed solely to the address of record.

There is no indication that the person signing the petition was ever given a power of attorney to prosecute the application. If the person signing the petition desires to receive future correspondence regarding this application, the appropriate power of attorney document must be submitted. While a courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the person signing the petition, all future correspondence will be directed to the address currently of record until appropriate instructions are received.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-2783.

/Tredelle D. Jackson/
Paralegal Specialist
Office of Petitions

CC: **KENDAL M. SHEETS**
CPA GLOBAL
2318 MILL ROAD, SUITE 12 FLOOR
ALEXANDRIA VA 22314

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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DIW Dec-11

Paper No. 8

LYON & LYON LLP
633 WEST FIFTH STREET
SUITE 4700
LOS ANGELES CA 90071

MAILED

DEC 08 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,985,546 :
Issue Date: 11/16/1999 :
Application Number: 09/085,271 : ON PETITION
Filing Date: 05/26/1998 :
For: STEALTH VIRUS DETECTION IN :
THE CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME :

This is a decision is in response to the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(b),[1] filed on October 25, 2011, to accept the delayed payment of the maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is dismissed.

If reconsideration of this decision is desired, a petition for reconsideration under 37 CFR 1.378(e) must be filed within **TWO (2) MONTHS** from the mail date of this decision. **No extension of this 2-month time limit can be granted under 37 CFR 1.136(a) or (b)**. Any such petition for reconsideration must be accompanied by the petition fee of $400.00 as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(f). The petition for reconsideration should include an exhaustive attempt to provide the lacking item(s) noted below, since, after a decision on the petition for reconsideration, no further reconsideration or review of the matter will be undertaken by the Director.

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[1] A grantable petition to accept a delayed maintenance fee payment under 37 CFR 1.378(b) must be include

(1) the required maintenance fee set forth in § 1.20(e) through (g);
(2) the surcharge set forth in §1.20(I)(1); and
(3) a showing that the delay was unavoidable since reasonable care was taken to ensure that the maintenance fee would be paid timely and that the petition was filed promptly after the patentee was notified of, or otherwise became aware of, the expiration of the patent. The showing must enumerate the steps taken to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee, the date and the manner in which patentee became aware of the expiration of the patent, and the steps taken to file the petition promptly.

The patent issued on November 16, 1999. The first maintenance fee could have been paid during the period from November 16, 2002, through May 16, 2003, or, with a surcharge, during the period from May 17 through November 16, 2003. Accordingly, this patent expired at midnight on November 16, 2003 for failure to timely pay the first maintenance fee.

Petitioner, *pro se,* asserts that his registered patent practitioner was Charles Berkman of Lyon & Lyon. Petitioner further asserts:

> Mr. Berkman left Lyon & Lyon in November 2000 and we agreed that the patent management would remain with Lyon & Lyon. I had been in Australia for much of 2000 because of my mother's deteriorating health and for the next several years had virtually no meaningful contact with Lyon & Lyon. Indeed, I only later heard that the corporation was dissolved on August 30 of 2002. The firm subsequently applied for bankruptcy on January 6, 2003. … I was never provided any of the files or correspondence relating to work performed on my behalf at Lyon & Lyon and did not know about maintenance fees being due in 2003 or 2007.

Petitioner further avers that he did not learn until 2011 that the first maintenance fee had never been paid. Further still, petitioner has provided a letter from Dr. David N. Glaser, stating that Dr. Glaser "fully support[s] (petitioners) petition to the Patent Office to accept the delayed payments for the fees, which he has unavoidably failed to pay because of medical reasons."

A petition to accept the delayed maintenance fee under 35 U.S.C. § 41(c) and 37 CFR 1.378(b) must be accompanied by (1) an adequate, verified showing that the delay was unavoidable, since reasonable care was taken to ensure that the maintenance fee would be paid timely and that the petition was filed promptly after the patentee was notified of, or otherwise became aware of, the expiration of the patent, (2) payment of the appropriate maintenance fee, unless previously submitted, and (3) payment of the surcharge set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(i)(1). This petition lacks requirement (1).

The Director may accept late payment of the maintenance fee if the delay is shown to the satisfaction of the Director to have been "unavoidable".[2]

The showing of record is inadequate to establish unavoidable delay within the meaning of 37 CFR 1.378(b)(3).

A late maintenance fee is considered under the same standard as that for reviving an abandoned application under 35 U.S.C. § 133 because 35 U.S.C. § 41(c)(1) uses identical language (i.e. "unavoidable delay").[3] Decisions reviving abandoned applications have adopted the reasonably prudent person standard in determining if the delay was unavoidable.[4] In this regard:

> The word 'unavoidable' . . . is applicable to ordinary human affairs, and requires no more or greater care or diligence than is generally used and observed by prudent and careful men in relation to their most important business. It permits them in the exercise of this care to rely upon the ordinary and trustworthy agencies of mail and telegraph, worthy and reliable employees, and such other means and instrumentalities as are usually employed in such important business. If unexpectedly, or through the unforeseen fault or imperfection of these agencies and instrumentalities, there occurs a failure, it may properly be said to be unavoidable, all other conditions of promptness in its rectification being present.[5]

As 35 U.S.C. § 41(c) requires the payment of fees at specified intervals to maintain a patent in force, rather than some response to a specific action by the Office under 35 U.S.C. § 133, a reasonably prudent person in the exercise of due care and

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[2] 35 U.S.C. § 41(c)(1).

[3] Ray v. Lehman, 55 F.3d 606, 608-09, 34 USPQ2d 1786, 1787 (Fed. Cir. 1995) (quoting In re Patent No. 4,409,763, 7 USPQ2d 1798, 1800 (Comm'r Pat. 1989)).

[4] Ex parte Pratt, 1887 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 31, 32-33 (Comm'r Pat. 1887)(the term "unavoidable" "is applicable to ordinary human affairs, and requires no more or greater care or diligence than is generally used by prudent and careful men in relation to their most important business").

[5] In re Mattullath, 38 App. D.C. 497, 514-15 (1912)(quoting Ex parte Pratt, 1887 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 31, 32-33 (1887)); see also Winkler v. Ladd, 221 F. Supp. 550, 552, 138 USPQ 666, 167-68 (D.D.C. 1963), aff'd, 143 USPQ 172 (D.C. Cir. 1963); Ex parte Henrich, 1913 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 139, 141 (1913). In addition, decisions on revival are made on a "case-by-case basis, taking all the facts and circumstances into account." Smith v. Mossinghoff, 671 F.2d 533, 538, 213 USPQ 977, 982 (D.C. Cir. 1982). Finally, a petition cannot be granted where a petitioner has failed to meet his or her burden of establishing that the delay was "unavoidable." Haines v. Quigg, 673 F. Supp. 314, 316-17, 5 USPQ2d 1130, 1131-32 (N.D. Ind. 1987).

diligence would have taken steps to ensure the timely payment of such maintenance fees.[6] That is, an adequate showing that the delay was "unavoidable" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 41(c) and 37 CFR 1.378(b)(3) requires a showing of the steps taken to ensure the timely payment of the maintenance fees for this patent.[7]

While petitioner alleged chose to rely upon the law firm of Lyon & Lyon (hereinafter L&L) to track and pay the maintenance fee, such reliance *per se* does not provide petitioner with a showing of unavoidable delay within the meaning of 37 CFR 1.378(b) and 35 U.S.C. § 41(c).[8] Rather, such reliance merely shifts the focus of the inquiry from petition to whether the attorney or agent acted reasonably and prudently.[9] As such, assuming that the agent had been so engaged, then it is incumbent upon petitioner to demonstrate, via a documented showing, that the attorney or agent had docketed this patent for the first maintenance fee payment in a reliable tracking system.[10] If petitioner cannot establish that agent had been so engaged, then petitioner will have to demonstrate what steps were established by petitioner to monitor and pay the maintenance fee.

Petitioner must identify the personnel at L&L who were responsible for tracking and paying the maintenance fee for this patent. Any showing of unavoidable delay must include a statement from the responsible persons at L&L, as well as any other attorney(s) of record during the period that payment of the maintenance fee was delayed, as to why action was not taken to timely submit the required maintenance fee while the patent was under that agent's control. Petitioner should send a letter (accompanied by a copy of this decision) to the persons employed by L&L who were responsible for tracking and paying the maintenance fee, as well as any registered patent attorneys or agents of record, by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, indicating that the USPTO is requesting their assistance in determining the circumstances surrounding the expiration of this patent, and is specifically requesting those persons who were responsible for tracking and/or paying the maintenance fee to provide a statement as to: (1) whether, and when, they first became aware that the first maintenance fee for

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[6] Ray, 55 F.3d at 609, 34 USPQ2d at 1788.

[7] Id.

[8] See California Med. Prod. v. Technol. Med. Prod., 921 F. Supp. 1219, 1259 (D. Del. 1995).

[9] Id.

[10] Id.

this patent was due, and (2) why the maintenance fee was not timely submitted. Such statements should be accompanied by copies of any documents relevant to payment of the maintenance fee. In the event that those persons formerly employed by L&L with responsibility for tracking and/or paying the maintenance fee fail to provide a statement within a person (e.g. within one (1) month) specified in such letter, petitioner should submit a copy of such letter and the return receipt indicating its delivery to the patent attorney or agent with any petition for reconsideration under 37 CFR 1.378(e).

The above paragraph notwithstanding, petitioner is reminded that the failure of communication between an applicant and counsel is not unavoidable delay.[11] Specifically, delay resulting from a lack of proper communication between a patent holder and a registered representative as to who bore the responsibility for payment of a maintenance fee does not constitute unavoidable delay within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 41(c) and 37 CFR 1.378(b).[12] Moreover, the Office is not the proper forum for resolving a dispute as to the effectiveness of communications between parties regarding the responsibility for paying a maintenance fee.[13]

Petitioner must also state what action was taken to ensure that the maintenance fees were tracked and timely paid after petitioner discovered that L&L was no longer operating.

Rather than unavoidable delay, the showing of record is that petitioner was preoccupied with other matters. Petitioner's preoccupation with other matters which took precedence over timely payment of the maintenance fee in the present patent does not constitute unavoidable delay.[14]

Moreover, with regard to petitioner's statement that he did not know that maintenance fees were due in 2003 or 2007, a delay resulting from a lack of knowledge or improper application of the patent statute, rules of practice, or the MPEP does not constitute an "unavoidable" delay.[15]

---

[11] In re Kim, 12 USPQ2d 1595 (Comm'r Pat. 1988).

[12] See Ray v. Lehman, 55 F.3d 606, 610, 34 USPQ2d 1786, 1789 (Fed. Cir. 1995).

[13] Id.

[14] See Smith v. Mossinghoff, 671 F.2d 533, 538, 213 USPQ 977, 982 (D.C. Cir. 1982).

[15] See Haines v. Quigg, 673 F. Supp. 314, 317, 5 USPQ 1130, 1132 (N.D. Ind. 1987), Vincent v. Mossinghoff, 230 USPQ 621, 624 (D.D.C. 1985); Smith v. Diamond, 209 USPQ 1091 (D.D.C. 1981); Potter v. Dann, 201 USPQ 574 (D.D.C. 1978); Ex parte Murray, 1891 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 130, 131 (1891).

With regard to the statement from petitioner's physician, Dr. Glaser, a showing of "unavoidable" delay based upon incapacitation must establish that petitioner's incapacitation was of such nature and degree as to render petitioner unable to conduct business (*e.g.*, correspond with the Office) during the period between November 16, 2003 and October 25, 2011. Such a showing must be supported by a statement from petitioner's treating physician, and such statement must provide the nature and degree of petitioner's incapacitation during this above-mentioned period.

The petition must be dismissed at this time because further information is needed in order to determine whether the circumstances surrounding the delay in payment constitute unavoidable delay. While it is noted that petitioner has provided a statement from petitioner's treating physician, the information provided does not adequately describe the nature and degree of petitioner's incapacitation during the period from when the maintenance fee was due until the filing of the present petition.

While the Office is mindful the problems encountered by petitioner, a renewed petition providing a detailed discussion of the nature and degree of petitioner's incapacitation during the period from when the maintenance fee was due until the filing of the present petition is nonetheless required.

Petitioner is cautioned to avoid submitting personal information in a patent application that may contribute to identity theft. If personal information such as social security numbers, bank account numbers, or credit card numbers are included in documents submitted to the USPTO (other than a check or credit card authorization form PTO-2038 submitted for payment purposes), petitioners should consider redacting such personal information from the documents before submitting them to the USPTO. This type of personal information is never required by the USPTO to support a petition or an application. Petitioner is advised that any information submitted in an application is available to the public after publication of the application (unless a non-publication request in compliance with 37 CFR 1.213(a) is made in the application) or issuance of a patent. Furthermore, information from an abandoned application may also be available to the public if the application is referenced in a published application or an issued patent (see 37 CFR 1.14). Checks and credit card authorization forms PTO-2038 submitted for payment purposes are not retained in the application file and therefore are not publicly available.

Petitioner should note that if this petition is not renewed, or if renewed and not granted, then the maintenance fee and post-expiration surcharge are refundable. The $400.00 petition fee for seeking reconsideration is not refundable. Any request for refund should be in writing to the address noted below.

The address in the petition is different than the correspondence address. A courtesy copy of this decision will be mailed to petitioner. All future correspondence, however, will be mailed solely to the correspondence address of record. If the correspondence address needs to be updated a completed change of correspondence address form should be filed. A change of correspondence address form is enclosed for petitioner's convenience.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail:
Mail Stop Petition
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By FAX:
(571) 273-8300
Attn: Office of Petitions

By hand:
Customer Service Window
Mail Stop Petition
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Telephone inquiries should be directed to the undersigned at 571-272-3231.

Douglas I. Wood
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

cc: WILLIAM JOHN MARTIN
1634 SPRUCE ST
SOUTH PASADENA CA 91030

Encl: Change of Correspondence Address-Patent

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

PERKINS COIE LLP
P.O. BOX 1208
SEATTLE, WA 98111-1208

MAILED
MAY 09 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,208,348 :
Issue Date: March 27, 2001 :
Application No. 09/085,746 : ON PETITION
Filed: May 27, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No. 76882-8001.US01 :

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28, filed April 18, 2011.

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue patent under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This patent is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this patent must be paid at the large entity rate.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-6059.

A. Kelley Collier

Alicia Kelley-Collier
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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BALLARD SPAHR LLP
SUITE 1000
999 PEACHTREE STREET
ATLANTA GA 30309-3915

MAILED
OCT 24 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,037,129 :
Issued: March 14, 2000 :
Application No. 09/086,372 : ON PETITION
Filed: May 28, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No. 19113.0050US :

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 filed September 21, 2011.

On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. **See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).**

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989).** Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED.**

This patent is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this patent must be paid at the large entity rate.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-7751.

/Joan Olszewski/
Joan Olszewski
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

SPE RESPONSE FOR CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

DATE : 05-26-11

TO SPE OF : ART UNIT 1615

SUBJECT : Request for Certificate of Correction for Appl. No.: 09/086998 Patent No.: 6231880

CofC mailroom date: 11-30-10

Please respond to this request for a certificate of correction within 7 days.

FOR IFW FILES:

Please review the requested changes/corrections as shown in the **COCIN** document(s) in the IFW application image. No new matter should be introduced, nor should the scope or meaning of the claims be changed.

Please complete the response (see below) and forward the completed response to scanning using document code **COCX**.

FOR PAPER FILES:

Please review the requested changes/corrections as shown in the attached certificate of correction. Please complete this form (see below) and forward it with the file to:

Certificates of Correction Branch (CofC)
Randolph Square – 9D10-A
Palm Location 7580

Note: _____

_____

Certificates of Correction Branch

703-756-1814

Thank You For Your Assistance

The request for issuing the above-identified correction(s) is hereby:

Note your decision on the appropriate box.

- ☒ **Approved** — All changes apply.
- ☐ **Approved in Part** — Specify below which changes **do not** apply.
- ☐ **Denied** — State the reasons for denial below.

Comments: _____

/Fereydoun Sajjadi/ SPE AU 1617

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER
FEB 15 2012

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Gwo-Jou Huang et al Group Art Unit:

Serial No.: 09/089,498 Examiner: F.J. Bartuska

Filed: 06/03/1998

Now U.S. Patent No. 6,135,702

Issued: 10/24/2000

For: APPARATUS FOR AUTOMATED LOADING OF WAFER CASSETTE

Attorney Docket No.: 67,200-077

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is (1) ☐ being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P O Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on February ____, 2012; or (2) ☒ being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office at facsimile number (571)-273-8300 on February 15, 2012.

Randy W. Tung _____ 2/15/12
Printed Name Signature Date

Please forward all correspondence to

TUNG & ASSOCIATES
838 W. Long Lake Road, Suite 120
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302

Petition for Correction of Assignees' Names Under 3.81(b)

Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Va 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find the following:

(1) Copy of original Assignment filed under Reel/Frame 9222/0123 filed on

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06/11/1998.

(2) Request for Certificate of Correction under 37 CFR 1.323.

(3) Processing Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) Transmittal Form along with Credit Card (Form PTO 2038) in the amount of $130.00.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy W. Tung
Registration No. 31,311

PAGE 2/8 * RCVD AT 2/15/2012 1:11:44 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:W-PTOFAX-003/17 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:12485404035 * DURATION (mm-ss):01-34

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PTO/SB/17i (07-09)
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PROCESSING FEE
Under 37 CFR 1.17(i)
TRANSMITTAL
(Fees are subject to annual revision)

Send completed form to: Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Application Number	09/089,498
Filing Date	06/03/1998
First Named Inventor	Gwo-Jou Huang
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	F.J. Bartuska
Attorney Docket Number	67,200-077

Enclosed is a paper filed under 37 CFR 1.323 **that requires a processing fee (37 CFR 1.17(i)).**
Payment of $ 130.00 **is enclosed.**
This form should be included with the above-mentioned paper and faxed or mailed to the Office using the appropriate Mail Stop, if applicable. *For transmittal of petition fees under 37 CFR 1.17(f), (g) or (h), see form PTO/SB/17p.*

Payment of Fees (small entity amounts are NOT available for the processing fees)

☐ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the following fees to Deposit Account No._____:
☐ processing fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) ☐ any deficiency of fees and credit of any overpayments

☐ Check in the amount of $_____ is enclosed.

☑ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 or equivalent enclosed). Do not provide credit card information on this form.

Processing Fees under 37 CFR 1.17(i): Fee $130 Fee Code 1808 for all,
Except for § 1.221 papers (Fee Code 1803)

For papers filed under:
§ 1.28(c)(3) - for processing a non-itemized fee deficiency based on an error in small entity status.
§ 1.41 - for supplying the name or names of the inventor or inventors after the filing date without an oath or declaration as prescribed by § 1.63, except in provisional applications.
§ 1.48 - for correcting inventorship, except in provisional applications.
§ 1.52(d) - for processing a nonprovisional application filed with a specification in a language other than English.
§ 1.53(b)(3) - to convert a provisional application filed under § 1.53(c) into a nonprovisional application under § 1.53(b).
§ 1.55 - for entry of late priority papers.
§ 1.71(g)(2) – to enter an amendment to the specification for purposes of 35 U.S.C. 103(c)(2) if not filed within the cited time periods
§ 1.99(e) - for processing a belated submission under § 1.99.
§ 1.103(b) - for requesting limited suspension of action, continued prosecution application (§ 1.53(d)).
§ 1.103(c) - for requesting limited suspension of action, request for continued examination (§ 1.114).
§ 1.103(d) - for requesting deferred examination of an application.
§ 1.217 - for processing a redacted copy of a paper submitted in the file of an application in which a redacted copy was submitted for the patent application publication.
§ 1.221 - for requesting voluntary publication or republication of an application. **Fee Code 1803**
§ 1.291(c)(5) - for processing a second or subsequent protest by the same real party in interest.
§ 1.497(d) - for filing an oath or declaration pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4) naming an inventive entity different from the inventive entity set forth in the international stage.
§ 3.81 - for a patent to issue to assignee, assignment submitted after payment of the issue fee.

_____ 2/15/12
Signature Date

Randy W. Tung 31,311
Typed or printed name Registration No., if applicable

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.17. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 5 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

02/16/2012 APEREZAM 00000017 09089498 130.00 OP
01 FC:1808

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Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.
(Also Form PTO-1050)

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 6,135,702

APPLICATION NO.: 09/089,498

ISSUE DATE : 10/24/2000

INVENTOR(S) : Gwo-Jou Huang et al

It is certified that an error appears or errors appear in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

[73] Assignee: Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company, Ltd., Hsin Chu, Taiwan

Should be:

[73] Assignee: Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company, Ltd., Hsin Chu, Taiwan and Industrial Technology Research Institute, Hsin Chu, Taiwan

MAILING ADDRESS OF SENDER (Please do not use customer number below):

Tung & Associates
838 W. Long Lake, s/120
Bloomfield Hills, Mi 48302

2/15/12

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.322, 1.323, and 1.324. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1.0 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Attention Certificate of Corrections Branch, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

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200-077

PTO-1595

06-11-1998

[redacted]

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Patent and Trademark Office

Y

To the Honorable Commissioner of 100734621

e attached original documents or copy thereof.

6-3-98

1. Name of conveying party(ies):

GWO-JOU HUANG, PING-YU HU, TON-LI LEE AND CHEN-SHIN LIN

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

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

Taiwan Semiconductor Manufactur
Company, Ltd.
No. 121 Park Avenue 3
Science-Based Industrial Park
Hsin-Chu, Taiwan
R.O.C.

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

3. Nature of conveyance:

☒ Assignment ☐ Merger

☐ Security Agreement ☐ Change of Name

☐ Other:

Execution Date: April 16, 1998

4. Application number(s) or patent number(s): 09/089498

If this document is being filed together with a new application, the execution date of the application is: 04-16-98

A. Patent Application No(s).

B. Patent No(s)

Additional numbers attached? ☐ Yes ☒ No

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

RANDY W. TUNG
Tung & Associates
838 W. Long Lake Road
Suite 120
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48302

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: 50-0484

(Attach duplicate copy of this page if paying by deposit account)

06/09/1998 PSTAMBAC 00000021 09089498
02 FC:581 40.00 OP

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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.

Randy W. Tung
Name of Person Signing
Registration No. 31,311

Signature

June 3, 1998
Date

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

Mail documents to be recorded with required cover sheet information to:
Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks, Box Assignments
Washington, D.C. 20231

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67,200-077
TSMC-1-97-244

ASSIGNMENT

WHEREAS, we, GWO-JOU HUANG, PING-YU HU, TON-LI LEE AND CHEN-SHIN LIN, have invented certain improvements in APPARATUS FOR AUTOMATED LOADING OF WAFER CASSETTE for which we are about to make application for Letters Patent of the United States; and

WHEREAS, TAIWAN SEMICONDUCTOR MANUFACTURING CO., LTD. of No. 121, Park Avenue 3, Science-Based Industrial Park, Hsin-Chu, Taiwan, R.O.C and INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH INSTITUTE of 195 Sec. 4, Chung Hsing Road, Chutung, Hsinchu, Taiwan 310, R.O.C., is desirous of acquiring the entire right, title and interest in and to said invention;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of One Dollar ($1.00) and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, we, GWO-JOU HUANG, PING-YU HU, TON-LI LEE AND CHEN-SHIN LIN, by these presents, do hereby sell, assign and transfer unto the said corporation and its assigns, for the territory of the United States of America and all foreign countries, the entire right, title and interest, including all priority rights under the International Convention associated with each country of the Union, in and to said invention as described in the patent application executed by us on the 16th day of April, 1998, preparatory to obtaining Letters Patent of the United States thereon, and in and to said application and any Letters Patent that may be granted in pursuance of said application and any divisional, continuation or continuation-in-part application thereof, and in and to any reissue of any such patent, and in and to any patent applications which may be filed on said invention in countries foreign to the United States and any Letters Patent granted thereon.

We further authorize said corporation to apply for foreign patents on said invention in its own name or through its designees, including subsidiaries, related companies or assignees, under the

PAGE 7/8 * RCVD AT 2/15/2012 1:11:44 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:W-PTOFAX-003/17 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:12485404035 * DURATION (mm-ss):01-34

67,200-07?
TSMC-1-97-244

International Convention or otherwise, and we further agree to execute all papers, including those required for the United States and foreign applications, and to perform such other proper acts as said corporation or its designees the rights herein assigned.

GWO-JOU HUANG

PING-YU HU

TON-LI LEE

CHEN-SHIN LIN

TUNG & ASSOCIATES
838 W. Long Lake Road
Suite 120
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48302
Telephone: (248) 540-4040
Facsimile: (248) 540-4035

PAGE 8/8 * RCVD AT 2/15/2012 1:11:44 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:W-PTOFAX-003/17 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:12485404035 * DURATION (mm-ss):01-34

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BLACK LOWE & GRAHAM, PLLC
701 FIFTH AVENUE
SUITE 4800
SEATTLE WA 98104

MAILED

DEC 02 2010

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,152,137 :
Issued: November 28, 2000 :
Application No. 09/090,717 : ON PETITION
Filed: June 4, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No. GELL-1-1003 :

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 filed October 29, 2010.

On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. **See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).**

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989).** Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED.**

This patent is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this patent must be paid at the large entity rate.

Telephone inquires concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-7751.

The patent file is being forwarded to Files Repository.

Joan Olszewski
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

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Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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EDWARDS LIFESCIENCES CORPORATION
LEGAL DEPARTMENT
ONE EDWARDS WAY
IRVINE, CA 92614

MAILED
MAY 31 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. **6,398,752** :
Issue Date: June 4, 2002 :
Application No. 09/092,374 : NOTICE UNDER 37 CFR 1.28(C)
Filed: June 5, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No. **CSS-6053** :

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28. On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. **See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).**

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This application is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this application must be paid at the large entity rate.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-7253.

/Monica A. Graves/
Petitions Examiner, Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

CHESTER M DACRES
DACCO SCI INC
10260 OLD COLUMBIA ROAD
COLUMBIA MD 21046

MAILED
MAY 05 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent of	:	
Davis et al.	:	
Patent No. 6,054,038	:	
Issue Date: 04/25/2000	:	
Application No.: 09/093001	:	DECISION
Filing or 371(c) Date: 06/08/1998 0	:	ON PETITION
Title of Invention:	:	
PORTABLE, HAND-HELD, IN-SITU	:	
ELECTROCHEMICAL SENSOR FOR	:	
EVALUATING CORROSION AND	:	
ADHESION ON COATED OR UNCOATED	:	
METAL STRUCTURES	:	

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR § 1.378(b), to reinstate the above-identified patent, filed March 30, 2011.

The petition is **DISMISSED**.

Any further petition to revive the above-identified application must be submitted within TWO (2) MONTHS from the mail date of this decision. Extensions of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) are permitted. The reconsideration request should include a cover letter entitled "Renewed Petition under 37 CFR 1.137." This is **not** final agency action within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. § 704.

Background

The patent issued April 25, 2000. Patentee could have paid the seven and one half (7½) year maintenance fee between April 25, 2007 and October 25, 2007, without a surcharge, or within the six (6) month grace period between October 26, 2007 and April 25, 2008. Patentee failed to do so; accordingly, the patent became expired on midnight of April 25, 2008.

The present petition

Petitioner, assignee of the present patent, files the present petition and provides that their current patent docketing system is fully automated, but oversight of the system is proffered by an Office Administrator. In the present case, Petitioner provides that the former Office Administrator

charged with oversight of the docketing system, and who would have received any and all maintenance fee reminders on behalf of the Assignee, was terminated for cause during the period that the present patent was to expire. Moreover, Petitioner provides that subsequent reviews by their Firm's current Office Administrator did not disclose the maintenance fee expiration, due to improper entries made by the former Office Administrator.

Petitioner provides further that in the process of a self-imposed audit of their records in March, 2011, the expiration of the patent was discovered.

Petitioner concludes that reasonable care was taken to ensure that payment of the maintenance fee would be made in a timely manner.

Applicable Law, Rules and MPEP

37 CFR 1.378(b) provides that a patent may be reinstated at any time following expiration of the patent for failure to timely pay a maintenance fee. A petition to accept late payment of a maintenance fee, where the delay was unavoidable, must include:

> (A) the required maintenance fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g);
> (B) the surcharge set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(i)(1); and
> (C) a showing that the delay was unavoidable since reasonable care was taken to ensure that the maintenance fee would be paid timely and that the petition was filed promptly after the patentee was notified of, or otherwise became aware of, the expiration of the patent.

The required showing must enumerate the steps taken to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee, the date and the manner in which patentee became aware of the expiration of the patent, and the steps taken to file the petition promptly. Furthermore, an adequate showing requires *a statement by all persons with direct knowledge of the cause of the delay*, setting forth the facts as they know them. Copies of all documentary evidence referred to in a statement should be furnished as exhibits to the statement. (Emphasis supplied).

As language in 35 U.S.C. § 41(c)(1) is identical to that in 35 U.S.C. § 133 (i.e., "unavoidable" delay), a late maintenance fee for the unavoidable delay standard is considered under the same standard for reviving an abandoned application under 35 U.S.C. § 133. *See Ray v. Lehman*, 55 F.3d 606, 608-09, 34 USPQ2d 1786, 1787 (Fed. Cir. 1995) (quoting In re Patent No. 4,409,763, 7 USPQ2d 1798, 1800 (Comm'r Pat. 1988), aff 'd sub nom. Rydeen v. Quigg, 748 F. Supp. 900, 16 USPQ2d 1876 (D.D.C. 1990), aff 'd, 937 F.2d 623 (Fed. Cir. 1991) (table), cert. denied, 502 U.S. 1075 (1992)). See MPEP § 711.03(c) for a general discussion of the "unavoidable" delay standard.

As 35 U.S.C. § 41(c) requires the payment of fees at specified intervals to maintain a patent in force, rather than some response to a specific action by the Office under 35 U.S.C. § 133, a reasonably prudent person in the exercise of due care and diligence would have taken steps to ensure the timely payment of such maintenance fees. Ray, 55 F.3d at 609, 34 USPQ2d at 1788. That is, an adequate showing that the delay in payment of the maintenance fee at issue was "unavoidable" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 41(c) and 37 CFR 1.378(b)(3) requires a showing of the steps taken to ensure the timely payment of the maintenance fees for this patent.

Id. Thus, where the record fails to disclose that the patentee took reasonable steps, or discloses that the patentee took no steps, to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee, 35 U.S.C. 41(c) and 37 CFR 1.378(b)(3) preclude acceptance of the delayed payment of the maintenance fee under 37 CFR 1.378(b).

In view of the requirement to enumerate the steps taken to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee, the patentee's lack of knowledge of the need to pay the maintenance fee and the failure to receive the Maintenance Fee Reminder do not constitute unavoidable delay. See Patent No. 4,409,763, supra. See also Final Rule entitled "Final Rules for Patent Maintenance Fees," published in the Federal Register at 49 Fed. Reg. 34716, 34722-23 (August 31, 1984), and republished in the Official Gazette at 1046 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 28, 34 (September 25, 1984). Under the statutes and rules, the Office has no duty to notify patentees of the requirement to pay maintenance fees or to notify patentees when the maintenance fees are due. It is solely the responsibility of the patentee to assure that the maintenance fee is timely paid to prevent expiration of the patent. The lack of knowledge of the requirement to pay a maintenance fee and the failure to receive the Maintenance Fee Reminder will not shift the burden of monitoring the time for paying a maintenance fee from the patentee to the Office. Thus, evidence that despite reasonable care on behalf of the patentee and/or the patentee's agents, and reasonable steps to ensure timely payment, the maintenance fee was unavoidably not paid, could be submitted in support of an argument that the delay in payment was unavoidable.

An error in a docketing system could possibly result in a finding that a delay in payment was unavoidable if it were shown that reasonable care was exercised in designing and operating the system and that the patentee took reasonable steps to ensure that the patent was entered into the system to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fees.

A showing of unavoidable delay will (in addition to the above) require: (1) evidence concerning the procedures in place that should have avoided the error resulting in the delay; (2) evidence concerning the training and experience of the persons responsible for the error; and (3) copies of any applicable docketing records to show that the error was in fact the cause of the delay. See MPEP § 711.03(c)(III)(C)(2).

A delay resulting from an error (e.g., a docketing error) on the part of an employee in the performance of a clerical function may provide the basis for a showing of "unavoidable" delay, provided it is shown that:

(A) the error was the cause of the delay at issue;

(B) there was in place a business routine for performing the clerical function that could reasonably be relied upon to avoid errors in its performance; and

(C) the employee was sufficiently trained and experienced with regard to the function and routine for its performance that reliance upon such employee represented the exercise of due care. See In re Egbers, 6 USPQ2d 1869, 1872 (Comm'r Pat. 1988), rev'd on other grounds sub nom., Theodor Groz & Sohne & Ernst Bechert Nadelfabrik KG v. Quigg, 10 USPQ2d 1787 (D.D.C. 1988); In re Katrapat, 6 USPQ2d 1863, 1867-68 (Comm'r Pat. 1988).

Opinion

Petitioner explains that nonpayment of the maintenance fee came about because that their current patent docketing system is fully automated, but oversight of the system is proffered by an Office Administrator. In the present case, Petitioner provides that the former Office Administrator charged with oversight of the docketing system, and who would have received any and all maintenance fee reminders on behalf of the Assignee, was terminated for cause during the period that the present patent was to expire. Moreover, Petitioner provides that subsequent reviews by their Firm's current Office Administrator did not disclose the maintenance fee expiration, due to improper entries made by the former Office Administrator.

Petitioner has not, however, explained the error, or the exact circumstances that caused the error. Petitioner only states that the former Office Administrator charged with oversight of the docketing system, and who would have received any and all maintenance fee reminders on behalf of the Assignee, was terminated for cause during the period that the present patent was to expire. Petitioner has not explained the error putatively made by the former Docket Administrator that was the cause of the delay in paying the maintenance fee. Petitioner must identify the error that was the cause of the delay.

Petitioner must also demonstrate that there was in place a business routine for performing the clerical function that could reasonably be relied upon to avoid errors in its performance

Further to this, Petitioner has not provided a statement from the former Office Administrator stating what, if any, error he/she made. As stated *supra*, an adequate showing of unavoidable delay requires a statement by all persons with direct knowledge of the cause of the delay, setting forth the facts as they know them. A statement from the former Office Administrator is required.

Moreover, petitioner has not provided any statement as to the training of the former Office Administrator that would demonstrate that reliance upon the former Office Administrator to properly perform the clerical function was reasonable. What is required is evidence of the training and supervision of the former Office Administrator during his/her employment with Petitioner, from a person with firsthand knowledge of the former Office Administrator's training and experience, i.e. the former Office Administrator's trainer/supervisor, attesting to the trasining and supervision of the former Office Administrator, such that reliance upon the former Office Administrator to perform the clerical task putatively resulting in the delayed payment of the maintenance fee, was reasonable.

Conclusion

Patentee has failed to demonstrate that the failure to pay the maintenance fee was unavoidable. The petition is dismissed.

Petitioner's current options

I. Petitioner may file a request for reconsideration.

If reconsideration of this decision is desired, a petition for reconsideration must be filed within TWO (2) MONTHS from the mail date of this decision. The petition for reconsideration should be entitled "Petition for Reconsideration under 37 CFR 1.378(b)." Any petition for

reconsideration of this decision must be accompanied by a non-refundable petition fee of $400 as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(h).

After a decision on the petition for reconsideration, no further reconsideration or review of the matter will be undertaken by the Commissioner. Therefore, it is extremely important that petitioner supply **any** and **all** relevant information and documentation with his request for reconsideration. The Commissioner's decision will be based solely on the administrative record in existence. Petitioner should remember that it is not enough that the delay was unavoidable; petitioner must prove that the delay was unavoidable. A petition will not be granted if petitioner provides insufficient evidence to 'show' that the delay was unavoidable. Therefore, if a request for reconsideration is filed, it must establish that the entire delay in the submission of the maintenance fee was unavoidable.

II. Petitioner may request a refund of the maintenance fee and surcharge which accompanied the petition.

Petitioner may request a refund of the maintenance fee and surcharge by writing to the Office of Finance, Refund Section, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC, 20231. A copy of this decision should accompany petitioner's request.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail: Mail Stop PETITIONS
Director for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By FAX: (571) 273-0025
Attn: Office of Petitions

By hand: Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3232.

/DLW/

Derek L. Woods
Attorney
Office of Petitions

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In re Patent of	:	
Davis et al.	:	
Patent No. 6,054,038	:	
Issue Date: 04/25/2000	:	
Application No.: 09/093001	:	DECISION
Filing or 371(c) Date: 06/08/1998 0	:	ON PETITION
Title of Invention:	:	
PORTABLE, HAND-HELD, IN-SITU	:	
ELECTROCHEMICAL SENSOR FOR	:	
EVALUATING CORROSION AND	:	
ADHESION ON COATED OR UNCOATED	:	
METAL STRUCTURES	:	

This letter is in response to the correspondence and fee, filed June 30, 2011. The correspondence and fee are treated as a renewed petition under 37 CFR § 1.378(b), to reinstate the above-identified patent.

Applicant is given a period of ONE (1) MONTH from the mail date of this decision to file a reply to this letter. Extensions of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) are permitted. The reply should include a cover letter entitled "Renewed Petition under 37 CFR 1.137." This is **not** final agency action within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. § 704.

Background

The patent issued April 25, 2000. Patentee could have paid the seven and one half (7½) year maintenance fee between April 25, 2007 and October 25, 2007, without a surcharge, or within the six (6) month grace period between October 26, 2007 and April 25, 2008. Patentee failed to do so; accordingly, the patent became expired on midnight of April 25, 2008.

The March 30, 2011 petition

Petitioner, assignee of the present patent, filed a petition to reinstate the above-identified patent, on March 30, 2011, wherein petitioner provided that their current patent docketing system, while fully automated, is overseen by an Office Administrator. In the present case, Petitioner provided that the former Office Administrator charged with oversight of the docketing system, and who

would have received any and all maintenance fee reminders on behalf of the Assignee, was terminated for cause during the period that the present patent was to expire. Petitioner provided further that subsequent reviews by their Firm's current Office Administrator did not disclose the maintenance fee expiration, due to improper entries made by the former Office Administrator.

Petitioner stated further that in the process of a self-imposed audit of their records in March, 2011, the expiration of the patent was discovered, and concluded that reasonable care was taken to ensure that payment of the maintenance fee would be made in a timely manner.

The Decision dismissing the petition

A Decision dismissing the petition was mailed May 5, 2011. The Decision dismissing the petition required that Petitioner explain the error, or the exact circumstances that caused the error putatively made by the former Docket Administrator that was the cause of the delay in paying the maintenance fee. Petitioner must identify the error that was the cause of the delay.

Petitioner was also required to demonstrate that there was in place a business routine for performing the clerical function that could reasonably be relied upon to avoid errors in its performance

Further to this, a statement from the former Office Administrator stating what, if any, error he/she made. Petitioner was informed that an adequate showing of unavoidable delay requires a statement by all persons with direct knowledge of the cause of the delay, setting forth the facts as they know them.

Finally, petitioner was informed that what is also required is evidence of the training and supervision of the former Office Administrator during his/her employment with Petitioner, from a person with firsthand knowledge of the former Office Administrator's training and experience, i.e. the former Office Administrator's trainer/supervisor, attesting to the training and supervision of the former Office Administrator, such that reliance upon the former Office Administrator to perform the clerical task putatively resulting in the delayed payment of the maintenance fee, was reasonable.

The present correspondence and fee

Petitioner herein files a copy of the Decision, mailed May 5, 2011, a copy of the present patent, and the fee for reconsideration of a petition dismissing a petition to reinstate an expired patent only.

Requirement for Information

Petitioner is advised that a request for reconsideration of the Decision must address the deficiencies noted above.

Petitioner's current options

I. Petitioner may file a request for reconsideration.

If reconsideration of this decision is desired, a petition for reconsideration must be filed within ONE (1) MONTH from the mail date of this decision. *A request for reconsideration of the Decision must address the deficiencies noted above.* The petition for reconsideration should be entitled "Petition for Reconsideration under 37 CFR 1.378(b)." Receipt of the fee for a petition for reconsideration of the May 5, 2011 decision is hereby acknowledged.

After a decision on the petition for reconsideration, no further reconsideration or review of the matter will be undertaken by the Commissioner. Therefore, it is extremely important that petitioner supply **any** and **all** relevant information and documentation with his request for reconsideration. The Commissioner's decision will be based solely on the administrative record in existence. Petitioner should remember that it is not enough that the delay was unavoidable; petitioner must prove that the delay was unavoidable. A petition will not be granted if petitioner provides insufficient evidence to 'show' that the delay was unavoidable. Therefore, if a request for reconsideration is filed, it must establish that the entire delay in the submission of the maintenance fee was unavoidable.

II. Petitioner may request a refund of the maintenance fee and surcharge which accompanied the March 30, 2011 petition.

Petitioner may request a refund of the maintenance fee and surcharge by writing to the Office of Finance, Refund Section, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC, 20231. A copy of this decision should accompany petitioner's request.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail:	Mail Stop PETITIONS Director for Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
By FAX:	(571) 273-0025 Attn: Office of Petitions
By hand:	Customer Service Window Randolph Building 401 Dulany Street Alexandria, VA 22314

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3232.

/DLW/

Derek L. Woods
Attorney
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 6323158
Issue Date: November 27,2001
Application No. 09093097
Filed: June 8,1998
Attorney Docket No. 2326/13C1

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed August 23,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 7.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of August 23,2011 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6323158	2001-11-27	09093097	1998-06-08	

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity			Small Entity		
	Fee	Code		Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	◉	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/ J M GILBRETH/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-08-23
Name	J M GILBRETH	Registration Number	33388

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 5951067
Issue Date: September 14,1999
Application No. 09094018
Filed: June 9,1998
Attorney Docket No. I-1069-1.95

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed December 1,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 11.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of December 1,2011 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
5951067	1999-09-14	09094018	1998-06-09	1-1069-1.95

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	◉	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Sarah J. Rhoades/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-12-01
Name	Sarah J. Rhoades	Registration Number	52165

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

AIR FORCE RESEARCH LABORATORY RIJ
26 ELECTRONIC PARKWAY
ROME, NY 13441-4514

In re Patent No. 6,002,298 :
Issue Date: December 14, 1999 :
Application No. 09/096,412 : ON PETITION
Filed: June 11, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No.: **RL-10-019** :

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c), filed December 23, 2011, to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

This patent expired on December 14, 2011 for failure to pay the third maintenance fee. Since this petition was submitted within twenty-four months after the six-month grace period provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e), the petition was timely filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(c).

The 11 ½ year maintenance fee is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

This file is being forwarded to Files Repository.

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3204.

/SDB/

Sherry D. Brinkley
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
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DW Feb-11

Paper No. 9

BIOTECH BEACH LAW GROUP , PC
5677 OBERLIN DRIVE, SUITE 204
SAN DIEGO CA 92121

MAILED

FEB 16 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,139,583 :
Issue Date: 10/31/2000 :
Application No. 09/096,611 : ON PETITION
Filing Date: 06/12/1998 :
Attorney Docket No. LJO-21 :
:

This is a decision in response to the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(b),[1] filed on December 27, 2010, to accept the delayed payment of the maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **dismissed**.

If reconsideration of this decision is desired, a petition for reconsideration under 37 CFR 1.378(e) must be filed within TWO (2) MONTHS from the mail date of this decision. No extension of this 2-month time limit can be granted under 37 CFR 1.136(a) or (b). Any such petition for reconsideration must be accompanied by the petition fee of $400.00 as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(f). The petition for reconsideration should include an exhaustive attempt to provide the lacking item(s) noted below, since, after a decision on the petition for reconsideration, no further reconsideration or review of the matter will be undertaken by the Director.

The patent issued on October 31, 2000. The first maintenance fee was timely paid. The second maintenance fee could have been paid during the period from October 31, 2007, through April 30, 2008, or, with a surcharge, during the period from May 1, 2008, through

[1] A grantable petition to accept a delayed maintenance fee payment under 37 CFR 1.378(b) must be include

(1) the required maintenance fee set forth in § 1.20(e) through (g);
(2) the surcharge set forth in §1.20(I)(1); and
(3) a showing that the delay was unavoidable since reasonable care was taken to ensure that the maintenance fee would be paid timely and that the petition was filed promptly after the patentee was notified of, or otherwise became aware of, the expiration of the patent. The showing must enumerate the steps taken to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee, the date and the manner in which patentee became aware of the expiration of the patent, and the steps taken to file the petition promptly.

October 31, 2008. Accordingly, this patent expired at midnight on October 31, 2008, for failure to timely remit the maintenance fee.

Petitioner states that he relied upon his registered patent practitioner, W.D. Swayze, Jr. (hereinafter "Swayze"), to notify him of the due dates for the maintenance fees, but that Swayze filed to notify petitioner that the maintenance fee was due, and therefore the patent became expired for failure to timely pay the maintenance fee.

Petitioner further states that he received no notification from the USPTO that the patent had become expired.

A petition to accept the delayed maintenance fee under 35 U.S.C. § 41(c) and 37 CFR 1.378(b) must be accompanied by (1) an adequate, verified showing that the delay was unavoidable, since reasonable care was taken to ensure that the maintenance fee would be paid timely and that the petition was filed promptly after the patentee was notified of, or otherwise became aware of, the expiration of the patent, (2) payment of the appropriate maintenance fee, unless previously submitted, and (3) payment of the surcharge set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(i)(1). This petition lacks requirement (1).

The Director may accept late payment of the maintenance fee if the delay is shown to the satisfaction of the Director to have been "unavoidable".[2]

The showing of record is inadequate to establish unavoidable delay within the meaning of 37 CFR 1.378(b)(3).

A late maintenance fee is considered under the same standard as that for reviving an abandoned application under 35 U.S.C. § 133 because 35 U.S.C. § 41(c)(1) uses identical language (i.e. "unavoidable delay").[3] Decisions reviving abandoned applications have adopted the reasonably prudent person standard in determining if the delay was unavoidable.[4] In this regard:

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[2] 35 U.S.C. § 41(c)(1).

[3] Ray v. Lehman, 55 F.3d 606, 608-09, 34 USPQ2d 1786, 1787 (Fed. Cir. 1995) (quoting In re Patent No. 4,409,763, 7 USPQ2d 1798, 1800 (Comm'r Pat. 1989)).

[4] Ex parte Pratt, 1887 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 31, 32-33 (Comm'r Pat. 1887)(the term "unavoidable" "is applicable to ordinary human affairs, and requires no more or greater care or diligence than is generally used by prudent and careful men in relation to their most important business").

> The word 'unavoidable' . . . is applicable to ordinary human affairs, and requires no more or greater care or diligence than is generally used and observed by prudent and careful men in relation to their most important business. It permits them in the exercise of this care to rely upon the ordinary and trustworthy agencies of mail and telegraph, worthy and reliable employees, and such other means and instrumentalities as are usually employed in such important business. If unexpectedly, or through the unforeseen fault or imperfection of these agencies and instrumentalities, there occurs a failure, it may properly be said to be unavoidable, all other conditions of promptness in its rectification being present.[5]

As 35 U.S.C. § 41(c) requires the payment of fees at specified intervals to maintain a patent in force, rather than some response to a specific action by the Office under 35 U.S.C. § 133, a reasonably prudent person in the exercise of due care and diligence would have taken steps to ensure the timely payment of such maintenance fees.[6] That is, an adequate showing that the delay was "unavoidable" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 41(c) and 37 CFR 1.378(b)(3) requires a showing of the steps taken to ensure the timely payment of the maintenance fees for this patent.[7]

While petitioner alleged chose to rely upon his registered patent practitioner ("Swayze"), such reliance *per se* does not provide petitioner with a showing of unavoidable delay within the meaning of 37 CFR 1.378(b) and 35 U.S.C. § 41(c).[8] Rather, such reliance merely shifts the focus of the inquiry from petitioner to whether the attorney or agent acted reasonably and prudently.[9] As such, assuming that the agent had been so engaged, then it is incumbent upon petitioner to demonstrate, via a documented showing, that

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[5] In re Mattullath, 38 App. D.C. 497, 514-15 (1912)(quoting Ex parte Pratt, 1887 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 31, 32-33 (1887)); see also Winkler v. Ladd, 221 F. Supp. 550, 552, 138 USPQ 666, 167-68 (D.D.C. 1963), aff'd, 143 USPQ 172 (D.C. Cir. 1963); Ex parte Henrich, 1913 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 139, 141 (1913). In addition, decisions on revival are made on a "case-by-case basis, taking all the facts and circumstances into account." Smith v. Mossinghoff, 671 F.2d 533, 538, 213 USPQ 977, 982 (D.C. Cir. 1982). Finally, a petition cannot be granted where a petitioner has failed to meet his or her burden of establishing that the delay was "unavoidable." Haines v. Quigg, 673 F. Supp. 314, 316-17, 5 USPQ2d 1130, 1131-32 (N.D. Ind. 1987).

[6] Ray, 55 F.3d at 609, 34 USPQ2d at 1788.

[7] Id.

[8] See California Med. Prod. v. Technol. Med. Prod., 921 F. Supp. 1219, 1259 (D. Del. 1995).

[9] Id.

the attorney or agent had docketed this patent for the second maintenance fee payment in a reliable tracking system.[10] If petitioner cannot establish that the attorney or agent had been so engaged, then petitioner will have to demonstrate what steps were established by petitioner to monitor and pay the maintenance fee.

Therefore, any showing of unavoidable delay must include a statement from petitioner's patent attorney, as well as any other attorney(s) of record during the period that payment of the maintenance fee was delayed, as to why action was not taken to timely submit the required maintenance fee while the patent was under that agent's control. Petitioner should send a letter (accompanied by a copy of this decision) to Swayze by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, indicating to the agent that the USPTO is requesting his assistance in determining the circumstances surrounding the expiration of this patent, and is specifically requesting Swayze to provide a statement as to: (1) whether, and when, he first became aware that the first maintenance fee for this patent was due, and (2) why the maintenance fee was not timely submitted. Such statements should be accompanied by copies of any documents relevant to payment of the maintenance fee. In the event that Swayze fails to provide a statement within a person (*e.g.*, within one (1) month) specified in such letter, petitioner should submit a copy of such letter and the return receipt indicating its delivery to the patent attorney or agent with any petition for reconsideration under 37 CFR 1.378(e).

The above paragraph notwithstanding, petitioner is reminded that the failure of communication between an applicant and counsel is not unavoidable delay.[11] Specifically, delay resulting from a lack of proper communication between a patent holder and a registered representative as to who bore the responsibility for payment of a maintenance fee does not constitute unavoidable delay within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 41(c) and 37 CFR 1.378(b).[12] Moreover, the Office is not the proper forum for resolving a dispute as to the effectiveness of communications between parties regarding the responsibility for paying a maintenance fee.[13]

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[10] Id.

[11] In re Kim, 12 USPQ2d 1595 (Comm'r Pat. 1988).

[12] See Ray v. Lehman, 55 F.3d 606, 610, 34 USPQ2d 1786, 1789 (Fed. Cir. 1995).

[13] Id.

A delay resulting from a lack of knowledge or improper application of the patent statute, rules of practice, or the MPEP does not constitute an "unavoidable" delay.[14] As the showing of record does not rise to the level of unavoidable delay, the petition will be dismissed.

Further, petitioner's contention that he did not receive any notification from the USPTO that the maintenance fee was due is not well taken. A patentee's lack of knowledge of the need to pay the maintenance fee and the failure to receive the Maintenance Fee Reminder do not constitute unavoidable delay.[15] Under the statute and regulations, the Office has no duty to notify patentees of the requirement to pay maintenance fees or to notify patentees when the maintenance fees are due. The Office mailing of Maintenance Fee Reminders is carried out strictly as a courtesy. Accordingly, it is solely the responsibility of the patentee to assure that the maintenance fee is timely paid to prevent expiration of the patent. The lack of knowledge of the requirement to pay a maintenance fee and/or the failure to receive the Maintenance Fee Reminder will not shift the burden of monitoring the time for paying a maintenance fee from the patentee to the Office.[16]

Petitioner should note that if this petition is not renewed, or if renewed and not granted, then the maintenance fee and post-expiration surcharge are refundable. The $400.00 petition fee for seeking reconsideration is not refundable. Any request for refund should be in writing to the address noted below.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail: Mail Stop Petition
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By FAX: (571) 273-8300
Attn: Office of Petitions

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[14] See Haines v. Quigg, 673 F. Supp. 314, 317, 5 USPQ 1130, 1132 (N.D. Ind. 1987), Vincent v. Mossinghoff, 230 USPQ 621, 624 (D.D.C. 1985); Smith v. Diamond, 209 USPQ 1091 (D.D.C. 1981); Potter v. Dann, 201 USPQ 574 (D.D.C. 1978); Ex parte Murray, 1891 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 130, 131 (1891).

[15] See Patent No. 4,409,763, *supra*; see *also* "Final Rules for Patent Maintenance Fees" 49 Fed. Reg. 34716, 34722-34723 (August 31, 1984), *reprinted in* 1046 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 28, 34 (September 25, 1984).

[16] Rydeen v. Quigg, 748 F. supp. at 900.

By hand: Customer Service Window
Mail Stop Petition
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Telephone inquiries should be directed to the undersigned at 571-272-3231.

Douglas I. Wood
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6,507,581	2003-01-14	09/097,177	1998-06-12	2921.117US1

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☒ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity

	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)
◉	7 ½ year	(1552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)

Small Entity

	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Edward J Sandor/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-02-04
Name	Edward J Sandor	Registration Number	60826

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 6507581
Issue Date: January 14,2003
Application No. 09097177
Filed: June 12,1998
Attorney Docket No. 1559

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed February 4,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 7.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of February 4,2011 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6125949	2000-10-03	09098623	1998-06-17	ID035910

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity			Small Entity		
	Fee	Code		Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	◉	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Brian W. Hannon/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2010-09-28
Name	Brian W. Hannon	Registration Number	32788

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 6125949
Issue Date: October 3,2000
Application No. 09098623
Filed: June 17,1998
Attorney Docket No.

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed September 28,2010 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 7.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of September 28,2010 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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GARDNER GROFF GREENWALD
& VILLANUEVA, PC
2018 POWERS FERRY ROAD
SUITE 800
ATLANTA GA 30339

MAILED
DEC 13 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,083,004 :
Issue Date: June 18, 1998 :
Application No. 09/099,058 : NOTICE
Filed: July 4, 2000 :
Attorney Docket No. 02071-0007 :

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28. On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. **See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).**

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This application is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this application must be paid at the large entity rate.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to Diane Goodwyn at (571) 272-6735.

Thurman K. Page
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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ST. JUDE MEDICAL, ATRIAL FIBRILLATION DIVISION
Legal Department
One St. Jude Medical Drive
St. Paul MN 55117-9913

MAILED
FEB 02 2012
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 5,913,856 :
Issued: June 22, 1999 :
Application No.: 09/100,176 : NOTICE
Filed: June 18, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No. :

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28. On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. **See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).**

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This application is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this application must be paid at the large entity rate.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3222.

/Kenya A. McLaughlin/

Kenya A. McLaughlin
Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman, LLP (NV)
PO Box 10500
McLean VA 22102

MAILED

DEC 06 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,253,321 :
Issued: June 26, 2001 :
Application No. 09/100,272 : NOTICE
Filed: June 19, 1998 :
Atty. Dkt. No.: 068800-0395884 :

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28.

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This application is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this application must be paid at the large entity rate.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3205.

/ALESIA M. BROWN/

Alesia M. Brown
Attorney Advisor
Office of Petitions

SPE RESPONSE FOR CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

Paper No.:20110804-A

DATE : August 4, 2011

TO SPE OF : ART UNIT 1636

SUBJECT : Request for Certificate of Correction on Patent No.: 6,573,099

A response is requested with respect to the accompanying request for a certificate of correction.

Please complete this form and return with file, within **7** days to:
Certificates of Correction Branch - PK 3-910
Palm location **7590** - Tel. No. 305-8201

With respect to the change(s) requested, correcting Office and/or Applicant's errors, should the patent read as shown in the certificate of correction? No new matter should be introduced, nor should the scope or meaning of the claims be changed.

Thank You For Your Assistance **Certificates of Correction Branch**

The request for issuing the above-identified correction(s) is hereby:
Note your decision on the appropriate box.

☒ **Approved** **All** changes apply.

☐ **Approved in Part** Specify below which changes **do not** apply.

☐ **Denied** State the reasons for denial below.

Comments:

ARDIN H. MARSCHEL 8/4/11
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

SPE: Ardin Marschel **Art Unit** 1636

PTO/SB/44 (09-07)
Approved for use through 08/31/2013. OMB 0651-0033
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.
(Also Form PTO-1050)

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 6,573,099 C1 **REEXAMINATION CERT. NO.: 8071ST**
APPLICATION NO.: 09/100,812 **REEXAMINATION CERT ISSUED: MARCH 8, 2011**
ISSUE DATE : June 3, 2003
INVENTOR(S) : Michael Wayne Graham

It is certified that an error appears or errors appear in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

On petition requesting issuance of a certificate for correction of inventorship pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 256, it has been found that the above identified patent, through error and without deceptive intent, improperly sets forth the inventorship. Accordingly, it is hereby certified that the correct inventorship of this patent is:

--Michael Wayne Graham, Peter Michael Waterhouse, and Robert Norman Rice--

MAILING ADDRESS OF SENDER (Please do not use customer number below):

Cooper & Dunham LLP
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.322, 1.323, and 1.324. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1.0 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Attention Certificate of Corrections Branch, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
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BLUE LEAF I.P., INC.
P.O. BOX 1895
M.S. 641
NEW HOLLAND PA 17557

MAILED

JUL 18 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
Gilbert J.I. Strubbe, et al. :
Application No. 09/100,995 : NOTICE
Patent No. 6,014,903 :
Filed: June 22,1998 :

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28.

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue patent under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This patent is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this patent must be paid at the large entity rate.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-2991.

/Terri Johnson/
Terri Johnson
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6359883	2002-03-19	09102883	1998-06-23	LECHLEIDERCA

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	◉	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

○ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

◉ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

The Assignee of record of the entire interest			
Under 37 CFR 3.71 an assignee becomes of record by filing a statement in compliance with 37 CFR 3.73(b). Signature requirements are set forth in 37 CFR 1.4(d), and the undersigned certifies that he / she is empowered to act on behalf of the assignee of the entire interest			
Signature	/George Kohl/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2010-09-14
Name	George Kohl, President, The KOHL Group, Inc.		
Enter Reel and Frame Number		Remove	
Reel Number	009280	Frame Number	0840
Click ADD for additional Reel Number and Frame Number		Add	

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
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In re Patent No. 6359883
Issue Date: March 19,2002
Application No. 09102883
Filed: June 23,1998
Attorney Docket No. LECHLEIDERCA

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed September 14,2010 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 7.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of September 14,2010 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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OCT 03 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

NELSON MULLINS RILEY & SCARBOROUGH LLP
FLOOR 30, SUITE 3000
ONE POST OFFICE SQUARE
BOSTON, MA 02109

In re Patent No. 6,650,370 :
Issue Date: November 18, 2003 :
Application No. 09/103,055 : NOTICE
Filed: June 23, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No. LTH-001cpcn :

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28. On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. **See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).**

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This application is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this application must be paid at the large entity rate.

Inquiries related to this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-1642.

/AMW/
April M. Wise
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Furman Gregory Deptula
215 Main Street
Suite 101
Biddeford ME 04005

MAILED

JUL 05 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
Agrawal :
Application No. 09/103,745 : ON PETITION
Filed: June 24, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No. IDRA-740US1 :
For: METHOD FOR USING
OLIGONUCLEOTIDES HAVING MODIFIED
CPG DINUCLEOTIDES

This is a decision on the petition, filed May 16, 2011, under 37 CFR 1.137(b) to revive the above-identified application.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The above-identified application became abandoned for failure to timely submit a reply within three (3) months of the mailing of the July 1, 2010 non-final Office action. No response being received and no extensions of time being obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a), this application became abandoned on October 2, 2010. A Notice of Abandonment was mailed on February 23, 2011.

Applicant has submitted an amendment in reply to the July 1, 2010 non-final Office action, an acceptable statement of the unintentional nature of the delay in responding to the July 1, 2010 non-final Office action, and the $1,620.00 petition fee.

All of the requirements under 37 CFR 1.137(b) being met, the petition is granted.

After the mailing of this decision, the application will be returned to Technology Center G.A.U. 1637 for consideration of the amendment filed on May 16, 2011.

Telephone inquiries should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3230.

Shirene Willis Brantley
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

SPE RESPONSE FOR CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

Paper No.: _____

DATE : 08-05-10

TO SPE OF : ART UNIT 1646

SUBJECT : Request for Certificate of Correction for Appl. No.: 09/104340 Patent No.: 7037662

Please respond to this request for a certificate of correction within 7 days.

FOR IFW FILES:

Please review the requested changes/corrections as shown in the **COCIN** document(s) in the IFW application image. No new matter should be introduced, nor should the scope or meaning of the claims be changed.

Please complete the response (see below) and forward the completed response to scanning using document code **COCX**.

FOR PAPER FILES:

Please review the requested changes/corrections as shown in the attached certificate of correction. Please complete this form (see below) and forward it with the file to:

Certificates of Correction Branch (CofC)
Randolph Square – 9D10-A
Palm Location 7580

Angela Green 703-756-1541
Certificates of Correction Branch
703-756-1814

Thank You For Your Assistance

The request for issuing the above-identified correction(s) is hereby:
Note your decision on the appropriate box.

☐ **Approved**	All changes apply.
☑ **Approved in Part**	Specify below which changes **do not** apply.
☐ **Denied**	State the reasons for denial below.

Comments: Changes not Approved are circled. These changes had no clear support or were not readily apparent.

SPE 1646 Art Unit

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 7,037,662
APPLICATION NO. : 09/104,340
ISSUE DATE : May 2, 2006
INVENTOR(S) : Boyd et al.

At column 2, line 65, please delete "et **oh**," and insert --et **al.**,-- therefor.

At column 2, line 66, please delete "**St** al.," and insert --et al.,-- therefor.

At column 3, line 14, please delete "et **at.**," and insert --et **al.**,-- therefor.

At column 3, line 18-19, please delete "retinote**o**tal" and insert --retinotectal-- therefor.

At column 3, line 20, please delete "et **at.**," and insert --et **al.**,-- therefor.

At column 3, line 21, please delete "370," and insert --370;-- therefor.

At column 3, line 22, please delete "et **at.**," and insert --et **al.**,-- therefor.

At column 3, line 23 (approx.), please delete "OBJET" and insert --OBJECT-- therefor.

At column 3, line 32 (approx.), please delete "high affinity" and insert --high-affinity-- therefor.

At column 3, line 45, please delete "**Is**" and insert --is-- therefor.

No clear support

At column 3, line 56 (approx.), please delete " CYS_{305}"and insert --CYS_{306}-- therefor.

At column 3, line 57 (approx.), please delete "CYS_{352}-CYS_{385}." and insert --CYS_{362}-CYS_{365}.-- therefor.

At column 3, line 64, please delete "**axon** I, **axon**" and insert --exon I, exon-- therefor.

At column 4, line 4, please delete "FIG" and insert --FIG.-- therefor.

At column 4, line 14, please delete "**adds**" and insert --**acids**-- therefor.

At column 4, line 17, after "NO:4)" delete ",".

At column 4, line 26, please delete "**axon**" and insert --**exon**-- therefor.

At column 4, line 50, please delete "se" and insert --as-- therefor.

At column 5, line 42, please delete "described," and insert --described-- therefor.

At column 5, line 49, please delete "20' " and insert --20°-- therefor.

At column 5, line 50, please delete "25' " and insert --25°-- therefor.

At column 5, line 51, please delete "10' to 15' " and insert --10° to 15°-- therefor.

At column 5, line 53, please delete "**Is**" and insert --**is**-- therefor.

MAILING ADDRESS OF SENDER:

Raymond D. Smith
KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP
2040 Main Street, 14th Floor
Irvine, California 92614

DOCKET NO. FISHR11.001AUS

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 7,037,662
APPLICATION NO. : 09/104,340
ISSUE DATE : May 2, 2006
INVENTOR(S) : Boyd et al.

At column 5, line 64, after "length" insert, --.--.

No clear support

At column 5, line 66, please delete "10^{5}" and insert --10^{8}-- therefor.

At column 6, line 7 (approx.), please delete "60000" and insert --6000-- therefor.

At column 6, line 30, please delete "et al" and insert --et al.-- therefor.

At column 6, line 31, please delete "CLONING," and insert –CLONING.-- therefor.

At column 7, line 12 (approx.), please delete "add" and insert --acid-- therefor.

At column 7, line 49, please delete "calls" and insert --cells-- therefor.

At column 7, line 49, please delete "coils" and insert --cells-- therefor.

At column 8, line 11 (approx.), please delete "es" and insert --as-- therefor.

At column 8, line 16, please delete "end" and insert --and-- therefor.

At column 8, line 33 (approx.), please delete "subsequences" and insert --sub-sequences-- therefor.

At column 8, line 43-44, please delete "Collgan" and insert --Coligan-- therefor.

At column 9, line 65, please delete "defect," and insert --defects,-- therefor.

At column 10, line 8, please delete "form" and insert --from-- therefor.

At column 10, line 30, please delete "according," and insert --according-- therefor.

At column 10, line 48 (approx.), please delete "NOS" and insert --NOS:-- therefor.

At column 10, line 49 (approx.), please delete "NOS" and insert --NOS:-- therefor.

At column 10, line 50 (approx.), please delete "NOS" and insert --NOS:-- therefor.

At column 10, line 50 (approx.), after "amino" please insert --acid--.

At column 10, line 51 (approx.), please delete "NO" and insert --NO:-- therefor.

At column 10, line 57 (approx.), please delete "2B." and insert --2B:-- therefor.

At column 10, line 64, please delete "Saijadi" and insert --Sajjadi-- therefor.

At column 11, line 9 (approx.), please delete "2E;" and insert --2E:-- therefor.

MAILING ADDRESS OF SENDER:

Raymond D. Smith
KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP
2040 Main Street, 14th Floor
Irvine, California 92614

DOCKET NO. FISHR11.001AUS

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 7,037,662
APPLICATION NO. : 09/104,340
ISSUE DATE : May 2, 2006
INVENTOR(S) : Boyd et al.

At column 16, line 13-14, Delete ") carbodiimide" and insert --)–carbodiimide -- therefor.

At column 16, line 21, Delete "Pharamacia" and insert -- Pharmacia -- therefor.

At column 16, line 22, Delete "Blosensor" and insert -- Biosensor -- therefor.

NO

At column 16, Eq.1, Delete "$R_0 \cdot \Theta^{-k_d(t-t0)}$" and insert -- $R_0.e^{-k_d(t-t_0)}$ -- therefor.

At column 16, Eq. 2, Delete "$R_0/k_\Theta(1-e^{-k_\delta(t-t0)})$" and insert -- $R_0/k_s.(1-e^{-k_s(t-t_0)})$ -- therefor.

At column 16, Eq. 3, Delete "$(1-e^{-k_\delta(t-t0)})$; $k_\zeta=k_\zeta C+k_d$" and insert -- $(1-e^{-k_s(t-t_0)})$; $k_s = k_s C+k_d$ -- therefor.

NO

At column 16, Eq. 4, Delete "$R=R_1e^{(-k_{d1}.(t-t0))}+(R_0-R_1)e^{-k_{d2}.(t-t0)}$" and insert -- $R = R_1 e^{(-k_{d1}.(t-t_0))} +(R_0-R_1) e^{-k_{d2}.(t-t_0)}$ -- therefor.

At column 16, line 66 (approx.), Delete "word et at.," and insert -- Ward et al., -- therefor.

At column 17, line 5 (approx.), Delete "oh" and insert -- on -- therefor.

At column 17, line 30 (approx.), Delete "CDNA" and insert -- cDNA -- therefor.

At column 17, line 32 (approx.), Delete "aliquot." and insert -- aliquots. -- therefor.

At column 17, line 57, Delete "Plue" and insert -- Plus -- therefor.

At column 18, line 19 (approx.), Delete "intro–exon" and insert -- intron–exon -- therefor.

At column 18, line 29, Delete "(Wioks" and insert -- (Wicks -- therefor.

At column 18, line 36 (approx.), Delete "(Saijadi" and insert -- (Sajjadi -- therefor.

MAILING ADDRESS OF SENDER:

Raymond D. Smith
KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP
2040 Main Street, 14th Floor
Irvine, California 92614

DOCKET NO. FISHR11.001AUS

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 7,037,662
APPLICATION NO. : 09/104,340
ISSUE DATE : May 2, 2006
INVENTOR(S) : Boyd et al.

At column 18, line 37 (approx.), Delete "Maisonplerre" and insert -- Maisonpierre -- therefor.

At column 18, line 37 (approx.), Delete "Oncogen" and insert -- Oncogene -- therefor.

At column 18, line 38 (approx.), Delete "axon" and insert -- exon -- therefor.

At column 18, line 63, Delete "axon," and insert -- exon, -- therefor.

At column 18, line 66, Delete "of al.," and insert -- et al., -- therefor.

At column 18, line 67, Delete "1988," and insert -- 1986, -- therefor.

At column 19, line 10 (approx.), Delete "216:" and insert -- 216; -- therefor.

At column 19, line 17 (approx.), Delete "(Maisonplerre" and insert -- (Maisonpierre -- therefor.

At column 19, line 33 (approx.), Delete "Identify" and insert -- identify -- therefor.

At column 19, line 40 (approx.), Delete "Cys_{η}" and insert -- Cys_{71} -- therefor.

At column 19, line 42 (approx.), Delete "Cys_{305}" and insert -- Cys_{306} -- therefor. NO.

At column 19, line 43 (approx.), Delete "Cys_{352}" and insert -- Cys_{362} -- therefor.

At column 19, line 59 (approx.), Delete "kD)." and insert -- kD), -- therefor.

At column 20, line 18, Delete "supra:" and insert -- supra; -- therefor.

At column 20, line 18, Delete "et at.," and insert -- et al., -- therefor.

At column 20, line 27 (approx.), Delete "µg/n" and insert -- µg/ml -- therefor.

At column 20, line 66, Delete "k_2" and insert -- k_a -- therefor.

At column 20, line 67, Delete "10^{-5}" and insert -- 10^{-3} -- therefor. NO.

At column 20, line 67, Delete "k_2" and insert -- k_a -- therefor.

At column 21, line 1, Delete "Apparant" and insert -- Apparent -- therefor.

At column 21, line 2, Delete "10^{-5}" and insert -- 10^{-8} -- therefor. NO.

At column 21, line 9 (approx.), Delete "et at.," and insert -- et al., -- therefor.

At column 21, line 11 (approx.), Delete "Interaction" and insert -- interaction --.

MAILING ADDRESS OF SENDER:

Raymond D. Smith
KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP
2040 Main Street, 14th Floor
Irvine, California 92614

DOCKET NO. FISHR11.001AUS

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 7,037,662
APPLICATION NO. : 09/104,340
ISSUE DATE : May 2, 2006
INVENTOR(S) : Boyd et al.

At column 21, line 16 (approx.), Delete "**Immobilised**" and insert -- **immobilised** -- therefor.

At column 21, line 24 (approx.), Delete "**6**–fold" and insert -- **5**–fold -- therefor. No.

At column 21, line 31, Delete "**BB,**" and insert -- **6B,** -- therefor.

At column 21, line 53, Delete "**8D)**" and insert -- **6D)** -- therefor.

At column 21, line 56, Delete "crosslinked" and insert -- cross–linked -- therefor.

At column 22, line 3, Delete "et al." and insert -- et al., -- therefor.

At column 22, line 12 (approx.), Delete "3FLAG" and insert -- 3–FLAG -- therefor.

At column 22, line 26 (approx.), Delete "Indirect" and insert -- indirect -- therefor.

At column 22, line 31 (approx.), Delete "199," and insert -- 1994, -- therefor.

At column 23, line 6, Delete "I–II" and insert -- I–III -- therefor.

At column 23, line 7, Delete "dos–dependent" and insert -- dose–dependent -- therefor.

At column 23, line 21, Delete "Flanagan." and insert -- Flanagan, -- therefor.

At column 23, line 28 (approx.), Delete "1995." and insert -- 1995, -- therefor.

At column 23, line 28 (approx.), After "Xu" delete "of".

At column 23, line 44, Delete "**In**" and insert -- **in** -- therefor.

At column 23, line 50 (approx.), Delete "(FIG. 7)" and insert -- (as hereinbefore described) -- therefor.

At column 23, line 62-63, Delete "(Saijadi et **ea.,**" and insert -- (Sajjadi et **al.,** -- therefor.

At column 24, line 3, Delete "(FIG. 10D)." and insert -- . -- therefor.

At column 24, line 5, Delete "(FIG. 10A)," and insert -- (FIG. 7), -- therefor.

At column 24, line 19, Delete "diorganised" and insert -- disorganised -- therefor.

At column 24, line 19, Delete "(FIGS. 8A–F)." and insert -- . -- therefor.

At column 24, line 20-21, After "12 hpf" delete "(FIGS. 8B and 8E)".

At column 24, line 29 (approx.), Delete "seamentation" and insert -- segmentation -- therefor.

MAILING ADDRESS OF SENDER:

Raymond D. Smith
KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP
2040 Main Street, 14th Floor
Irvine, California 92614

DOCKET NO. FISHR11.001AUS

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
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DLA PIPER LLP (US)
4365 EXECUTIVE DRIVE
SUITE 1100
SAN DIEGO CA 92121-2133

MAILED
DEC 13 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,693,086 :
Issued: February 17, 2004 :
Application No. 09/104,759 : ON PETITION
Filed: June 25, 1998 :
Attorney Docket Number: JUVARIS1100 :

This is a notice regarding your request for acceptance of a fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 filed October 31, 2011.

On September 1, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that 37 CFR 1.28(c) is the sole provision governing the time for correction of the erroneous payment of the issue fee as a small entity. **See DH Technology v. Synergystex International, Inc. 154 F.3d 1333, 47 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 1, 1998).**

The Office no longer investigates or rejects original or reissue applications under 37 CFR 1.56. **1098 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 502 (January 3, 1989)**. Therefore, nothing in this Notice is intended to imply that an investigation was done.

Your fee deficiency submission under 37 CFR 1.28 is hereby **ACCEPTED**.

This patent is no longer entitled to small entity status. Accordingly, all future fees paid in this patent must be paid at the large entity rate.

It is not apparent whether the person signing the request was ever given a power of attorney or authorization of agent regarding this patent. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.34(a), the signature appearing on the request shall constitute a representation to the United States Patent and Trademark Office that he/she is authorized to represent the particular party in whose behalf he/she acts. While, a courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the address given on the petition, the Office will mail all future correspondence solely to the address of record.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-7751.

/Joan Olszewski/
Joan Olszewski
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

cc: Karin M. Gerstin
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W., SUITE 800
WASHINGTON, DC 20037

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
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Paper No.

STEINS & ASSOCIATES
2333 CAMINO DEL RIO SOUTH
SUITE 120
SAN DIEGO CA 92108

MAILED

APR 20 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

Patent No. 6,149,165 :
Tuan Nguyen :
Issue Date: November 21, 2000:
Application No. 09/104,852 : DECISION ON PETITION
Filed: June 25, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No. NGU1-A94A :

This is in response to the PETITION FOR REINSTATEMENT OF PATENT EXPIRED UNINTENTIONALLY UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(b) filed June 17, 2010, which given statements and surcharge paid on petition is properly treated under the unintentional standard of 37 CFR 1.378(c).

The petition is **DISMISSED**.

BACKGROUND

The patent issued November 21, 2000. The window for paying the first maintenance fee extended from November 21, 2003 through May 21, 2004 without surcharge, and from May 22, 2004 through November 21, 2004 with surcharge. A Notice of Patent Expiration was mailed on December 22, 2004.

In response to the Notice of Patent Expiration, an initial petition was filed on May 25, 2005. Therein, patentee argued that the maintenance fee and late surcharge were timely filed on May 27, 2004. In support thereof, patentee submitted copies of their certificate of facsimile transmission and their facsimile activity report. However, patentee did not submit a complete copy of the 5 page maintenance fee payment as they maintain it was originally filed on May 27, 2004. Accordingly, by decision mailed June 30, 2005, the petition was dismissed. The decision requested a copy of the complete facsimile transmission.

Patentee did not respond to the decision. No further action was taken by patentee within 24 months of the expiration date of the patent. On January 9, 2006, the Office refunded the maintenance fee and surcharge (as is practice when a patent is not reinstated).

The window for paying the second maintenance fee (if this patent were not expired) would have extended from November 21, 2007 through May 21, 2008 without surcharge, and from May 22, 2008 through November 21, 2008 with surcharge.

OPINION

On instant petition, Patentee maintains that the decision of June 30, 2005 was not received. Patentee does not submit evidence to meet the Delgar[1] standard for establishing non-receipt of an Office action. Further, Patentee does not explain their actions as to inquiring regarding the status of the petition.

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[1] The showing required to establish nonreceipt of an Office communication must include a statement from the practitioner describing the system used for recording an Office action received at the correspondence address of record with the USPTO. The statement should establish that the docketing system is sufficiently reliable. It is expected that the record would include, but not be limited to, the application number, attorney docket number, the mail date of the Office action and the due date for the response.

Practitioner must state that the Office action was not received at the correspondence address of record, and that a search of the practitioner's record(s), including any file jacket or the equivalent, and the application contents, indicates that the Office action was not received. A copy of the record(s) used by the practitioner where the non-received Office action would have been entered had it been received is required.

A copy of the practitioner's record(s) required to show non-receipt of the Office action should include the master docket for the firm. That is, if a three month period for reply was set in the nonreceived Office action, a copy of the master docket report showing all replies docketed for a date three months from the mail date of the nonreceived Office action must be submitted as documentary proof of nonreceipt of the Office action. If no such master docket exists, the practitioner should so state and provide other evidence such as, but not limited to, the following: the application file jacket; incoming mail log; calendar; reminder system; or the individual docket record for the application in question.

See MPEP 711.03(c)

Moreover, the instant petition was not filed within twenty-four months after the actual expiration of the six-month grace period at midnight on January 22, 2004. Absent a showing that the first maintenance fee was timely paid, the instant petition cannot be granted under 37 CFR 1.378(c).

In other words, petitioner must answer the questions raised by the decision originally mailed on June 30, 2005 (A courtesy copy of that decision is enclosed). Further, petitioner must establish non-receipt of the decision and show to the satisfaction of the Office that the entire delay should be considered unintentional (or unavoidable, as discussed below).

Furthermore, the petition does not include adequate fees. Although the petition references submitting $5,010 in fees, Office records only show receipt of a $2,130 credit card payment. The 3.5 year maintenance fee for a small entity is $490. The 7.5 year maintenance fee is $1,240. The unintentional delay surcharge is $1,640. The petition fee for renewed consideration under 37 CFR 1.378(e) is $400. As discussed above, the fees submitted with the first petition were refunded in January of 2006. As such, those fees need to be resubmitted. In addition, as this is a renewed petition, the $400 fee under 37 CFR 1.378(e) is required. Sufficient fees need to be submitted on renewed petition to cover the deficiency in payment of the first and second maintenance fees, unintentional delay surcharge and petition fee.

If the first maintenance fee is shown to have been timely paid, and the delay in filing this renewed petition is excused, then it can be considered whether the failure to pay the second maintenance fee was unintentional within the meaning of 37 CFR 1.378(c) as this petition filed June 17, 2010 was filed within 24 months of the expiration of the period for paying the second maintenance fee, which ended November 21, 2008.

On the other hand, if the first maintenance fee is not shown to have been timely paid, patentee may only obtain reinstatement of this patent via the provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(b). Under such provisions, patentee must show that the entire delay in paying the maintenance fees was unavoidable.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, it is concluded that petitioner has not met his burden of showing that the delay in paying the maintenance fee was unintentional within the meaning of 37 CFR 1.378(c).

In view thereof, the petition is dismissed.

Any request for reconsideration of this decision must be filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this decision. This period is not extendable under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). Any such petition for reconsideration must be accompanied by the $400 petition fee set forth in § 1.17(h). After decision on the petition for reconsideration, no further reconsideration or review of the matter will be undertaken by the Director. Accordingly, on request for reconsideration, it is extremely important the petitioner supply any and all relevant information and documentation in order to meet his burden of showing unintentional delay.

If on request for reconsideration, the delayed payment of the maintenance fee is not accepted, then the maintenance fee and the surcharge set forth in §1.20(i) are subject to refund following the decision on the petition for reconsideration, or after the expiration of the time for filing such a petition for reconsideration, if none is filed. (Petitioner may request a refund of the maintenance fee and surcharge by writing to the Office of Finance, Refund Section, Commissioner for Patents, Washington DC 20231. A copy of the last decision rendered should accompany the request for refund).

Alternatively, patentee may file a petition under 37 CFR 1.378(b). The filing of such a petition should not be intentionally delayed, as the entire delay will be considered in determining whether patentee has shown that the delay in paying the maintenance fee was unavoidable within the meaning of 37 CFR 1.378(b).

Further correspondence with respect to this decision should be addressed as follows:

By mail: Mail Stop Petition
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By fax: (571) 273-8300
ATTN: Office of Petitions

By hand: Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Telephone inquiries related to this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3219.

Nancy Johnson
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

cc: Courtesy Copy of decision mailed June 30, 2005.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
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Paper No. 10

STEINS & ASSOCIATES
2333 CAMINO DEL RIO SOUTH
SUITE 120
SAN DIEGO, CA 92108

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JUN 30 2005
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,149,165	:	
Tuan Nguyen	:	
Issue Date: November 21, 2000	:	ON PETITION
Application No. 09/104,852	:	
Filed: June 25, 1998	:	
Attorney Docket No. NGU1-A94A	:	

This is in response to the Petition to Accept Maintenance Fee pursuant to 1.378(b) filed May 25, 2005, which is properly treated as a petition under 37 CFR 1.377 to accept and record a maintenance fee.

The petition under § 1.377 is **DISMISSED**.

Patentee is given **TWO (2) MONTHS** from the mail date of this decision to respond. This period is not extendable. See § 1.181(f).

The above-identified patent issued on November 21, 2000. The window for paying the first maintenance fee extended from November 21, 2003 through May 21, 2004 without surcharge, and from May 22, 2004 through November 21, 2004 with surcharge. A Notice of Patent Expiration was mailed on December 22, 2004.

Patentee asserts that the maintenance fee (with surcharge) was timely filed by facsimile transmission on May 27, 2004. In

support thereof, petitioner states that they are submitting a copy of the 5 page facsimile communication as presented to the Office on May 27, 2004.

37 CFR § 1.377 provides that:

> (a) Any patentee who is dissatisfied with the refusal of the Patent and Trademark Office to accept and record a maintenance fee which was filed prior to the expiration of the patent may petition the Director to accept and record the maintenance fee.
> (b) Any petition under this section must be filed within 2 months of the action complained of, or within such other time as may be set in the action complained of, and must be accompanied by the fee set forth in § 1.17(h). The petition may include a request that the petition fee be refunded if the refusal to accept and record the maintenance fee is determined to result from an error by the Patent and Trademark Office.
> (c) Any petition filed under this section must comply with the requirements of § 1.181(b) and must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest.

To show late receipt of the Notice of Patent Expiration, petitioner submits a copy of the envelope they state the Notice was received in. The envelope bears a postmark date of February 25, 2005. Considering this evidence, it is concluded that the petition was promptly filed after becoming aware of the expiration of the patent.

However, petitioner's evidence does not show that the maintenance fee and surcharge were filed prior to the expiration of the patent. First, of all, only 3 pages of the 5 pages of the copy of the facsimile said to have originally been submitted were received on petition. Those pages were limited to a certificate of transmission dated May 27, 2004 and a facsimile confirmation sheet supporting a conclusion that 5 pages were received in the Office on May 27, 2004. The certificate was on a separate page and certified that correspondence entitled "Maintenance Fee Payment" was being faxed. Yet, a copy of the correspondence entitled "Maintenance Fee Payment" was not provided on petition. Moreover, petitioner alleges that the payment of the required fee in the above-identified patent was

directed to be paid by a Credit Card. The evidence does not show that as of May 27, 2004, any payment of the maintenance fee and surcharge would have been honored had it been presented to the Credit Card company.

On renewed petition, patentee must make a showing that the paper as filed by facsimile on May 27, 2004 included an authorization to charge a Credit Card the required fees, and that the authorized Credit Card account had sufficient funds available to make such a payment.

(The maintenance fee having never been charged is now being charged to petitioner's Credit Card, pursuant to the Credit Card authorization submitted on petition. If the payment is ultimately not accepted, the payment will be refunded.)

Further correspondence with respect to this decision should be addressed as follows:

By mail:	Mail Stop Petition Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
By fax:	(703) 872-9306 ATTN: Office of Petitions
By hand:	Customer Service Window Randolph Building 401 Dulany Street Alexandria, VA 22314

Telephone inquiries specific to this decision may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3219.

Nancy Johnson
Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

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P.O. Box 1450
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Paper No.

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SUITE 120
SAN DIEGO CA 92108

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SEP 29 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

Patent No. 6,149,165 :
Tuan Nguyen :
Issue Date: November 21, 2000:
Application No. 09/104,852 : DECISION ON PETITION
Filed: June 25, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No. NGU1-A94A :

This is in response to the PETITION FOR PETITION FOR RECONSIDERATION OF PETITION FOR REINSTATEMENT OF PATENT EXPIRED UNINTENTIONALLY UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(b) filed June 21, 2011, which is properly treated pursuant to 37 CFR 1.378(e) as a request for reconsideration of decision on petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c).

BACKGROUND

The patent issued November 21, 2000. The window for paying the first maintenance fee extended from November 21, 2003 through May 21, 2004 without surcharge, and from May 22, 2004 through November 21, 2004 with surcharge. A Notice of Patent Expiration for failure to pay the first maintenance fee was mailed on December 22, 2004.

With respect to the 3 ½ year maintenance fee, an initial petition was filed on May 25, 2005. Patentee argued that the maintenance fee and late surcharge were timely filed on May 27, 2004. In support thereof, patentee submitted copies of their certificate of facsimile transmission and their facsimile activity report. However, patentee did not submit a complete copy of the 5 page maintenance fee payment as they maintain it was originally filed on May 27, 2004. Accordingly, by decision mailed June 30, 2005, the petition was dismissed. The decision requested a copy of the complete facsimile transmission.

Patentee did not respond to the decision. No further action was taken by patentee within 24 months of the expiration date of the patent. On January 9, 2006, the Office refunded the maintenance fee and surcharge (as is practice when a patent is not reinstated).

The window for paying the second maintenance fee (if this patent were not expired) would have extended from November 21, 2007 through May 21, 2008 without surcharge, and from May 22, 2008 through November 21, 2008 with surcharge. With respect to the 7 ½ year maintenance fee, on June 17, 2010, patentee filed a petition asserting that the entire delay in paying the second maintenance fee was unintentional. In addition, patentee asserted that the decision with respect to the first maintenance fee had never been received. (As such, the petition did not include a response to the first decision).

By decision mailed April 20, 2011, the petition was dismissed. Given that the petition with respect to the first maintenance fee was not granted and the fees on petition refunded, the instant petition was not filed within twenty-four months after the actual expiration of the six-month grace period at midnight on November 21, 2004[1]. In order for the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c)[2] with respect to the second maintenance fee to be granted, patentee was required i) to submit evidence to meet the Delgar standard for establishing non-receipt of an Office action, ii) to explain their actions as to inquiring regarding the status of the petition, iii) to respond to the initial decision and provide a showing that the first maintenance fee was timely paid and iv) to repay the refunded fees and other fees due for reinstatement.

OPINION

On instant renewed petition, the petition includes a showing to the satisfaction of the Director that the decision mailed June 30, 2005 was never received (including the individual patent and master docketing reports per *Delgar* where the decision would have been entered had it been received). Further, under the

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[1] The prior decision contained a typographical error in referring to this date as January 22, 2004.

[2] Otherwise, patentee was advised that he could only obtain reinstatement of this patent via the provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(b), by showing that the entire delay in paying the maintenance fees was unavoidable.

circumstances of the initial expiration, considering the showing on the initial petition which was promptly filed and patentee's explanation of their discovery of non-receipt, the delay in discovering the non-receipt of the petition decision and consequently, in acting on the decision is excused.

In addition, patentee submitted the required $400 surcharge, $490 for the 3 ½ year maintenance fee, $1240 for the 7 ½ year maintenance fee, and $1,640 for the surcharge for unintentional delay).

On the merits with respect to the first maintenance fee, the renewed petition includes the Credit Card Payment Form, as patentee maintains it was originally filed on May 27, 2004.[3] The Credit Card authorization form shows that on May 27, 2004, the first maintenance fee and late surcharge in this patent in the amount of $520 ($455 for maintenance fee and $65 for surcharge) were authorized. The initial petition included a certificate of facsimile transmission dated May 27, 2004 along with the facsimile confirmation report showing a successful facsimile transmission on May 27, 2004. Further, patentee explained on renewed petition that the other 2 pages of the facsimile were the Credit Card Payment Form and Maintenance Fee payment for another patent with fees due on that date (see p. 2/3 of renewed petition filed June 21, 2011).

The renewed petition under 1.377 to accept and record the first maintenance fee as timely paid is **granted**.

On the merits with respect to the second maintenance fee, the petition filed on June 17, 2010, was filed within twenty-four months after the expiration of the six-month grace period for paying the second maintenance fee on November 21, 2008. As required, petitioner submitted with the petition the required maintenance fee, the surcharge for accepting an unintentionally delayed maintenance fee after expiration, and a statement that the delay in payment of the maintenance fee was unintentional.

The request for reconsideration of petition under 1.378(e) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the second maintenance fee is **granted**.

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[3] Patentee states that the renewed petition includes the other two pages of the facsimile, the Certificate of Facsimile and Credit Card Payment Form, as originally filed on May 27, 2004. However, the renewed petition actually only includes the Credit Card Payment Form.

CONCLUSION

The first maintenance fee and surcharge after grace period are accepted and made of record as timely filed on May 27, 2004

Payment of the second maintenance fee has been shown to have been unintentionally delayed. The second maintenance fee in this case is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is hereby reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

Nancy Johnson
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6164989	2000-12-26	09105295	1998-06-26	T1680CIPCON3

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity

	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)
◉	7 ½ year	(1552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)

Small Entity

	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Kendal M. Sheets/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2010-09-30
Name	Kendal M. Sheets	Registration Number	47077

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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In re Patent No. 6164989
Issue Date: December 26,2000
Application No. 09105295
Filed: June 26,1998
Attorney Docket No. T1680CIPCON3

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed October 4,2010 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 7.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of October 4,2010 .
This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6,263,087	2001-07-17	09/105,495	1998-06-26	11789

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☐ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity			Small Entity		
	Fee	Code		Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
◉	7 ½ year	(1552)	○	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

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Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/Paul J. Esatto, Jr./	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-03-17
Name	Paul J. Esatto, Jr.	Registration Number	30749

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 6263087
Issue Date: July 17,2001
Application No. 09105495
Filed: June 26,1998
Attorney Docket No. SGNA1008

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed March 17,2011 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 7.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of March 17,2011 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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SUSAN B. FENTRESS
HARRIS, SHELTON, HANOVER AND WALSH
ONE COMMERCE SQUARE, SUITE 2700
MEMPHIS TN 38103

MAILED
JUN 28 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,099,813
Issue Date: August 8, 2000
Application No. 09/108,050
Filed: June 30, 1998
For: TOOTHBRUSH HOLDER AND SANITIZER CASE

: DECISION ON REQUEST FOR REFUND

This is a decision on the Request For Refund filed June 10, 2011.

The request is **GRANTED**.

Applicant files the above request for refund and states that "On May 18, 2011, Applicant requested a refund for 6,099,813 as the Deposit Account No. 504834 was charged $940.00 on May 13, 2011 and the VISA was charged $810.00 on May 3, 2011. The difference of $130.00 should have been charged to the referenced deposit account. Applicant requested a refund of $810.00 to be credited to the VISA used for this transaction.

In follow up, our firm received a refund of $118.00 credited to the firm's VISA on May 19, 2011. Thus, an additional $692.00 should be credited to the VISA used for this transaction."

However, a review of Office finance records for the above identified application/patent indicates the below:

> Fee Code – 1558 $940.60 - charged to deposit account with mailroom date 10/4/10 under patent no. 6,099,813;
>
> 1558 $699.40 – paid by check- mailroom date 10/4/10 under Patent No. 6,099,813; and
>
> Fee Code – 2453 $810.00 – paid by credit card on 5/3/11 under Application No. 09/108,050.

It appears that the $118.00 mentioned above is not associated with the $810.00 paid on May 3, 2011. Therefore, a total of $810.00 is being credited to petitioner's credited card account as authorized.

Any questions concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3208.

/KOC/
Karen Creasy
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

In re Patent No. 6635066
Issue Date: October 21,2003
Application No. 09108191
Filed: July 1,1998
Attorney Docket No. 23660-00610

:
:DECISION GRANTING PETITION
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)
:

This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed January 18,2012 ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 7.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of January 18,2012 . This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)
6635066	2003-10-21	09108191	1998-07-01	

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

NOT Small Entity	Fee	Code	Small Entity	Fee	Code
○	3 ½ year	(1551)	○	3 ½ year	(2551)
○	7 ½ year	(1552)	◉	7 ½ year	(2552)
○	11 ½ year	(1553)	○	11 ½ year	(2553)

SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

◉ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office

○ A sole patentee

○ A joint patentee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.

○ A joint patentee; all of whom are signing this e-petition

○ The assignee of record of the entire interest

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.

Patent Practitioner			
A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature			
Signature	/John N Coulby/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2012-01-18
Name	John N. Coulby	Registration Number	43565

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/ or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.**

Privacy Act Statement

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The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

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EVELYN M SOMMER
300 PARK AVENUE
25TH FLOOR
NEW YORK NY 10022-7402

MAILED

AUG 01 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No.6,029,418 :
Issue Date: 29 February,2000 :
Application No. 09/109,396 : DECISION ON PETITION
Filed: 2 July, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No. WRIGHT-P7 :

This is a decision on the petition filed on 7 July, 2011, and properly treated as a petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.378(b)[1] requesting acceptance of payment of a maintenance fee for the above-referenced patent as having been delayed due to unavoidable delay.

The petition pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.378(b) is **DISMISSED**.

If reconsideration of this decision is desired, a petition for reconsideration under 37 C.F.R. §1.378(e) must be filed within TWO (2) MONTHS from the mail date of this decision.

No extension of this 2-month time limit can be granted under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) or (b).

A petition for reconsideration **must** be accompanied by the petition fee of $400.00 as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(f).

The petition for reconsideration **shall** include an exhaustive attempt to provide the lacking item(s) noted below, since, after a decision on the petition for reconsideration, the Director will undertake no further reconsideration or review of the matter.

This is **not** a final agency action within the meaning of 5 U.S.C.§704.

[1] A grantable petition to accept a delayed maintenance fee payment under 37 C.F.R. §1.378(b) must be include
(1) the required maintenance fee set forth in §1.20(e) through (g);
(2) the surcharge set forth in §1.20(I)(1); and
(3) a showing that the delay was unavoidable since reasonable care was taken to ensure that the maintenance fee would be paid timely and that the petition was filed promptly after the patentee was notified of, or otherwise became aware of, the expiration of the patent. The showing must enumerate the steps taken to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee, the date and the manner in which patentee became aware of the expiration of the patent, and the steps taken to file the petition promptly.

A petition to accept the delayed payment of a maintenance fee under 35 USC §41(c) and 37 C.F.R. §1.378(b) must be accompanied by:

> *(1) an adequate showing that the delay was unavoidable, since reasonable care was taken to ensure that the maintenance fee would be paid timely;*
>
> *(2) payment of the appropriate maintenance fee, unless previously submitted; and*
>
> *(3) payment of the surcharge set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.20(i)(1).*

The instant petition fails to satisfy requirement (1), listed/described above.

BACKGROUND

Patent No.6,029,418 (the '418 patent) issued on 29 February, 2000. The first maintenance fee could have been paid during the period from 29 February, 2003, through midnight 29 August, 2003, or, with a surcharge, during the period from 30 August, 2003, through midnight 29 February, 2004. Accordingly, the patent expired after midnight 29 February, 204, for failure to pay timely the first maintenance fee.

The instant petition (with fee) pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.378(b) was filed on 11 July, 2011.

STATUTE AND REGULATION

The grant of authority at 35 U.S.C. §41(c)(1) provides that:

> The Director may accept the payment of any maintenance fee required by subsection (b) of this section...after the six-month grace period if the delay is shown to the satisfaction of the Director to have been unavoidable.

The regulations 37 C.F.R. §1.378(b)(3) thus set forth that any petition to accept delayed payment of a maintenance fee must include:

> A showing that the delay was unavoidable since reasonable care was taken to ensure that the maintenance fee would be paid timely and that the petition was filed promptly after the patentee was notified of, or otherwise became aware of, the expiration of the patent. The showing must enumerate the steps taken to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee, the date, and the manner in which patentee became aware of the expiration of the patent, and the steps taken to file the petition promptly. (Emphasis supplied.)

Out of an abundance of caution, Petitioners always are reminded that those registered to practice and all others who make representations before the Office **must** inquire into the underlying facts of representations made to the Office and support averments with the appropriate documentation–since all owe to the Office the continuing duty of candor and duty to disclose.[2]

OPINION

The Director may accept late payment of the maintenance fee under 35 U.S.C. §41(c) and 37 C.F.R. §1.378(b) if the delay is shown to the satisfaction of the Director to have been "unavoidable."[3]

A late maintenance fee is considered under the same standard as that for reviving an abandoned application under 35 U.S.C. §133 because 35 U.S.C. §41(c)(1) uses the identical language, i.e., "unavoidable" delay.[4] Decisions reviving abandoned applications have adopted the reasonably prudent person standard in determining if the delay was unavoidable.[5] In addition, decisions on revival are made on a "case-by-case basis, taking all the facts and circumstances into account."[6] Finally, a petition to revive an application or reinstate a patent as abandoned or expired due to unavoidable delay cannot be granted where a Petitioner has failed to meet his or her burden of establishing the cause of the unavoidable delay.[7]

Petitioner's Contentions as to Unavoidable Delay

Petitioner Everly M. Sommer (Reg. No. 19,603 (Petitioner)) and Declarant John T. Wright (Declarant), inventor and averred Vice President of Research and Development of Laminators, Inc.(Laminators), suggested assignee—it is noted that the patent issued in the name of Declarant and there appears to be no assignment of record ever recorded in the Office—sought relief, pursuant to the regulations at 37 C.F.R. §1.378, averring unavoidable delay.

As noted above, Patent No.6,029,418 (the '418 patent) issued on 29 February, 2000. The first maintenance fee could have been paid during the period from 29 February, 2003, through midnight 29 August, 2003, or, with a surcharge, during the period from 30 August, 2003,

---

[2] See supplement of 17 June, 1999. The Patent and Trademark Office is relying on Petitioner's duty of candor and good faith and accepting a statement made by Petitioner. See Changes to Patent Practice and Procedure, 62 Fed. Reg. at 53160 and 53178, 1203 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office at 88 and 103 (responses to comments 64 and 109)(Petitioner obligated under 37 C.F.R. §10.18 to inquire into the underlying facts and circumstances when providing statements to the Patent and Trademark Office).

[3] 35 U.S.C. §41(c)(1).

[4] *Ray v. Lehman*, 55 F.3d 606, 608-09, 34 USPQ2d 1786, 1787 (Fed. Cir. 1995)(quoting In re Patent No. 4,409,763, 7 USPQ2d 1798, 1800 (Comm'r Pat. 1988)).

[5] *Ex parte Pratt*, 1887 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 31, 32-33 (Comm'r Pat. 1887) (the term "unavoidable" "is applicable to ordinary human affairs, and requires no more or greater care or diligence than is generally used and observed by prudent and careful man in relation to their most important business"); *In re Mattullath*, 38 App. D.C. 497, 514-15 (D.C. Cir. 1912); *Ex parte Henrich*, 1913 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 139, 141 (Comm'r Pat. 1913).

[6] *Smith v. Mossinghoff*, 671 F.2d 533, 538, 213 USPQ 977, 982 (D.C. Cir. 1982).

[7] *Haines v. Quigg*, 673 F. Supp. 314, 5 USPQ2d 1130 (N.D. Ind. 1987).

through midnight 29 February, 2004. Accordingly, the patent expired after midnight 29 February, 2004, for failure to pay timely the first maintenance fee.

It is noted that—of the 43 pages of the petition submission in the instant petition—the petition itself is a brief four- (4-) page history and Declarant's three- (3) page statement. The balance of the submission consists of:

- a maintenance fee payment form (two (2) pages) contemporaneously with the petition;
- six (6) pages of Email and postal correspondence, which are dated in March 2011;
- a copy of a date-stamped ("2011 MAR 18") receipt card for submission and copy of the first page of another patent matter (Patent No. 6,588,165); and
- a copy of the instant patent.

The sum and substance of the petition is that while Petitioner prosecuted the application to issue, shortly after issue oversight of the matter was transferred as a result of patent litigation to (*inter alia*[8]):

- the law firm of Stradley Ronon Steven and Young (the Stradley Firm);
- thereafter to Burns Doane Swecker and Mathis (the Burns Firm);
- then to Buchanan Ingersoll Rooney (the Buchanan Firm); and
- then to Oblon Spivak McClelland Maier & Neistadt (the Oblon Firm).[9]

Because there are no statements provided from the Stradley Firm, the Burns Firm, the Buchanan Firm or the Oblon Firm, there, thus, is no indication at all of record that the maintenance fee(s) for the instant patent was/were calendared by:

- Petitioner following transfer of the files; or
- the Stradley Firm, the Burns Firm, the Buchanan Firm or the Oblon Firm at any time after issue of the patent.

Moreover, neither Petitioner nor Declarant suggest that the calendaring of maintenance fee payment due dates was maintained either by Declarant (inventor) or by Laminators. In fact, Declarant acknowledges that became aware of the expiration of the instant patent only upon contacting Petitioner.

---

[8] *See:* Petition at page 2, statement of Declarant at page 2—Declarant indicates that the "patent files were transferred at least two more times."

[9] *See:* Petition at page 2, statement of Declarant at page 2.

Thus there is not indication that the maintenance fee schedule in this matter was docketed for payment by Declarant or Laminators at any time since issue, or by Petitioner or the Stradley Firm, the Burns Firm, the Buchanan Firm or the Oblon Firm at any time in which their respective offices had control of the instant patent matter.

Thus, the failure was not systemic—such as that which occurs when a computer or computer program fails, but of another form: plain human error, which is a delay that is not unavoidable but unintentional.

Such facts do not suggest diligence—at least a level of diligence as required herein—on the part of those who were supposed to attend to this matter.

The provisions of 35 U.S.C. §41(c)(1) do not require an affirmative finding that the delay was avoidable, but only an explanation as to why the Petitioner has failed to carry his or her burden to establish that the delay was unavoidable.[10] The provisions of 35 U.S.C. §133 do not require the Commissioner to affirmatively find that the delay was avoidable, but only to explain why the applicant's petition was unavailing.

Petitioner is reminded that it is the patentee's/assignee's burden under the statutes and regulations to make a showing to the satisfaction of the Director that the delay in payment of a maintenance fee is unavoidable.[11]

This the Petitioner and/ or patentee has/have not done.

At bottom, the question is one of diligence.[12]

Because 35 U.S.C. § 41(b) requires the payment of fees at specified intervals to maintain a patent in force, rather than some response to a specific action by the Office under 35 USC § 133, a reasonably prudent person in the exercise of due care and diligence would have taken steps to ensure the timely payment of such maintenance fees.[13] That is, an adequate showing that the delay in payment of the maintenance fee at issue was "unavoidable" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 41(c) and 37 C.F.R. §1.378(b)(3) requires a showing of the steps taken by the responsible party to ensure the timely payment of the third/last maintenance fee for this patent.[14] There are three periods to be considered during the evaluation of a petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.378(b):

(1) The delay in reply that originally resulted in expiration;

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[10] *See Commissariat A. L'Energie Atomique v. Watson*, 274 F.2d 594, 597, 124 USPQ 126, 128 (D.C. Cir. 1960).

[11] *See Rydeen v. Quigg*, 748 F. Supp. 900, 16 USPQ2d 1876 (D.D.C. 1990), aff'd 937 F.2d 623 (Fed. Cir. 1991)(table), *cert. denied*, 502 U.S. 1075 (1992); *Ray v. Lehman, supra.*

[12] *See: Changes to Patent Practice and Procedure; Final Rule Notice*, 62 *Fed. Reg.* at 53158-59 (October 10, 1997), 1203 *Off. Gaz. Pat. Office* at 86-87 (October 21, 1997). *See also: Ray v. Lehman, supra.*

[13] *Ray*, 55 F.3d at 609, 34 USPQ2d at 1788.

[14] *Id.*

(2) The delay in filing an initial petition pursuant to §1.378(b) to reinstate the patent; and

(3) The delay in filing a grantable petition pursuant to §1.378(b) to reinstate the patent.[15]

At the outset and as of this writing, the showing is not persuasive with regards to the nature of the delay in reply that originally resulted in expiration or as to the filing of the initial petition (Items 1 and 2)—the periods pertinent here.

Petitioner must provide documentary foundations in support of a showing of unavoidable delay.

Thus, at this writing the statements presented in/with the petition fail to satisfy the showing required to establish unavoidable delay within the meaning of 37 C.F.R. §1.378(b).

A showing of diligence in matters before the Office is essential to support a finding of unavoidable delay herein.[16] There is no "sliding scale" based upon the priority given to this maintaining this patent in force, or more diligently seeking reinstatement, *vis-a-vis* other matters by Petitioner. The issue is solely whether the maintenance, or reinstatement, of the patent at issue was actually conducted with the care or diligence that is generally used and observed by prudent and careful persons in relation to their most important business.

At this writing the record fails to adequately evidence the exercise of due care and diligence observed by prudent and careful persons, in relation to their most important business, which is necessary to establish unavoidable delay.[17]

The record at this writing does not provide a clear showing that reasonable steps were taken to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee. In fact, the record indicates that no steps were taken by Patentee(s) and/or Assignee to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee.

The provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.378(b) preclude acceptance of the delayed payment of the maintenance fee due to unavoidable delay. The regulations at 37 C.F.R. §1.378(b)(3) state that any petition to accept delayed payment of a maintenance fee must include:

> A showing that the delay was unavoidable since reasonable care was taken to ensure that the maintenance fee would be paid timely and that the petition was filed promptly after the patentee was notified of, or otherwise became aware of, the expiration of the patent. The showing must enumerate the steps taken to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee, the date, and the manner in which patentee became aware of the expiration of the patent, and the steps taken to file the petition promptly.

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[15] *See* Changes to Patent Practice and Procedure; Final Rule Notice, 62 Fed. Reg. 53131 at 53158 (October 10, 1997).

[16] *See Futures Technology, Ltd. v. Quigg*, 684 F. Supp. 430, 431, 7 USPQ2d 1588 (E.D. Va. 1988)(applicant's diligent inquiry into the status of the application is required to show unavoidable delay); *Douglas v. Manbeck*, 21 USPQ2d 1697, 1699-1700 (E.D. Pa. 1991), *aff'd*, 975 F.2d 869, 24 USPQ2d 1318 (Fed. Cir. 1992) (even representation by counsel does not relieve the applicant from his obligation to exercise diligence before the USPTO; applicant's lack of diligence extending two and one half years overcame and superseded any omissions by his counsel).

[17] *Pratt, supra.*

In any future filing, this showing should include, but is not limited to, docket records, tickler reports, and file jacket entries for this application, and documents regarding the alleged cause of the delay and copies of any documents referred to in Petitioner's statement as to the cause of the unavoidable delay are required. All the causes which contributed to the failure to timely pay the maintenance fee must be presented and supported with appropriate evidence.[18] (In general, a Petitioner should identify the party(ies) responsible for making the payment: A showing must be made (with supporting documents) outlining the efforts made to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee--including scheduling and calendaring information, appointment of an individual with the authority and responsibility to pay the fee, and detailing of the causes for a failure in that process.)

Thus, as of this writing, the Office is unable to grant the relief sought.

In summary, the showing of record has been considered, but does not rise to the level of unavoidable delay. Rather, the showing of record is of possible a lack of diligence. (*See*: http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/mpep/documents/2500_2590.htm#sect2590)

CONCLUSION

For the reasons stated above, the delay in this case cannot be regarded as unavoidable within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §41(c)(1) and 37 C.F.R. §1.378(b).

Accordingly, the petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.378(b) is **dismissed**.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By Mail:
Mail Stop PETITION
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By hand:
U. S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Petitions
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

By facsimile:
(571) 273-8300
Attn: Office of Petitions

[18] The showing must also enumerate the date and the manner in which patentee became aware of the expiration of the patent, and the steps taken to file the petition promptly. Statements from all persons who contributed to the delay are also required.

Patent No.6,029,418
Application No. 09/109,396

Telephone inquiries regarding this decision may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3214—it is noted, however, that all practice before the Office is in writing (see: 37 C.F.R. §1.2[19]) and the proper authority for action on any matter in this regard are the statutes (35 U.S.C.), regulations (37 C.F.R.) and the commentary on policy (MPEP). Therefore, no telephone discussion may be controlling or considered authority for Petitioner's action(s).

/John J. Gillon, Jr./
John J. Gillon, Jr.
Senior Attorney
Office of Petitions

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[19] The regulations at 37 C.F.R. §1.2 provide:

§1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent and Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of Petitioners or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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IRVINE CA 92614

MAILED
DEC 05 2011
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
Diab et al. :
Application No. 09/111,604 :
Filed: July 7, 1998 : DECISION
U.S. Patent No. 7,962,190 :
Issue Date: June 14, 2011 :
Attorney Docket No. MASIMO.007C3 :
For: SIGNAL PROCESSING APPARATUS :

The above-identified application has been forwarded to the undersigned for consideration on two petitions for patent term extension entitled "Supplemental Petition under 37 CFR 1.181for Correction of Patent Term Extension)" and "Revised Supplemental Petition under 37 CFR 1.181 for Correction of Patent Term Extension)" received on June 13, 2011 and October 28, 2011, respectively. Petitioner request that the "Revised Supplmental Petition" supersede the original petition entitled "Supplemental Petition."

The petition is granted.

Background

Petitioner notes that the above-identified application was filed on July 7, 1998, and allowed on April 21, 2011, but issuance was delayed due to an interference proceeding. Petitioner states that the Office failed to provide patent term extension for the full time period of the interference proceeding in the Notice of Allowance. Petitioner notes that the application was filed on July 7, 1998 and is eligible for patent term extension under 35 U.S.C. 154 and 37 CFR 1.701. Petitioner notes the Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due mailed on April 21, 2011 improperly stated that the Patent Term Extension is 681 days.

Petitioner asserts that the application is entitled to 1400 days of patent term in accordance with 37 CFR 1.701 and thus requests an additional 719 days of patent term extension.

Petitioner asserts that an interference was declared on July 18, 2006 and the interference was terminated when the Office received the Federal Circuit's mandate on May 17, 2010.

Therefore Petitioner asserts that the petition under 37 CFR 1.181 should be granted giving Petitioner an additional 719 days of patent term extension for a total of 1400 days of patent term extension.

On July 7, 1998, the above identified application was received by the Office.

On July 18, 2006, an interference was declared by the Office.

On May 28, 2008, a Judgment in favor of Applicants was entered.

On April 7, 2010, the CAFC affirmed the decision of the BPAI.

On May 17, 2010, the Office received the CAFC's mandate.

On April 21, 2011, a Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due notice was mailed by the Office.

Applicable Statutes and Regulation

35 U.S.C. 135 Interferences.
(a)Whenever an application is made for a patent which, in the opinion of the Director, would interfere with any pending application, or with any unexpired patent, an interference may be declared and the Director shall give notice of such declaration to the applicants, or applicant and patentee, as the case may be. The Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences shall determine questions of priority of the inventions and may determine questions of patentability. Any final decision, if adverse to the claim of an applicant, shall constitute the final refusal by the Patent and Trademark Office of the claims involved, and the Director may issue a patent to the applicant who is adjudged the prior inventor. A final judgment adverse to a patentee from which no appeal or other review has been or can be taken or had shall constitute cancellation of the claims involved in the patent, and notice of such cancellation shall be endorsed on copies of the patent distributed after such cancellation by the Patent and Trademark Office. . . .

35 U.S.C. 154. Contents and term of patent (in effect on June 8, 1995)

(b) TERM EXTENSION.-
(1) INTERFERENCE DELAY OR SECRECY ORDERS.-If the issue of an original patent is delayed due to a proceeding under section 135(a) of this title, or because the application for patent is placed under an order pursuant to section 181 of this title, the term of the patent shall be extended for the period of delay, but in no case more than 5 years.
(2) EXTENSION FOR APPELLATE REVIEW.-If the issue of a patent is delayed due to appellate review by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences or by a Federal court and the patent is issued pursuant to a decision in the review reversing an adverse

determination of patentability, the term of the patent shall be extended for a period of time but in no case more than 5 years. A patent shall not be eligible for extension under this paragraph if it is subject to a terminal disclaimer due to the issue of another patent claiming subject matter that is not patentably distinct from that under appellate review.

37 CFR 1.701 Extension of patent term due to examination delay under the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (original applications, other than designs, filed on or after June 8, 1995, and before May 29, 2000).

(a) A patent, other than for designs, issued on an application filed on or after June 8, 1995, is entitled to extension of the patent term if the issuance of the patent was delayed due to:

(1) Interference proceedings under 35 U.S.C. 135(a); and/or

(2) The application being placed under a secrecy order under 35 U.S.C. 181; and/or

(3) Appellate review by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences or by a Federal court under 35 U.S.C. 141 or 145, if the patent was issued pursuant to a decision in the review reversing an adverse determination of patentability and if the patent is not subject to a terminal disclaimer due to the issuance of another patent claiming subject matter that is not patentably distinct from that under appellate review. If an application is remanded by a panel of the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences and the remand is the last action by a panel of the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences prior to the mailing of a notice of allowance under 35 U.S.C. 151 in the application, the remand shall be considered a decision in the review reversing an adverse determination of patentability as that phrase is used in 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(2) as amended by section 532(a) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act, Public Law 103-465, 108 Stat. 4809, 4983-85 (1994), and a final decision in favor of the applicant under paragraph (c)(3) of this section. A remand by a panel of the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences shall not be considered a decision in the review reversing an adverse determination of patentability as provided in this paragraph if there is filed a request for continued examination under 35 U.S.C. 132(b) that was not first preceded by the mailing, after such remand, of at least one of an action under 35 U.S.C. 132 or a notice of allowance under 35 U.S.C. 151.

(b) The term of a patent entitled to extension under paragraph (a) of this section shall be extended for the sum of the periods of delay calculated under paragraphs (c)(1), (c)(2), (c)(3) and (d) of this section, to the extent that these periods are not overlapping, up to a maximum of five years. The extension will run from the expiration date of the patent.

(c)(1) The period of delay under paragraph (a)(1) of this section for an application is the sum of the following periods, to the extent that the periods are not overlapping:

(i) With respect to each interference in which the application was involved, the number of days, if any, in the period beginning on the date the interference was declared or redeclared to involve the application in the interference and ending on the date that the interference was terminated with respect to the application; and

(ii) The number of days, if any, in the period beginning on the date prosecution in the application was suspended by the Patent and Trademark Office due to interference proceedings under 35 U.S.C. 135(a) not involving the application and ending on the date of the termination of the suspension.

(2) The period of delay under paragraph (a)(2) of this section for an application is the sum of the following periods, to the extent that the periods are not overlapping:

(i) The number of days, if any, the application was maintained in a sealed condition under 35 U.S.C. 181;

(ii) The number of days, if any, in the period beginning on the date of mailing of an examiner's answer under § 41.39 of this title in the application under secrecy order and ending on the date the secrecy order and any renewal thereof was removed;

(iii) The number of days, if any, in the period beginning on the date applicant was notified that an interference would be declared but for the secrecy order and ending on the date the secrecy order and any renewal thereof was removed; and

(iv) The number of days, if any, in the period beginning on the date of notification under § 5.3(c) and ending on the date of mailing of the notice of allowance under § 1.311.

(3) The period of delay under paragraph (a)(3) of this section is the sum of the number of days, if any, in the period beginning on the date on which an appeal to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences was filed under 35 U.S.C. 134 and ending on the date of a final decision in favor of the applicant by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences or by a Federal court in an appeal under 35 U.S.C. 141 or a civil action under 35 U.S.C. 145.

(d) The period of delay set forth in paragraph (c)(3) shall be reduced by:

(1) Any time during the period of appellate review that occurred before three years from the filing of the first national application for patent presented for examination; and

(2) Any time during the period of appellate review, as determined by the Director, during which the applicant for patent did not act with due diligence. In determining the due diligence of an applicant, the Director may examine the facts and circumstances of the applicant's actions during the period of appellate review to determine whether the applicant exhibited that degree of timeliness as may reasonably be expected from, and which is ordinarily exercised by, a person during a period of appellate review.

(e) The provisions of this section apply only to original patents, except for design patents, issued on applications filed on or after June 8, 1995, and before May 29, 2000.

Opinion

The patent statute only permits extension of patent term based on very specific criteria. The Office has no authority to grant any extension or adjustment of the term due to administrative delays except as authorized by 35 U.S.C. § 154. 35 U.S.C. § 154 provides for patent term extension for appellate review, interference and secrecy order delays in utility and plant applications filed on or after June 8, 1995, and, as amended by the "American Inventors Protection Act of 1999," enacted November 29, 1999, as part of Public Law 106-113, for other specifically defined administrative delays in utility and plant applications filed on or after May 29, 2000.

The above-identified application was filed on July 7, 1998. Accordingly it is entitled to patent term extension based upon the conditions in 35 U.S.C. § 154(b), in effect on June 8, 1995. The provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 154(b) in effect on May 29, 2000 do not apply, because the amended version of 35 U.S.C. § 154(b) only applies to applications filed on or after May 29, 2000. Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 154(b), in effect on June 8, 1995, an applicant can receive patent term

extension only if there was an appellate review, interference or a secrecy order delays as set forth in the statute.

On July 18, 2006, an interference was declared by the Office. On May 17, 2010, the Office received the Federal Circuit's mandate. As a result, the period of extension is 1400 days, the period from July 18, 2006 to May 17, 2010, including the beginning and end dates.

The Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due mailed on April 21, 2011 improperly stated that the Patent Term Extension is 681 days. The Office electronic records have been corrected to reflect that the patent term extension is 1400 days.

After mailing of this decision, the above-identified application will be forwarded to Office of Publications for further processing for a Certificate of Correction.

Petitioner's deposit account has not been charged a petition fee.

Telephone inquiries with regard to this communication should be directed to Mark O. Polutta at (571) 272-7709.

Mark Polutta
Senior Legal Advisor
Office of Patent Legal Administration
Office of the Deputy Commissioner
for Patent Examination Policy

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT : 7,962,190 B1

DATED : June 14, 2011

INVENTOR(S) : Diab et al.

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

On the cover page,

[*] Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 USC 154(b) by 681 days.

Delete the phrase "by 681 days" and insert – by 1400 days--