

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

REC'D 09 SEP 2002

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 7888/88718	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/US01/51865	International filing date (day/month/year) 13 NOVEMBER 2001	Priority date (day/month/year) 17 NOVEMBER 2000
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC Please See Supplemental Sheet.		
Applicant SONOSCAN, INC.		

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 6 sheets.

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 consist of a total of 0 sheets.

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

- I Basis of the report
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of report with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V 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 03 MAY 2002	Date of completion of this report 03 AUGUST 2002
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231	Authorized officer JACQUES M. SAINT-SURIN
Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	Telephone No. (703) 308-3698 <i>Rene Pastor</i>

I. Basis of the report1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application:* the international application as originally filed the description:

pages 1-17 , as originally filed
 pages NONE , filed with the demand
 pages NONE , filed with the letter of _____

 the claims:

pages 18-33 , as originally filed
 pages NONE , as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
 pages NONE , filed with the demand
 pages NONE , filed with the letter of _____

 the drawings:

pages 1-14 , as originally filed
 pages NONE , filed with the demand
 pages NONE , filed with the letter of _____

 the sequence listing part of the description:

pages NONE , as originally filed
 pages NONE , filed with the demand
 pages NONE , filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

 the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)). the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)). the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing: contained in the international application in printed form. filed together with the international application in computer readable form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form. The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished. The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of: the description, pages NONE the claims, Nos. NONE the drawings, sheets/fig NONE5. This report has been drawn as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

**Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

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V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**1. statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims	<u>1-66, 68-77</u>	YES
	Claims	<u>NONE</u>	NO
Inventive Step (IS)	Claims	<u>1-66, 68-77</u>	YES
	Claims	<u>NONE</u>	NO
Industrial Applicability (IA)	Claims	<u>1-66, 68-77</u>	YES
	Claims	<u>NONE</u>	NO

2. citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Claims 1-66 and 68-77 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(2)-(4), because the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest: an automated acoustic micro imaging system comprising a part-retention stage, and a preliminary dryer for at least partially removing coupling fluid from a part which has been inspected by an ultrasonic beam from the beam generator in a coupling fluid environment, but before being picked up by the robot, thereby facilitating the robot pickup and reducing the amount of coupling fluid carried to the part-storage station by the robot; a method for automated inspection of semiconductor wafers or other parts, comprising providing a plurality of wet-environment acoustic micro imaging systems, each having a part-retention stage and robotically moving parts between one or more part-storage stations and at least one of said plurality of acoustic micro imaging systems for inspection, said plurality of micro imaging systems being serviced by the same acoustic scanning transducer; and providing one or more dryers and at least one wet-environment acoustic micro imaging system having a part-retention stage and robotically moving parts in a cycle including a part-storage station, an acoustic micro imaging system for inspection, a dryer and a storage station.

----- NEW CITATIONS -----
NONE

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VI. Certain documents cited

1. Certain published documents (Rule 70.10)

<u>Application No. Patent No.</u>	<u>Publication Date (day/month/year)</u>	<u>Filing Date (day/month/year)</u>	<u>Priority date (valid claim) (day/month/year)</u>
US, B1, 6,205,839	27 MARCH 2001	21 MARCH 1996	29 MARCH 1995

2. Non-written disclosures (Rule 70.9)

<u>Kind of non-written disclosure</u>	<u>Date of non-written disclosure (day/month/year)</u>	<u>Date of written disclosure referring to non-written disclosure (day/month/year)</u>
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VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

Claims 68-77 are objected to under PCT Rule 66.2(a)(iii) as containing the following defect(s) in the form or contents thereof:
Claim 67 is missing.

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Supplemental Box

(To be used when the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient)

Continuation of: Boxes I - VIII

Sheet 10

CLASSIFICATION:

The International Patent Classification (IPC) and/or the National classification are as listed below:
IPC(7): G01N 29/04; F26B 19/00; B65H 1/00 and US Cl.: 73/603, 620, 627, 633, 590, 596; 209/590, 591; 324/265;
356/237.4; 414/222.01, 935; 34/89