Declarations under Rule 4.17:

- as to applicant’s entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LE, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NZ, OM, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR, US, UG, UZ, UQ, VQ, VN, WR.

Published:

- with international search report
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Date of publication of the international search report: 19 February 2004

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC(7) : A61F 7/00
US CL : PCT/96,98-102
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
U.S. : 607/96,98-102

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
NONE

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
NONE

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category *</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>US 6,402,740 B1 (ELLIS et al) 11 June 2002, col. 5, lines 1-30</td>
<td>1, 3-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>US 6,290,609 B1 (HALL et al) 18 September 2001, see entire document</td>
<td>1-17</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>US 6,119,041 A (POMERANZ et al) 12 September 2000, see entire document</td>
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Date of the actual completion of the international search: 12 November 2003 (12.11.2003)

Date of mailing of the international search report: 29 DEC 2003

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US:
Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
Facsimile No. (703)305-3220

Authorized officer: Ron Gibson
Telephone No. 703-308-3520

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