

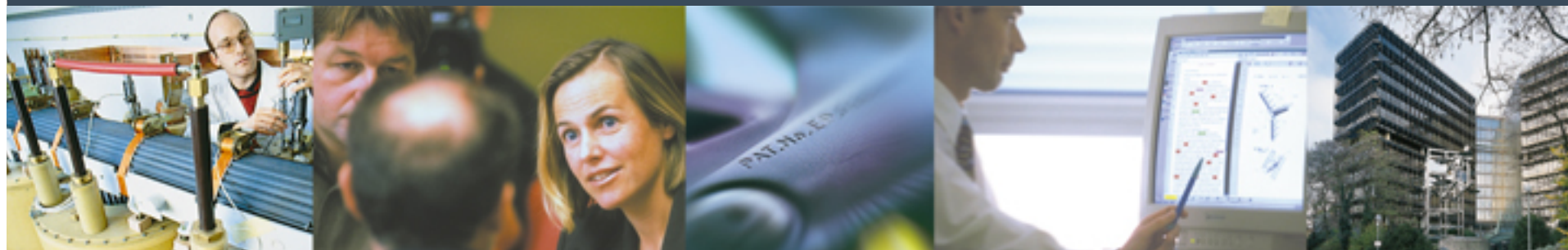


European  
Patent Office



# The European Patent Office

*Serving industry  
and  
the public*





European  
Patent Office

# Patent Protection in Europe

Dipl.-Ing. Heidrun Krestel  
Liaison Office Member States  
Co-operation Programmes and INPADOC



# Topics of this presentation

- Introduction to the EPO
- General issues
- The procedures
- Patent information





The European  
Patent Office



# The European Patent Office – the patent granting authority for Europe



The European  
Patent Office

# The European Patent Organisation

European Patent Organisation

European  
Patent Office

The executive body

The Office's task is to  
grant European patents.

Administrative  
Council

The legislative body

Important functions:

- to adopt the budget
- to approve the President's actions in implementing the budget
- to amend the Implementing Regulations and Rules relating to Fees

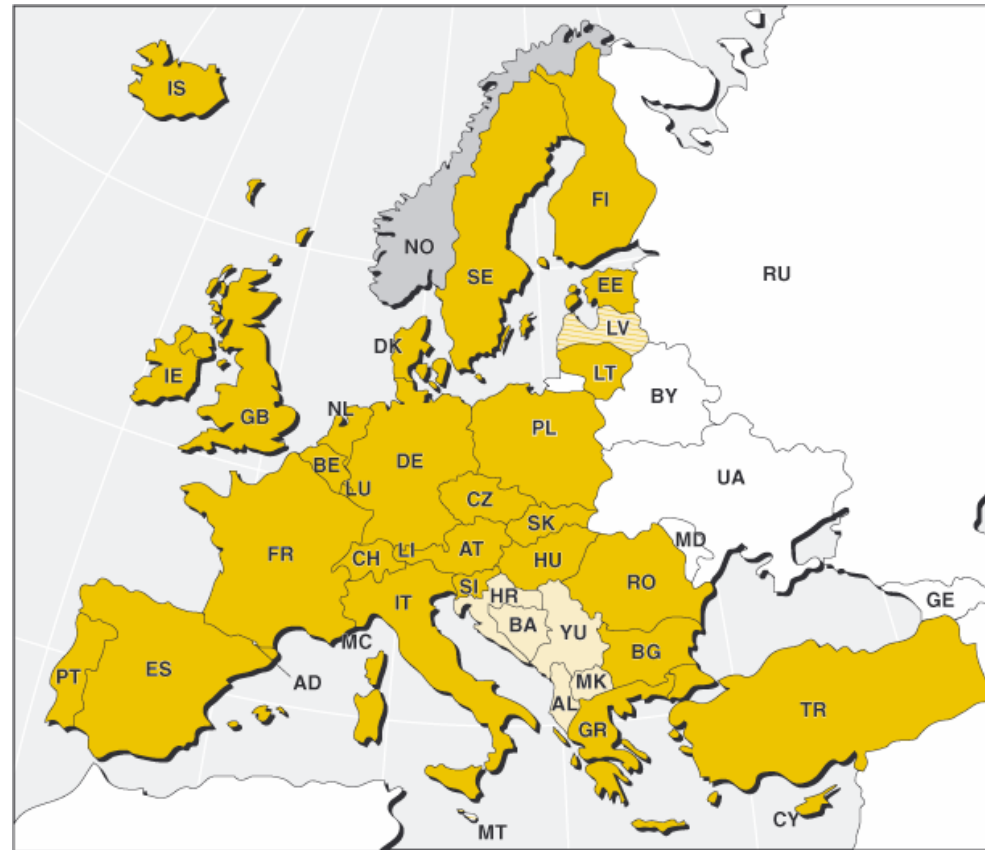
The Administrative Council consists of delegates from the member states.





The European  
Patent Office

# Member states



## EPO member states

AT Austria, BE Belgium, BG Bulgaria,  
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DE Germany, DK Denmark, EE Estonia, ES Spain,  
FI Finland, FR France, GB United Kingdom,  
GR Greece, HU Hungary, IE Ireland, IS Iceland,  
IT Italy, LI Liechtenstein, LT Lithuania,  
LU Luxembourg, MC Monaco, NL Netherlands,  
PL Poland, PT Portugal, RO Romania, SE Sweden,  
SI Slovenia, SK Slovakia, TR Turkey



## States entitled to join the EPC

NO Norway



## States which have been invited to join the EPC

LV Latvia, MT Malta



## States recognising European patents

("EXTension states")

AL Albania, BA Bosnia-Herzegovina, HR Croatia,  
LV Latvia, MK Former Yugoslav Republic of  
Macedonia (FYROM), YU Serbia and Montenegro

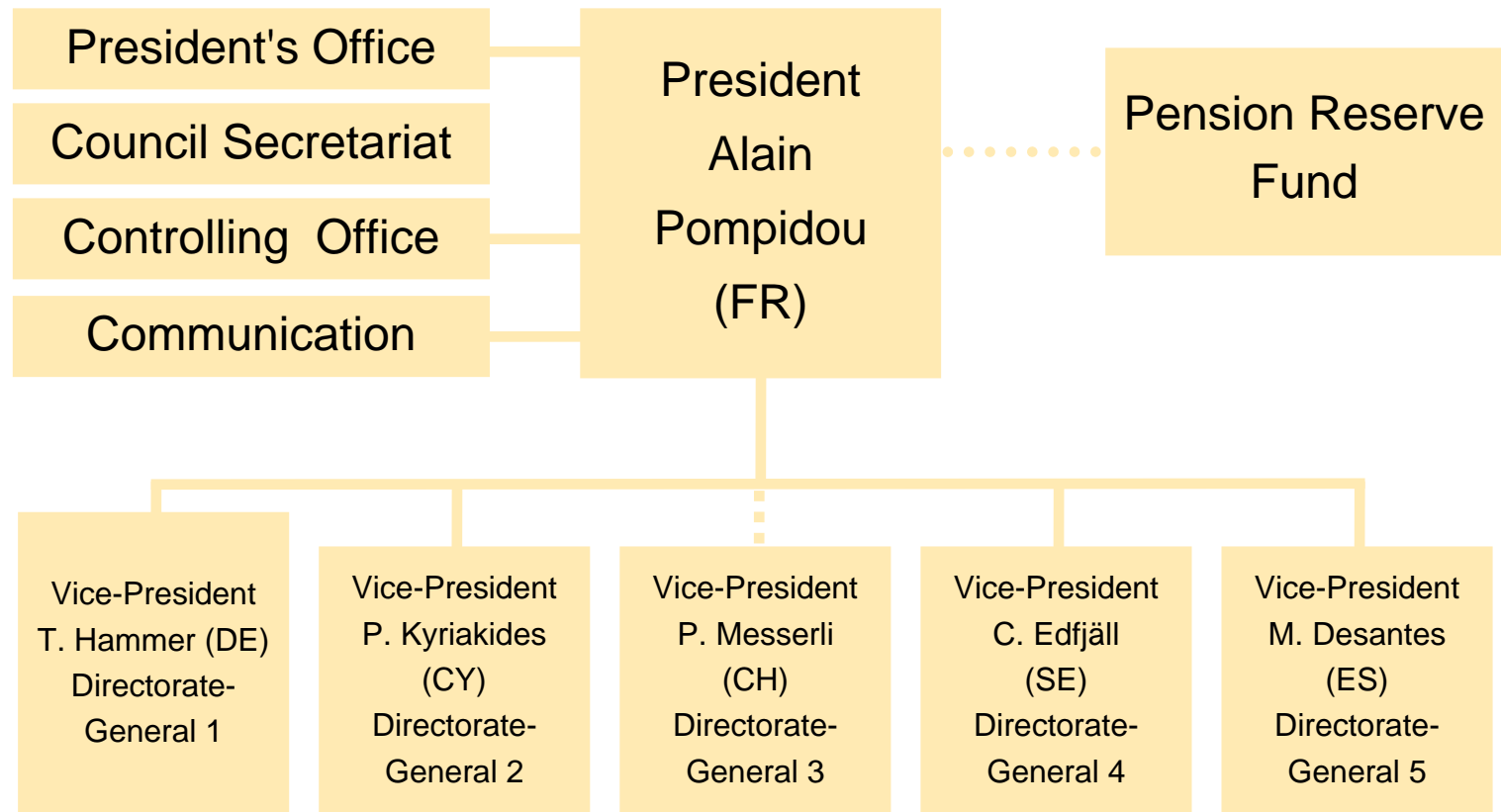
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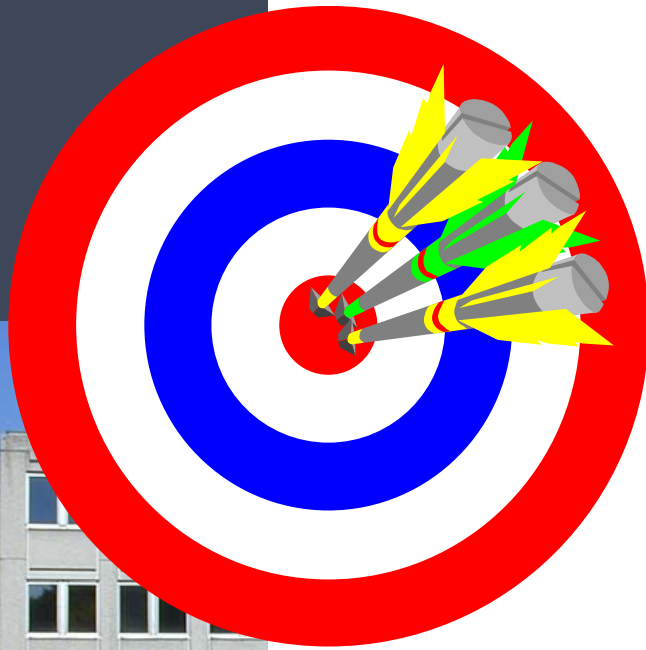
# Organisational structure of the European Patent Office







# The EPO's Mission



To examine patent applications

To grant patents

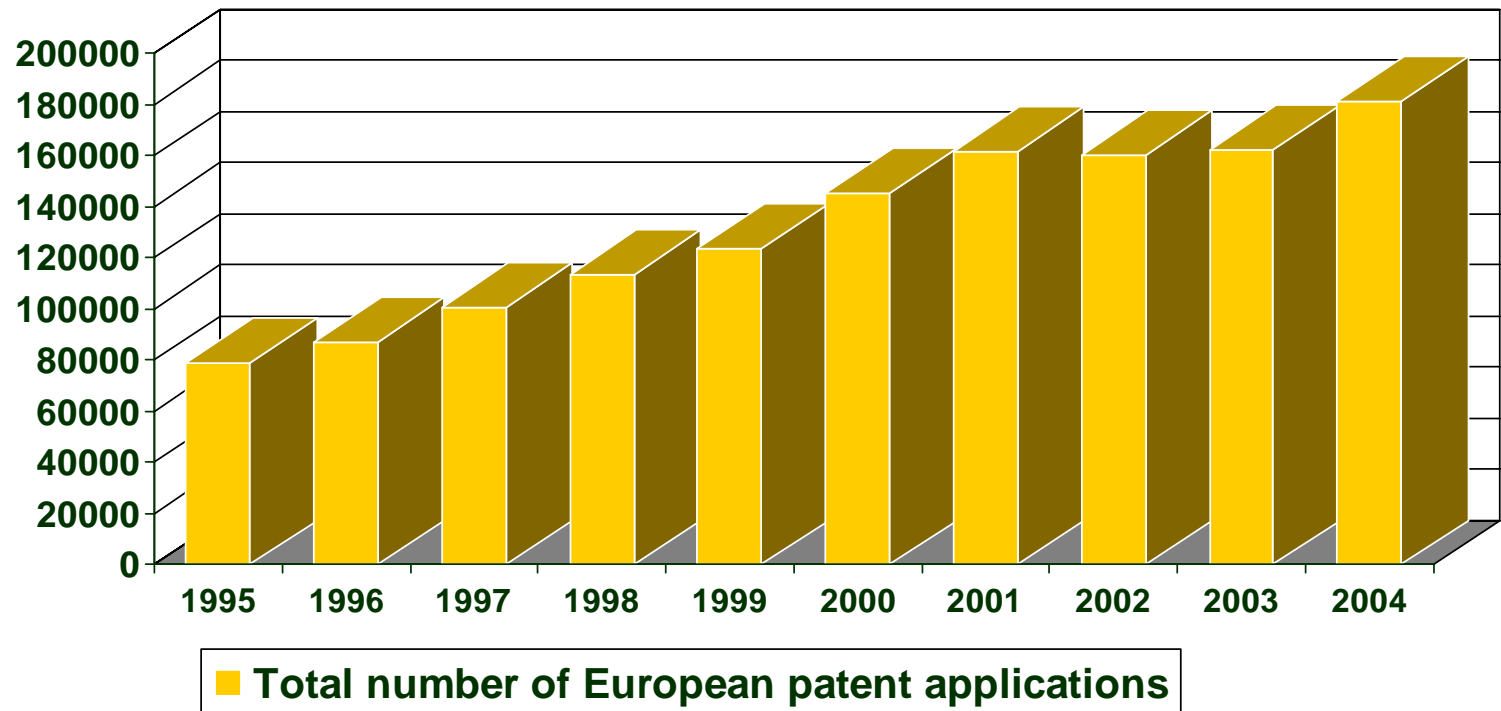
To publish and disseminate patent information







# Applications filed





The European  
Patent Office

# Locations

*Headquarters Munich  
PschorrHöfe*



*Branch at The Hague*



*Headquarters Munich  
Isar building*



*Vienna sub-office*



*Berlin sub-office*

*Brussels  
Bureau*



# Topics of this presentation

- Introduction to the EPO
- **General issues**
- The procedures
- Patent information





# What is a patent?

A patent is a legal title granting its holder the exclusive right to make use of an invention for a limited area and time by stopping others from, among other things, making, using or selling it without authorisation.





# National procedures

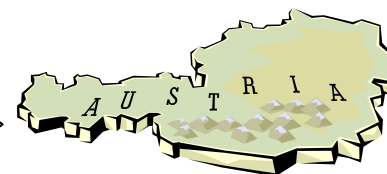
Invention

Application



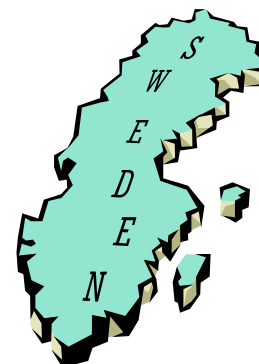
CZ-Patent

Application



AT-Patent

Application



SE- Patent





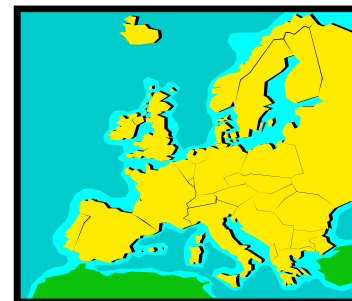
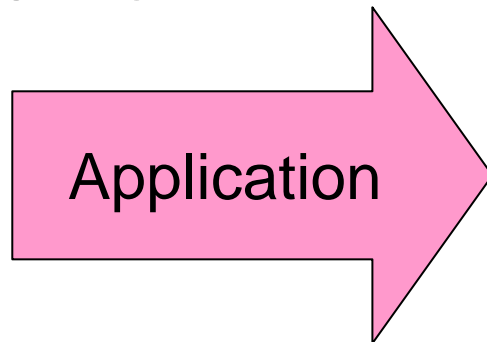


# European procedure (EP)

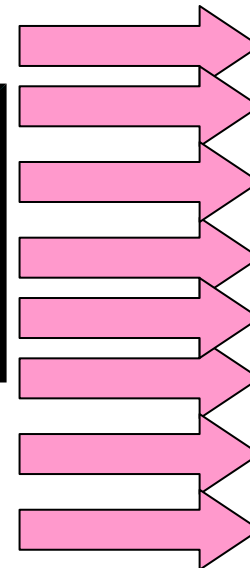
Invention



Application



EPO  
Grant



up to 30  
national  
patents

European phase

National Phase



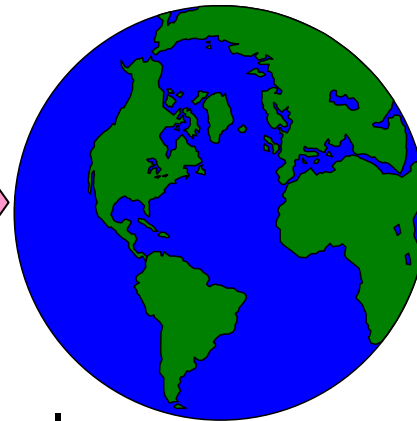


# International procedure (PCT)

Invention



Application



182  
member  
states

search and optional  
preliminary examination,  
no patent grant as such,  
entering the regional or national  
phase with 30 months delay  
after first filing







# Topics of this presentation



- Introduction to the EPO
- General issues
- **The procedures**
  - **Filing**
  - Search and examination
  - Granting
  - Opposition
  - Appeal
  - Summary
- Patent information





# Filing the application



Who can  
file?

Any natural or legal person, joint  
applicants

Where to  
file?

at EPO premises in Munich, The  
Hague and Berlin

at the central industrial property  
office or other competent  
authorities in that Contracting  
State (depending on the national  
law)





# Filing the application



For which countries?

In countries where the EPC has entered into force = the contracting (designating) states

In which language?

In one of the official languages (English, French, German)





# Filing the application



Items to  
file

Request for grant of a European  
patent

Description of the invention

Claim(s)

Drawing(s) referred to the  
description or the claims

Abstract

Claim to priority





# Filing the application



Claim to  
priority

Priority may be claimed for a European patent application by a person who in 12 month prior to the filing of the European application has filed an application of a patent or registration of a utility model in respect of the same invention in a state which is party of the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property





# Filing the application



## Requirements concerning the presentation of the invention

- Disclosure of the invention
- Unity of invention
- Description:
  - indication of technical field of the invention
  - background state of the art
  - definition of the technical problem and its solution
  - description of the figures
  - description of the way to carry out the invention
  - indication of industrial application





# Filing the application



## Requirements concerning the presentation of the invention

### ■ **Claims:**

- define the matter of protection
- usually comprises two parts, the **prior art portion** and the **characterising portion**

### ■ **Drawings:** must correspond to description and claims

### ■ **Abstract:** summary of the invention for technical information purposes

A stopper for a bottle, comprising:

expandable means for engagement in the neck of a bottle;  
a device receivable in the expandable means;  
and  
a link movably linking the device to the expandable means from a first mode to a second mode and vice-versa;

wherein the expandable means is a cylinder defining a large recess which is tapered, and further defining a small bore below the large recess and in communication therewith and

wherein the device is a plug comprising a head, a tapered neck integrally extending downward from the head, a top cavity defined in the head and a tapered cavity defined in the tapered neck and in communication with the top cavity, whereby the tapered neck is received in the large recess of the cylinder to press thereagainst when the stopper is in the expanded mode;

wherein the first mode of the stopper is when the stopper is contracted and wherein the second mode of the stopper is when the stopper is expanded.







# Online filing

- Online filing of EP and PCT applications
- online filing functionality via *epoline*®
- Fee reduction for online filed applications as of 1 April 2004 (€125 to €90)





PD 4.5 Patent  
Information

Further detailed  
information via the EPO  
website

[www.epo.org](http://www.epo.org)



April 2004  
(10th edition)

# How to get a European patent

# Guide for applicants – Part 1

## Contents

## Foreword

### A. General

I.	Introduction.....	5
II.	Nature and purpose of the European Patent Convention.....	6



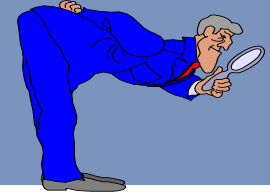
# Topics of this presentation

- Introduction to the EPO
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  - Filing
  - Search and examination
  - Granting
  - Opposition
  - Appeal
  - Summary
- Patent information





# Search and examination



- 1st step: Examination on filing / Formalities examination
- 2nd step: Search => Search report
- 3rd step: Substantive examination





EP 1 239 175 A1



Europäisches  
Patentamt

EUROPÄISCHER RECHERCHENBERICHT

Nummer der Anmeldung  
EP 02 00 3418



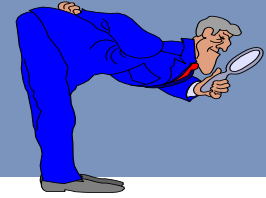
EINSCHLÄGIGE DOKUMENTE			
Kategorie	Kennzeichnung des Dokuments mit Angabe, soweit erforderlich, der maßgeblichen Teile	Betrifft Anspruch	KLASSIFIKATION DER ANMELDUNG (Int.Cl.7)
X	US 2 022 095 A (THOMPSON EARL A) 26. November 1935 (1935-11-26) * Seite 3, Zeile 6 - Zeile 55; Abbildung 1 *	1,2,4	F16D23/04 F16D23/06
X	US 2 048 883 A (MURRAY HOWARD J) 28. Juli 1936 (1936-07-28) * Seite 2, Zeile 28 - Zeile 71; Abbildung 1 *	1	
A	US 2 515 010 A (KISHLINE FLOYD F) 11. Juli 1950 (1950-07-11) * Spalte 3, Zeile 18 - Zeile 24; Abbildung 1 *	1	
A	US 3 228 499 A (LUCIEN PERAS) 11. Januar 1966 (1966-01-11) * Spalte 2, Zeile 25 - Zeile 47; Abbildung 1 *	1	
Der vorliegende Recherchenbericht wurde für alle Patentansprüche erstellt			RECHERCHIERTE SACHGEBIETE (Int.Cl.7) F16D
Recherchenort MÜNCHEN		Abschlußdatum der Recherche 27. März 2002	Prüfer Foulger, M
KATEGORIE DER GENANNTEN DOKUMENTE X : von besonderer Bedeutung allein betrachtet Y : von besonderer Bedeutung in Verbindung mit einer anderen Veröffentlichung derselben Kategorie A : technologischer Hintergrund O : nichttechnische Offenbarung P : Zwischenliteratur T : der Erfindung zugrunde liegende Theorien oder Grundsätze E : älteres Patentdokument, das jedoch erst am oder nach dem Anmeldedatum veröffentlicht worden ist D : in der Anmeldung angeführtes Dokument L : aus anderen Gründen angeführtes Dokument A : Mitglied der gleichen Patentfamilie, übernehmendes Dokument			

EPF FORM 903 (3.82) (P/0600)





# Search and examination



Code letters in the search report indicating:

**X** particularly relevant document which, taken by itself destroys the novelty or inventive step of the subject-matter claimed

**Y** particularly relevant document which, taken together with one or more other „Y“ documents, indicates that the subject-matter claimed does not involve an inventive step

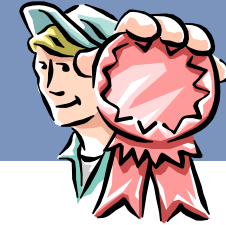
**A** document gives information about the state of the art







# Granting



For an invention to be patentable it must be:

- Novel (no prior disclosure or use)  
EPC Art. 54
- Inventive (not obvious to one skilled in the art)  
EPC Art. 56
- Industrially applicable  
EPC Art. 57





# Topics of this presentation

- Introduction to the EPO
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- The procedures
  - Filing
  - Search and examination
  - Granting
  - Opposition
  - Appeal
  - **Summary**
- Patent Information





# Fees



Application fee online filing € 90

Application fee Paper filing € 125

Search fee € 690

Designation fee € 75

per country, maximum 7 times

Examination fee € 1430

Fee for grant € 715

Annual fee 3+4 year € 785

**Total up to grant €4270**

Opposition fee € 610

Fee for appeal € 1020





## Ind 3 : Cost of a Sample European Patent



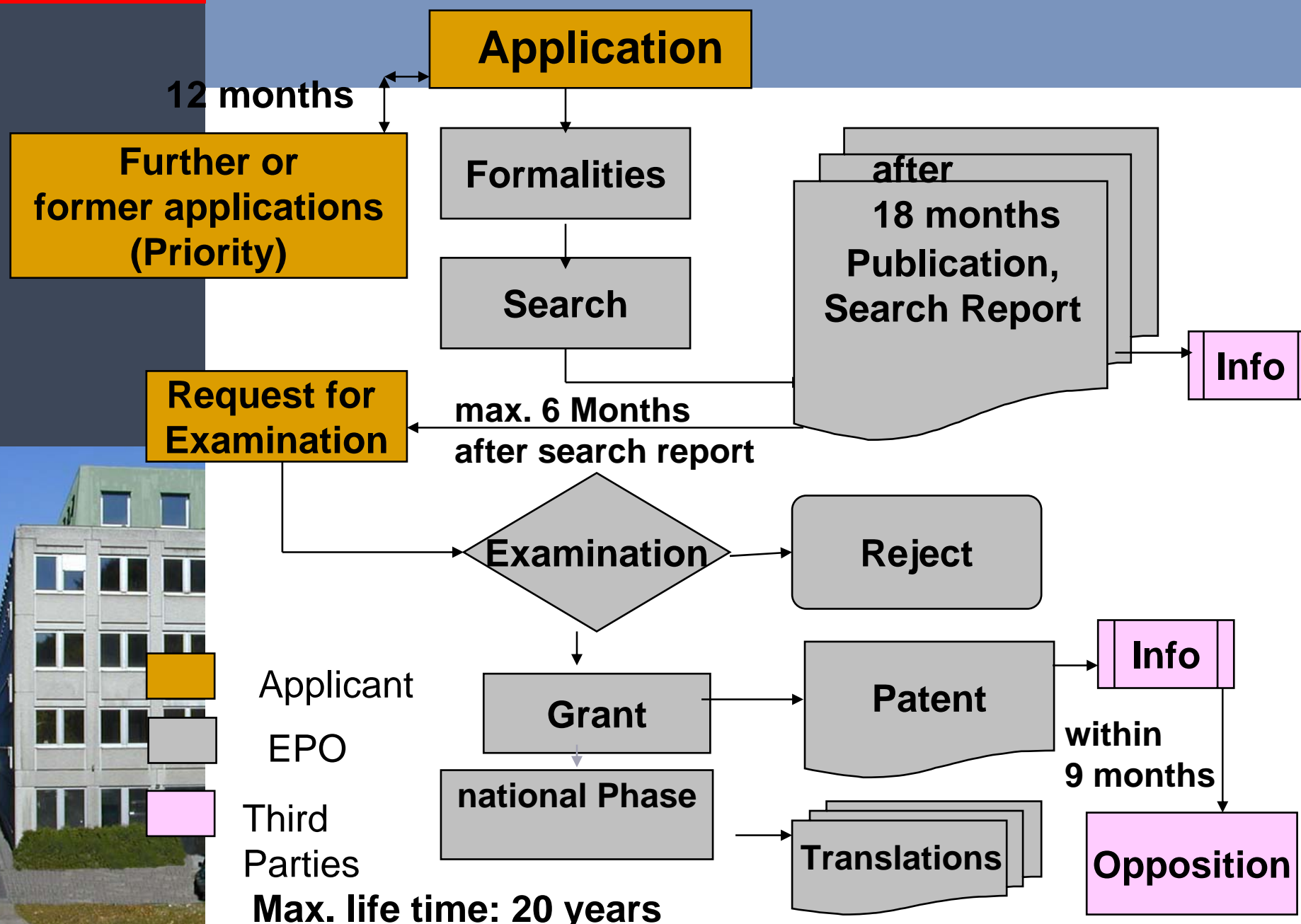
07. May 2003

	1999		2003		1999-2003	
	in €	% of total	in €	% of total	% Change	
Total Costs	29.800	100 %	31.100	100 %	4 %	↑
EPO Fees	4.300	14 %	4.270	14 %	-1 %	↔
Fees for Professional Representation before the EPO	5.500	18 %	6.120	20 %	11 %	↑
Renewal & Conversion Fees (National Phase)	8.500	29 %	8.910	29 %	5 %	↑
Fees for Translation in the Contracting States	11.500	39 %	11.800	38 %	3 %	↑

\*English language, 20 pages, 10 (separate) claims, 6500 words, 8 countries, 10-year duration



# Overview of the patent procedure at the EPO





# Topics of this presentation

- Introduction to the EPO
- General issues
- The procedures
- **Patent Information**





# Why patent information

Patents are an important information resource

- Technology transfer aspect:

- More than 80 % of the technical knowledge in the world can be found in patent literature – and often nowhere else

- Economic aspect:

- The European Commission estimates, that 20 thousand million Euro per year are spend on research and development of techniques which already exist







# Why patent information

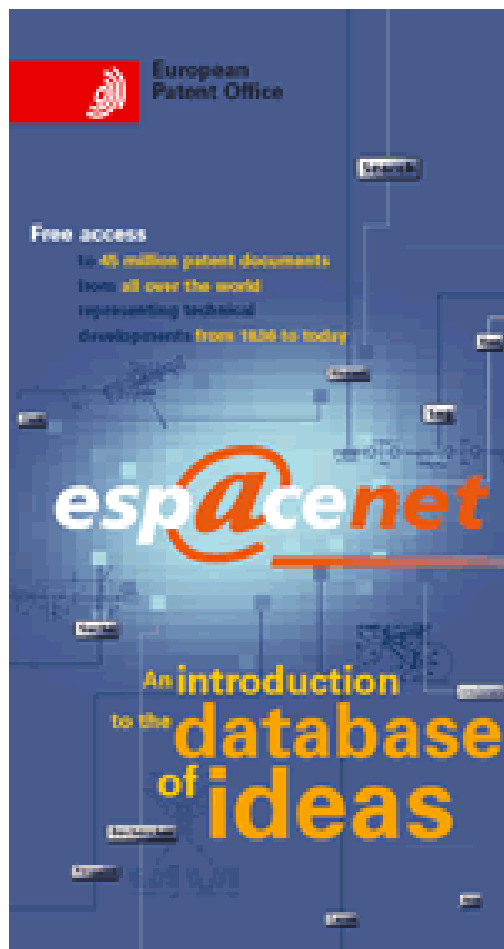
## **Advantages of patent documentation as resource of technical information**

- Detailed description of the technology protected as well as of the state of the art
- in most cases detailed drawings
- Worldwide similar classification scheme of technical fields (IPC=International Patent Classification)
- Accessable by everybody, in many cases free of charge





# The EPO's patent information products





## *esp @cenet*<sup>®</sup> target:

- To provide direct access to patent information
- To promote patent awareness
- To stimulate innovation, specially in small and medium enterprises





# *esp@cenet*<sup>®</sup> enables users

To search for specific patent numbers

To get an overview of the existing technologies in a certain field

To get an overview of innovative activities of their competitors

To monitor new patent applications as soon as they are published





# esp@cenet<sup>®</sup> offers 2 search levels:

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- Biblio data
- 1<sup>st</sup> page image
- Description
- Claims
- Drawing
- Search report

#### EP publications (EPO) + WO publications (WIPO)

- Biblio data and Abstract
- Description
- Claims
- Mosaics
- Original document
- Search report
- INPADOC legal status

### COVERAGE

The last 24 months

The last 24 months

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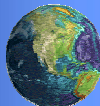


National Patent  
Office of the EPC  
member states





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Official Journal EPO 05/2005 is now available

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**Jobs** – 30.5.2005

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**Official Tenders** – 27.5.2005

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**Patents**  
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- Patent information website

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**International relations**

- International relations at the EPO
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- Electronic communication and transaction during the patent granting procedure

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Keyword(s) in title or abstract:	inflatable seat belt
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Application number:	DE19971031696
Priority number:	WO1995US15925
Publication date:	yyyymmdd
Applicant:	Institut Pasteur
Inventor:	Smith
European Classification (ECLA):	B01C3/01
International Patent Classification (IPC):	B60R21/18 H03M1/12

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**RESULT LIST**  
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**"b60r21/18"** as the IPC classification AND **"inflatable AND seat AND belt"** in the title or abstract  
(Results are sorted by date of upload in database)

[Refine search](#)

**41 LAP MOUNTED INFLATABLE BAG AND METHOD OF USE** in my patents list ☐  
Inventor: LEWIS DONALD J Applicant: UNIVERSAL PROPULSION CO (US)  
EC: B60R21/01F; B60R21/18 IPC: B60R21/18 ; B60R21/32 ; (+1)  
Publication info: **WO9944865** - 1999-09-10

**42 INFLATABLE TUBULAR TORSO RESTRAINT SYSTEM** in my patents list ☐  
Inventor: ROMEO DAVID J (US); YANIV GERSHON Applicant: SIMULA INC (US)  
(US); (+2)  
EC: B60R21/18 IPC: B60R21/18  
Publication info: **CA2259317** - 1998-01-08

**43 Air belt device** in my patents list ☐  
Inventor: TAKEUCI HIROYUKI (JP) Applicant: TAKATA CORP (JP)  
EC: B60R21/18 IPC: B60R21/18  
Publication info: **EP0901942** - 1999-03-17

**44 Lap mounted inflatable bag and method of use** in my patents list ☐  
Inventor: LEWIS DONALD J (US) Applicant: UNIVERSAL PROPULSION CO (US)  
EC: B60R21/18; B60R22/14 IPC: B60R21/18  
Publication info: **US5871230** - 1999-02-16

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## INFLATABLE TUBULAR TORSO RESTRAINT SYSTEM

Bibliographic data	Description	Claims	Mosaics	Original document	INPADOC LEGAL status
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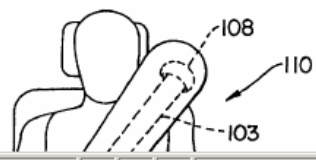
**Patent number:** CA2259317  
**Publication date:** 1998-01-08  
**Inventor:** ROMEO DAVID J (US); YANIV GERSHON (US); BARK LINDLEY W (US); HARDTMANN DIRK J (US)  
**Applicant:** SIMULA INC (US)  
**Classification:**  
- international: B60R21/18  
- european:  
**Application number:** CA19972259317 19970702  
**Priority number(s):** US19960021052P 19960702; US19970829750 19970331; WO1997US13118 19970702

**Also published as:**

- WO9800314 (A1)
- EP0007528 (A1)
- EP0907529 (A4)

**Abstract of CA2259317**

A seat restraint system (110) whose torso belt (103) inflates upon impact to protect the occupants of a vehicle such as an automobile. The inflating component of the present invention is a braided tube (101) linked to a gas generator and crash sensor. When an impact is detected.



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## INFLATABLE TUBULAR TORSO RESTRAINT SYSTEM

Bibliographic data **Description** Claims Mosaics Original document INPADOC LEGAL status

Description of **WO9800314**

INFLATABLE TUBULAR TORSO RESTRAINTSYSTEM  
This application claims priority from U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/021,052, filed July 2, 1996.

BACKGROUND  
Field of the Invention.

This invention relates to a system for restraining the body of an occupant in a vehicle to reduce the extent and severity of injuries during a crash. More specifically, the invention relates to a seat belt restraint system which incorporates an inflatable tubular section in the torso section of the belt.

The inflatable tubular section is made of a woven or braided tube of continuous high-strength fibers. The restraint system reduces the extent and severity of both primary and secondary injuries to vehicle occupants.

Background of the invention.

Conventional seat belts are designed to protect the occupants of vehicles such as automobiles, trucks, vans, airplanes and helicopters from primary injuries during an accident. Primary

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## INFLATABLE TUBULAR TORSO RESTRAINT SYSTEM

Bibliographic data **Description** **Claims** Mosaics Original document INPADOC LEGAL status

### Claims of WO9800314

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:

1. A seat restraint system for protecting the occupants of motor vehicles comprising:  
(a) an inflatable braided tube of continuous high-strength fibers having an outer end and an inner end;  
(b) a first anchored strap connecting the outer end of the braided tube to a first inertial reel;  
(c) a second anchored strap having one end connected to the inner end of the braided tube and another end of said strap connected to a second inertial reel, said second strap or braided tube looping through a male part of a buckle assembly;  
(d) a female part of a buckle assembly, said female part of the buckle assembly being releasably connectable to the male part of the buckle assembly;  
(e) a third short strap or cable connecting the female part of the buckle assembly to a third anchor; and  
(f) a gas generator fluidly connected to the braided tube, wherein the continuous high-strength fibers form spirals that are elongated longitudinally such that the uninflated braided tube has a relatively small diameter, and upon inflation, the spirals move closer together longitudinally such that the braided tube significantly increases in diameter and significantly decreases in length upon inflation.
2. The seat system of claim 1, wherein, prior to inflation, the continuous fibers form

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## Claims



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## Inflatable tubular torso restraint system

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U.S. Patent No. 5,839,753 Sheet 1 of 2

FIG. 1a

FIG. 1b

FIG. 1c

FIG. 1d

FIG. 1e

FIG. 2a

FIG. 2b

Drawing pages of US5839753

U.S. Patent No. 5,839,753 Sheet 4 of 2

U.S. Patent No. 5,839,753 Sheet 5 of 2

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## Inflatable tubular torso restraint system

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☐ Drawings  
☐ Description  
☐ Claims

**United States Patent** [19]  
Yaniv et al.

[11] Patent Number: **5,839,753**  
[45] Date of Patent: **Nov. 24, 1998**

[54] **INFLATABLE TUBULAR TORSO RESTRAINT SYSTEM**

Inventors: **Gershon Yaniv**, Scottsdale, Ariz.; **David J. Bonnes**, Elms, Wyo.; **Dick J. Hartmann**, Phoenix, Lindley W. Burk, Chandler, both of Ariz.

[73] Assignee: **Simula Inc.**, Phoenix, Ariz.

[21] Appl. No. **829,730**  
[22] Filed: **Mar. 31, 1997**  
[51] Int. Cl.<sup>7</sup> **B60R 21/18**  
[52] U.S. Cl. **280/733, 280/808**  
[58] Field of Search **280/728, 1, 733, 280/743, 1, 808**

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Primary Examiner—Paul N. Dickson  
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Cornell & Moring LLP

**ABSTRACT**  
A seat restraint system whose torso belt inflates upon impact to protect the occupants of a vehicle such as an automobile. The inflating component of the present invention is a braided tube, linked to a gas generator and crash sensor. When an impact is detected, the gas generator is ignited, inflating the

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## INFLATABLE TUBULAR TORSO RESTRAINT SYSTEM

Bibliographic data Description Claims Mosaics Original document **INPADOC LEGAL status**

Legal status (INPADOC) of **WO9800314**

<b>WO F</b>	<b>9713118 W</b>	(Patent of invention)
<b>PRS Date :</b>	1998/01/08	
<b>PRS Code :</b>	AK	
<b>Code Expl.:</b>	+ DESIGNATED STATES	
<b>KD OF CORRESP. PAT.:</b>	A1	
<b>DESIGNATED COUNTR.:</b>	AL AM AT AU AZ BB BG BR BY CA CH CN CZ DE DK EE ES FI GB GE HU IL IS JP KE KG KP KR KZ LK LR LS LT LU LV MD MG MK MN MW MX NO NZ PL PT RO RU SD SE SG SI SK TJ TM TR TT UA UG UZ VN AM AZ BY KG KZ MD RU TJ TM	
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Application Number / Date  eg. EP1988850217 or WO1994JP01239  
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Priority Number / Date  eg. FR19910001995  
eg. 19980830

Applicant  eg. Smith George  
or Phillips

Inventor  eg. Smith George  
or Phillips

Representative  eg. Smith George  
or Smith Hellmann and Partner

Opponent  eg. Smith George  
or Phillips

Classification (IPC)  eg. B62J1/02

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**Publication numbers, publication type and publication dates**  
EP1000000 A1 17-05-2000 [2000/20]  
EP1000000 B1 12-02-2003 [2003/07]  
12-02-2003 [2003/07]

**Application numbers and filing date**  
EP19990203729 (99203729.1)   
08-11-1999 [2000/20]

**Date of publication of search report**  
Date of publication of search report 17-05-2000 [2000/20]

**Priority number, priority date**  
NL19981010536 12-11-1998 [2000/20]

**Classification (IPC) and bulletin number**  
B28B5/02, B28B7/00, B28B1/29 [2000/20]

**Designated states**  
AT , BE , CH , DE , DK , ES , FR , GB , GR , IE , IT , LI , LU , MC , NL , PT , SE , FI , CY [2000/20]

**English title**  
Apparatus for manufacturing green bricks for the brick manufacturing industry [2000/20]

**French title**  
Dispositif pour la fabrication de briques crues utilisées dans l'industrie manufacturière des briques [2000/20]

**German title**  
Vorrichtung zur Herstellung von Steinformlingen für die Ziegelindustrie [2000/20]

**Designated states, applicant name, address**  
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Koopvaardijweg 2  
6541 BS Nijmegen/NL [2000/20]

**Inventor name, address**  
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**Representative name, address**  
't Jong, Bastiaan Jacob, et al  
Arnold & Siedsma, Advocaten en Octrooigemachtigden, Sweelinckplein 1  
2517 GK Den Haag/NL [2000/28]

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**Procedure language**  
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**Publication language**  
B1 EN [2003/07]  
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**Location of file and fax number for file inspection requests** Application is treated in (/fax-nr) MUNICH/(+49-89) 23994465

**Examination procedure**  
request for examination 27-10-2000 [2000/52]  
communication R.51(4) dispatched 23-04-2002  
- approval (yes or no) yes  
communication R.51(6) dispatched 07-08-2002  
payment of fee for grant/fee for printing 24-08-2002/24-08-2002

**Opposition procedure** no opposition filed,time-limit expired on 13-11-2003 [2004/06]

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Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire

Beheermaatschappij De Boer Nijmegen B.V.

## DECISION TO GRANT A EUROPEAN PATENT PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 97(2) EPC

Following examination of European patent application No. 99203729.1 a European patent with the title and the supporting documents indicated in the communication pursuant to Rule 51(4) EPC dated 23.04.02 is hereby granted in respect of the designated Contracting States. Any modifications which were subsequently requested have been approved by the Examining Division. Any corrections requested by the applicant a f t e r receipt of the communication under Rule 51(6) and received at the EPO on 00.00.00 have been taken into account.

Patent No. : 1000000  
Date of filing : 08.11.99  
Priority claimed : 12.11.98/NL 1010536  
Designated Contracting States and Proprietor(s) : AT-BE-CH-CY-DE-DK-ES-FI-FR-GB-GR-IE-IT-LI-LU-MC-NL-PT-SE  
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6541 BS Nijmegen/NL

This decision will take effect on the date on which the European Patent Bulletin mentions the grant (Art. 97(4) and (5) EPC).

The mention of the grant will be published in European Patent Bulletin 03/07 of 12.02.03.

Examining Division  
KHERA D S

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