

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the:
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY.

To:

Viering, Jentschura & Partner
LLP PO Box 1088;
Rochor Postoffice Rochor Rd
911833 Singapore

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43*bis*.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) **5 NOV 2008**

Applicant's or agent's file reference
P103154

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/SG2008/000258

International filing date (day/month/year)
18 July 2008

Priority date (day/month/year)
18 July 2007

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
Int. Cl.

G06K 9/62 (2006.01)

Applicant
AGENCY FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH et al

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 43*bis*.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 66.1*bis*(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
**AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE
PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA
E-mail address: pct@ipaaustralia.gov.au
Facsimile No. +61 2 6283 7999**

Date of completion of this opinion

29 October 2008

Authorized Officer
STEPHEN LEE
AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE
(ISO 9001 Quality Certified Service)
Telephone No. +61 2 6283 2205

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International application No.

PCT/SG2008/000258

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
 - A translation of the international application into, _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1(b)).
2. This opinion has been established taking into account **the rectification of an obvious mistake** authorized by or notified to this Authority under Rule 91 (Rule 43*bis*.1(a))
3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material
 - a sequence listing
 - table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material
 - on paper
 - in electronic form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing
 - contained in the international application as filed.
 - filed together with the international application in electronic form.
 - furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
4. 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.
5. Additional comments:

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International application No.

PCT/SG2008/000258

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 1-45	YES
	Claims	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims 1-45	YES
	Claims	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1-45	YES
	Claims	NO

2. Citations and explanations:

D1 US6681034
 D2 Cucinotta T., Brigo R., Di Natale M., "Hybrid fingerprint matching on programmable smart cards",
 D3 US 5631971.

The invention is towards minutiae based fingerprint verification for on smart card processing. The claimed invention matches fingerprint templates using cluster characteristics for a plurality of clusters of minutiae. The closest art is citation D1 which discloses a method and system for fingerprint template matching including determining first and second minutiae from a template (col 2 lines 48-67) and determining the similarity values based on first and second minutiae. (col 4 lines 7-28) This differs from the claimed invention in the use of cluster characteristics being determined and compared. This differs from the cited art. Hence when read by a person skilled in the art none of the citations either individually or in obvious combination discloses all the features of the claims above. Consequently the claims are novel and involve an inventive step in the light of the citations.