

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

**Complete if Known**

|                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Application Number     | 11/367,696        |
| Filing Date            | March 6, 2006     |
| First Named Inventor   | Etsuyoshi WATARAI |
| Group Art Unit         | 3683              |
| Examiner Name          | Vu Q. Nguyen      |
| Attorney Docket Number | SN-US065025       |

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

| Examiner<br>Initials * | Cite<br>No. <sup>1</sup> | Document Number                            | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of<br>Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant<br>Passages or Relevant<br>Figures Appear |
|------------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|---|
|                        |                          | Number - Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known) |                                |  |   |
|                        |                          | US- 4,946,425                              | 08-07-1990                     | Buhlmann   |   |
|                        |                          | US- 5,653,649                              | 08-05-1997                     | Watarai  |   |
|                        |                          | US- 5,865,454                              | 02-02-1999                     | Campagnolo   |   |
|                        |                          | US-  |                                |  |   |
|                        |                          | US-  |                                |  |   |
|                        |                          | US-  |                                |  |   |
|                        |                          | US-  |                                |  |   |
|                        |                          | US-  |                                |  |   |
|                        |                          | US-  |                                |  |   |
|                        |                          | US-  |                                |  |   |
|                        |                          | US-  |                                |  |   |
|                        |                          | US-  |                                |  |   |
|                        |                          | US-  |                                |  |   |
|                        |                          | US-  |                                |  |   |
|                        |                          | US-  |                                |  |   |
|                        |                          | US-  |                                |  |   |
|                        |                          | US-  |                                |  |   |
|                        |                          | US-  |                                |  |   |
|                        |                          | US-  |                                |  |   |
|                        |                          | US-  |                                |  |   |
|                        |                          | US-  |                                |  |   |
|                        |                          | US-  |                                |  |   |

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

| Examiner<br>Initials * | Cite<br>No. <sup>1</sup> | Foreign Patent Document   | Publication<br>Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited<br>Document | Pages, Columns, Lines,<br>Where Relevant<br>Passages or Relevant<br>Figures Appear | T <sup>6</sup> |
|------------------------|--------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|--|----------------|
|                        |                          | Country Code <sup>3</sup> - Number <sup>4</sup> - Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known) |                                   |   |  |                |
|                        |                          | EP - 1 362 783 - A2   | 11-19-2003                        | Takeda  |  | N/A            |
|                        |                          | EP - 1 394 031 - A2   | 03-03-2004                        | Kitamura et al.                                       |  | N/A            |
|                        |                          | WO - 88/01962 - A2  | 03-24-1988                        | Buhlmann  |  | Y              |
|                        |                          |   |                                   |   |  |                |
|                        |                          |   |                                   |   |  |                |
|                        |                          |   |                                   |   |  |                |
|                        |                          |   |                                   |   |  |                |
|                        |                          |   |                                   |   |  |                |
|                        |                          |   |                                   |   |  |                |

Examiner  
SignatureDate  
Considered

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04.<sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.