

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

TRANSLATION

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

To:

Date of mailing
(day/month/year)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
FPI-12209

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/JP2004/014347

International filing date (day/month/year)
30.09.2004

Priority date (day/month/year)
03.10.2003

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC

Applicant
SHINAGAWA REFRACTORIES CO., LTD.

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- Box No. II Priority
- Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/JP

Facsimile No.

Authorized officer

Telephone No.

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/014347

Box No. I	Basis of this opinion
1.	With regard to the language , this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
<input type="checkbox"/>	This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2.	With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
a.	type of material
<input type="checkbox"/>	a sequence listing
<input type="checkbox"/>	table(s) related to the sequence listing
b.	format of material
<input type="checkbox"/>	in written format
<input type="checkbox"/>	in computer readable form
c.	time of filing/furnishing
<input type="checkbox"/>	contained in the international application as filed.
<input type="checkbox"/>	filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
<input type="checkbox"/>	furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3.	<input type="checkbox"/> In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table(s) relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4.	Additional comments:

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/014347

Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement								
1.	Statement								
	Novelty (N)	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%;">Claims</td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: right;">YES</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Claims</td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; text-align: center;">1, 2</td> <td style="text-align: right;">NO</td> </tr> </table>	Claims	3	YES	Claims	1, 2	NO	
Claims	3	YES							
Claims	1, 2	NO							
	Inventive step (IS)	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%;">Claims</td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;"></td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: right;">YES</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Claims</td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; text-align: center;">1-3</td> <td style="text-align: right;">NO</td> </tr> </table>	Claims		YES	Claims	1-3	NO	
Claims		YES							
Claims	1-3	NO							
	Industrial applicability (IA)	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%;">Claims</td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; text-align: center;">1-3</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: right;">YES</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Claims</td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;"></td> <td style="text-align: right;">NO</td> </tr> </table>	Claims	1-3	YES	Claims		NO	
Claims	1-3	YES							
Claims		NO							
2.	Citations and explanations:								
	<p>The documents cited in the ISR are listed as “document 1” to “document 3” below.</p> <p>Document 1: JP, 10501471, A (Foseco International Limited), 10 February, 1998 (10.02.98), page 5, lines 1 to 4; page 6, line 27 to page 7, line 9; page 8, line 2 to page 9, line 17, & WO, 96/32216, A Document 2: JP, 8-25007, A (Sumitomo Metal Industries, Ltd.), claim 2, paragraphs [0014]-[0017] (Family: none) Document 3: JP, 11-10297, A (Sumitomo Metal Industries, Ltd.), 19 January, 1999 (19.01.99), claims 1 and 2, paragraph [0032] (Family: none)</p> <p>1. Claims 1 and 2 The subject matter of claim 1 does not appear to be novel or to involve an inventive step in view of document 1. Namely, document 1 shows a mold flux for continuous molding, comprising: 0.3 to 1.5% by mass of expanding agent composed of acid treatment graphite; 0.1 to 1.5% by mass of carbon black; 0.1 to 1.0% by mass of starch (carbohydrate); and 0 to 6.0% by mass of carbonaceous material (other than acid treatment graphite and carbon black), and this mold flux corresponds to a mold powder of the present invention.</p> <p>2. Claim 3 The subject matter of claim 3 does not appear to involve an inventive step in view of documents 1 and 2. Document 2 shows a colored powder for continuous molding containing carbon black in an amount of 0.7 mass% or less and a pigment in an amount of 0.5 mass% or less, and in the invention shown in document 1, it is not found to be noticeably difficult to add a pigment to color the powder.</p> <p>Document 3 shows a mold powder for continuous molding comprising carbon black, coke powder, graphite and heat-expandable graphite.</p>								