

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the careful and thorough examination of the present application, and for extending all courtesies to Applicants' Attorney during the telephonic interview of August 24, 2011.

During the telephonic interview, Applicants proposed amending independent Claims 1, 10, and 15 to more clearly define the claimed invention over the prior art. The Examiner responded favorably to the proposed claim amendments and invited Applicants to submit written arguments as such. Applicants have proceeded as discussed during the telephonic interview and have amended independent Claims 1 and 10 to incorporate the subject matter of former, now canceled, dependent Claims 3 and 11, respectively. Applicants have also amended independent Claim 15 similarly.

Applicants submit that all claims are patentable, present arguments and amendments herein supporting such patentability, and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all pending rejections and allow all claims.

I. The Amended Claims

Independent Claim 1 is directed to a environmental condition detecting system to detect at least one environmental condition associated with a collected geospatial image from a geospatial image sensor carried by an airborne platform. The environmental condition detecting system comprises a database, an image processor operable with the database to generate a reference geospatial image corresponding to the collected geospatial image, a change detector operable with the image

processor to detect a change between the collected geospatial image and the reference geospatial image, and an environmental condition detector. The environmental condition detector is operable with the change detector to detect the at least one environmental condition associated with the collected geospatial image based upon the change between the collected geospatial image and the reference geospatial image. The at least one environmental condition comprises at least one weather condition relating to at least one of image obscuration and surface reflectivity.

Amended independent Claim 10 is directed to a weather condition detecting system similar to Claim 1, and has been amended similarly. Amended independent Claim 15 is a method counterpart to Claim 1, and has been amended similarly.

II. The Amended Claims Are Patentable

The Examiner rejected independent Claims 1, 10, and 15 over Oldroyd in view of Stossel et al. and Wolfson et al. Oldroyd discloses a system for automatic image registration that includes a sensor collecting imagery from a mobile platform. The sensor also collects sensing parameters, e.g. field of view, resolution, and azimuth, and platform parameters. The system also includes a reference database for storing reference images. The system extracts a "chip" from the reference images to compare to the corresponding collected image. The chip is warped or distorted to conform to the known geometry of the collected image, the distortion mimicking the perspective of the sensor in the collected image.

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The Examiner correctly notes that Oldroyd fails to disclose detecting the at least one environmental condition associated with the collected geospatial image based upon the change between the collected geospatial image and the reference geospatial image, as recited by independent Claim 1, for example. The Examiner looks to Stossel et al. to supply this deficiency of Oldroyd.

Stossel et al. discloses a change detection system that compares a collected image with a synthetic image generated from a model database. The system detects changes in vegetation, i.e. whether trees have been removed in the collected image.

The Examiner correctly notes that Oldroyd and Stossel et al. each fails to disclose the environmental condition being a weather condition, and he looks to Wolfson et al. for this deficiency. Wolfson et al. discloses a weather prediction method.

As correctly recognized by the Examiner during the telephonic interview, neither Oldroyd, Stossel et al., nor Wolfson et al. discloses an environmental condition detector detecting the ***environmental condition associated with the collected geospatial image based upon the change between the collected geospatial image and the reference geospatial image***, the environmental condition comprising at least one weather condition relating to at least one of image obscuration and surface reflectivity, as recited by amended independent Claim 1, for example. As noted above, the change detection of Oldroyd and Stossel et al. does not relate to weather conditions.

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Moreover, Wolfson et al. discloses a typical weather forecast system.

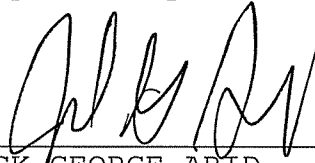
Accordingly, because of the above noted deficiency, it is submitted that amended independent Claims 1, 10, and 15 are patentable over the prior art. Their respective dependent claims, which recite yet further distinguishing features, are also patentable over the prior art and require no further discussion herein.

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CONCLUSIONS

In view of the amendments to the claims and the arguments presented above, it is submitted that all of the claims are patentable. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested in due course. Should any minor informalities need to be addressed, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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