

## REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 7-34 were previously pending. As noted above, claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17-19, and 21 have been amended, and claims 23-34 have been canceled. Support for these amendments can be found throughout the originally filed Specification. No new matter has been added. Thus, after entry of the amendments, claims 1-5 and 7-22 remain pending in the present application.

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since this Amendment: (a) places the application in condition for allowance for reasons discussed herein; (b) does not raise any new issue regarding further search and/or consideration since the Amendment amplifies issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; (c) does not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally-rejected claims; and (d) places the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of the Amendment is thus respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application based on the above amendments and the following remarks.

### *Allowable Subject Matter*

The Office Action on page 7 indicates that it is the Examiner's position that a more favorable outcome may occur if each of the independent claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17-19, and 21 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 22 or 23 and claim 24.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in the above identified claims.

As noted above, Applicants have amended each of independent claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17-19, and 21 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 23 and 24, respectively, and claims 23-34 have been canceled.

Thus, independent claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17-19, and 21 and each respective dependent claims 2, 4, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 20 and 22 are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

***Claim Rejection – 35 USC § 103***

Claims 1-5 and 7-34 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hays and further in view of Smith, Umstetter and {Moore or Wortham}.

As noted above, Applicants have amended each of independent claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17-19, and 21 to respectively incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 23 and 24 (now canceled). Thus, independent claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17-19, and 21 and each respective dependent claims 2, 4, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 20 and 22 are in condition for allowance.

Therefore, based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1-5 and 7-22 under 35 USC § 103(a) and allow the subject application.


**Conclusion**

In light of these remarks, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance, for which early action is requested.

Please charge any fees or overpayments that may be due with this response to Deposit Account No. 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,

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