

**TRANSLATION**

**PATENT COOPERATION TREATY**

**PCT**

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY**

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference <b>RL 616 WO</b>	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b>	See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. <b>PCT/EP2004/013368</b>	International filing date ( <i>day/month/year</i> ) <b>25.11.2004</b>	Priority date ( <i>day/month/year</i> ) <b>11.08.2004</b>
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC <b>F16L37/14</b>		
Applicant <b>A. RAYMOND &amp; CIE</b>		

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:

a.  (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of 2 sheets, as follows:

sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).

sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.

b.  (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) \_\_\_\_\_, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I	Basis of the report
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. II	Priority
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VI	Certain documents cited
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/EP2004/013368

Box No. I	Basis of the report
1.	<p>With regard to the <b>language</b>, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.</p>
	<p><input type="checkbox"/> This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)</p>
2.	<p>With regard to the <b>elements</b> of the international application, this report is based on (<i>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</i>):</p>
	<p><input type="checkbox"/> the international application as originally filed/furnished</p>
	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the description:</p> <p>pages <u>1-6</u> _____ as originally filed/furnished</p> <p>pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____</p> <p>pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____</p>
	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the claims:</p> <p>nos. _____ as originally filed/furnished</p> <p>nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19</p> <p>nos.* <u>1, 2</u> _____ received by this Authority on <u>31.05.2006 with letter of 30.05.2006</u></p> <p>nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____</p>
	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the drawings:</p> <p>sheets <u>1/4-4/4</u> _____ as originally filed/furnished</p> <p>sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____</p> <p>sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____</p>
	<p><input type="checkbox"/> a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.</p>
3.	<p><input type="checkbox"/> The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> the description, pages _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> the claims, nos. _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> the drawings, sheets/figs _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> the sequence listing (<i>specify</i>): _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> any table(s) related to sequence listing (<i>specify</i>): _____</p>
4.	<p><input type="checkbox"/> This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below 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)).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> the description, pages _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> the claims, nos. _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> the drawings, sheets/figs _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> the sequence listing (<i>specify</i>): _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> any table(s) related to sequence listing (<i>specify</i>): _____</p>
	<p>* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."</p>

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/EP2004/013368

Box No. 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, 2</u>	YES
	Claims	_____	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	<u>1, 2</u>	YES
	Claims	_____	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	<u>1, 2</u>	YES
	Claims	_____	NO
2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)	<p data-bbox="383 1052 1212 1097">This report makes reference to the following document:</p> <p data-bbox="383 1153 1340 1243">D1: WO 98/28567 A (ITT MANUFACTURING ENTERPRISES, INC) 2 July 1998 (1998-07-02)</p> <p data-bbox="383 1310 1244 1355">D1 is regarded as the prior art closest to the subject matter of claim 1. It discloses (the reference signs in parentheses refer to D1):</p> <p data-bbox="383 1411 1356 2027">a coupling (12) having an insertion part embodied with a retaining ring, having a receiving part suitable for receiving the insertion part and having a fixing part (10) with two arms (64,66) and a retaining section (90), the fixing part being insertable into a receiving space of the receiving part (see figure 1) and movable at a right angle to the direction of insertion of the insertion part between an extended position (figure 5) and a retracted position (figure 7), the receiving part and the fixing part (10) having a blocking arrangement (82,84,86,120), and when the insertion part (14) is not correctly inserted into the receiving part, elements (82,84,86,120) of the</p>		

Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
	<p>blocking arrangement embodied on the receiving part and on the fixing part (10) engaging with each other in such a way that the fixing part (10) is prevented from moving from the extended position (figure 5) into the retracted position (page 10, lines 12 to 20).</p> <p>Therefore, the subject matter of claim 1 differs from the known coupling in that</p> <p>an element of the blocking arrangement embodied on the receiving part being a bridging section that is adjacent to the rear area of the receiving space and extends transversely with respect to the direction of insertion, and in that further elements of the blocking arrangement are formed by free ends of the arms of the fixing part, the width of the bridging section being greater than the distance between the arms when the fixing part is in the extended position, and in that when the retaining ring is arranged in the vicinity of the arms, the arms are at such a distance from each other that the engagement between the bottom bridge and the free ends of the arms is released and the fixing part can be displaced into the retracted position when the retaining section engages behind the retaining ring.</p> <p>Therefore, the subject matter of claim 1 is novel (PCT Article 33(2)).</p> <p>Since none of the prior art documents suggests such a structure in order to provide a different design</p>

Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
	<p>for the blocking arrangement of the fixing part and of the receiving part, the subject matter of claim 1 involves an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)).</p> <p>Claim 2 is dependent on claim 1 and therefore likewise meets the PCT requirements for novelty and inventive step.</p>