1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 2 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consists of a total of _______ sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

I [X] Basis of the report
II [ ] Priority
III [X] Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
IV [ ] Lack of unity of invention
V [X] Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
VI [ ] Certain documents cited
VII [ ] Certain defects in the international application
VIII [ ] Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand
08/01/2001

Date of completion of this report
06/03/2002

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Form PCT/IPEA/409 (cover sheet) (July 1998)
I. **Basis of the report**

1. The basis of this international preliminary examination report is the application as originally filed.

III. **Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability**

2. The question of whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step, or to be industrially applicable has not been and will not be the subject of the international preliminary examination (Article 34 (4) (a) (i) (ii) PCT; see also international search report) in respect of:

2.1 Applications having an unnecessary plurality of independent claims (generally not more than 1 independent claim in the same category is necessary; Article 6 PCT);

2.2 unsearched subject-matter (Article 17 (2) (a), Rule 66.1 (e) PCT), e.g.
2.2.1 claimed subject-matter under Rule 39.1 PCT,
2.2.2 applications where the description, the claims, or the drawings fail to comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful search could have been carried out;

2.3 claimed subject-matter under Rule 67.1 PCT.

V. **Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

3. To the extent that the international preliminary examination has been carried out (see item III above), the following is pointed out:

In light of the documents cited in the international search report, the invention as claimed in at least one of the independent claims does not appear to meet the criteria mentioned in Article 33 (1) PCT, i.e. does not appear to be novel and/or to involve an inventive step.