

INFORMAL COMMENTS

Claims 1-24 were pending.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 9, 10, 12, 13, 17, 20, and 22 have been amended.

Claims 11 and 21 have been cancelled.

Applicants request that the above amendments be made prior to any further action on the above identified application. The amendments add no new matter to the application and are supported throughout the specification as filed.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 10, 12, 13, 17, have been amended to remove the term "optimal" or "optimum" in satisfaction of the clarity objection raised in the Written Opinion.

Independent claim 17 has been amended to include limitations of original claims 20 and 21. The art of record fails to teach or suggest these limitations. Additional support for the amendment can be found at least at ¶ [0035] of the specification.

Independent claim 9 has been amended to include limitations of original claim 11. The art of record fails to teach or suggest these limitations. Additional support for the amendment can be found at least at ¶ [0035] of the specification.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include limitations similar to those incorporated in independent claim 9. The art of record fails to teach or suggest these limitations. Support for the amendment can be found at least at original claims 4 and 5, and ¶ [0035] of the specification.

Claims 12 and 22 have been amended to correct dependency affected by the cancellation of claim 11 and 21.

Applicant respectfully requests entry of the above-noted amendments.

CONCLUSION

If the Authorized Officer has any questions or comments regarding this communication, he or she is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

/David M. Wilson/

David M. Wilson
PTO Reg. No. 56,790
CONLEY ROSE, P.C.
P. O. Box 3267
Houston, TX 77253-3267
(713) 238-8000 (Phone)
(713) 238-8008 (Fax)
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT