

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) **See form PCT/ISA/210**

Applicant's or agent's file reference 310587		FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraph 2 below
International application No. PCT/EP2005/011178	International filing date (day/month/year) 18.10.2005	Priority date (day/month/year) 27.10.2004
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC G05B19/048		
Applicant BOSCH REXROTH AG		

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/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

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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:

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Box No. II	Priority
1.	<input type="checkbox"/> The following document has not yet been furnished: <input type="checkbox"/> copy of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed (Rule 43bis.1 and 66.7(a)). <input type="checkbox"/> translation of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed (Rule 43bis.1 and 66.7(b)). Consequently it has not been possible to consider the validity of the priority claim. This opinion has nevertheless been established on the assumption that the relevant date is the claimed priority date.
2.	<input type="checkbox"/> This opinion has been established as if no priority had been claimed due to the fact that the priority claim has been found invalid (Rules 43bis.1 and 64.1). Thus for the purposes of this opinion, the international filing date indicated above is considered to be the relevant date.
3.	Additional observations, if necessary: The validity of the priority claim has not been considered because the International Searching Authority does not have in its possession a copy of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed or, where required, a translation of that earlier application. This opinion has nevertheless been established on the assumption that the relevant date (Rules 43bis.1 and 64.1) is the claimed priority date.

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Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

the entire international application

claims Nos. 1-11

because:

the said international application, or the said claims Nos. _____
relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (*specify*):

the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. 1-11
are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):

See supplemental sheet

the claims, or said claims Nos. _____ are so inadequately supported
by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.

no international search report has been established for said claims Nos. _____

the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing does not comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions in that:

the written form has not been furnished
 does not comply with the standard

the computer readable form has not been furnished
 does not comply with the standard

the tables related to the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing, if in computer readable form only, do not comply with the technical requirements provided for in Annex C-bis of the Administrative Instructions.

See Supplemental Box for further details.

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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)	Claims	14-16	YES
	Claims	12, 13	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims		YES
	Claims	12-16	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	12-16	YES
	Claims		NO
2.	Citations and explanations:		
1	Reference is made to the following documents:		
D1:	DE 41 34 811 A1 (LICENTIA PATENT-VERWALTUNGS- GMBH, 6000 FRANKFURT, DE) 29 April 1993 (1993-04-29)		
D2:	DE 195 33 787 A1 (KUKA SCHWEISANLAGEN + ROBOTER GMBH, 86165 AUGSBURG, DE; MERCEDES- BENZ) 20 March 1997 (1997-03-20)		
2	INDEPENDENT CLAIM 12		
2.1	The present application does not meet the requirements of PCT Article 33(1), because the subject matter of claim 12 is not novel within the meaning of PCT Article 33(2).		
	Document D1 discloses (the references between parentheses refer to this document):		
	<i>an apparatus for carrying out step chains (see page 5, lines 61-63) and a criteria analysis (see page 2, lines 20-23 and 38) of errors that have occurred in programmable control for</i>		

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

machine control,
in which inputs for recording of machine states are provided in the apparatus (see page 6, lines 31-34, with each input variable representing one machine state).

The subject matter of claim **12** is therefore disclosed in D1.

3 **DEPENDENT CLAIMS 13-16**

Claims **13-16** do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the PCT requirements for novelty and inventive step.

3.1 Document D1 discloses that, in the apparatus according to claim 12,

the management of the step chains is constructed in the form of a state machine (see page 5, lines 44-60).

The subject matter of claim **13** is therefore disclosed in D1.

3.2 The subject matter of claims **14-16** does not involve an inventive step because the additionally defined features are known by a person skilled in the art and their addition does not involve an inventive step.

Supplemental Box

In case the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient.

Continuation of:

Box III

1 It is not possible to establish a worthwhile expert opinion on novelty and inventive step for claims **1-11**, because the claims lack clarity for the following reasons:

1.1 claim 1 defines a *method for carrying out step chains... in which machine states are additionally recorded and are continuously monitored in the step chain*.

The wording "in the step chain" does not clearly define where the machine states are recorded. In addition, it is not clear from the description whether the states are determined within the step chain on the basis of recorded conditions (see page 3, lines 5-8 and page 8, lines 29-31), or whether the machine states are read into the step chain (see page 6, lines 8-9).

The expression "machine states" is not clear with respect to the description, where it describes the start preconditions and the basic setting (see page 5, lines 29-31).

The machine states are "additionally" recorded. This wording suggests that other information is also recorded, but is not defined. This leaves doubt as

Supplemental Box

to the subject matter of the claim.

- 1.2 Claims 2 to 11 all refer directly to claim 1. The additional features in these dependent claims do not allow the lack of clarity in claim 1 to be overcome. Claims 2 to 11 therefore likewise lack clarity.