

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 AL10703WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/JP2014/076941	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 08.10.2014	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 13.03.2014
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC A61B8/08 (2006.01) i		
Applicant HITACHI ALOKA MEDICAL, LTD.		

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 4 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 6 sheets, as follows:

- sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority, unless those sheets were superseded or cancelled, and any accompanying letters (see Rules 46.5, 66.8, 70.16, 91.2, and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).
- sheets containing rectifications, where the decision was made by this Authority not to take them into account because they were not authorized by or notified to this Authority at the time when this Authority began to draw up this report, and any accompanying letters (Rules 66.4bis, 70.2(e), 70.16 and 91.2).
- superseded sheets and any accompanying letters, where this Authority either considers that the superseding sheets contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, or the superseding sheets were not accompanied by a letter indicating the basis for the amendments in the application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box (see Rule 70.16(b))

b. (*sent to the International Bureau only*) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing, in electronic form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see paragraph 3bis of Annex C 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/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

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International application No.

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Box No. I	Basis of the report
1.	<p>With regard to the language, this report is based on:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the international application in the language in which it was filed</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> a translation of the international application into _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1(b))</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> publication of the international application (Rule 12.4(a))</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2(a) and/or 55.3(a))</p>
2.	<p>With regard to the elements 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>1-27</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>1-3, 5-10</u> received by this Authority on <u>08.06.2015</u></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the drawings:</p> <p>pages <u>1-14</u> as originally filed/furnished.</p> <p>pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____</p> <p>pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> a sequence listing – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.</p>
3.	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> the description, pages _____</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the claims, Nos. <u>4</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> the drawings, sheets/figs _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> the 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 either they are considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, or they were not accompanied by a letter indicating the basis for the amendments in the application as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c) and (c-bis)):</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>
5.	<p><input type="checkbox"/> This report has been established:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> taking into account the rectification of an obvious mistake authorized by or notified to this Authority under Rule 91 (Rules 66.1(d-bis) and 70.2(e)).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> without taking into account the rectification of an obvious mistake authorized by or notified to this Authority under Rule 91 (Rules 66.1bis and 70.2(e)).</p>
6.	<p>With regard to top-up searches (Rules 66.1ter and 70.2(f)):</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A top-up search was carried out by this Authority on <u>29.06.2015</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Additional relevant documents have been discovered during the top-up search.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No top-up search was carried out by this Authority because it would serve no useful purpose.</p>
7.	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Supplementary international search report(s) from Authority(ies) _____</p> <p>has/have been received and taken into account in establishing this report (Rule 45bis.8(b) and (c)).</p> <p><i>* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."</i></p>

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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	1-3, 5-10	YES
	Claims	_____	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-3, 5-10	YES
	Claims	_____	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-3, 5-10	YES
	Claims	_____	NO
2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)			
Document 1:	JP 2007-7045 A (TOSHIBA CORP., TOSHIBA MEDICAL SYSTEMS CORP.) 18 January 2007, entire text, all drawings & JP 4817728 B2		
Document 2:	JP 2009-89940 A (TOSHIBA CORP., TOSHIBA MEDICAL SYSTEMS CORP.) 30 April 2009, entire text, all drawings & US 2009/0099451 A1		
Document 3:	JP 3-176040 A (TERUMO CORP.) 31 July 1991, entire text, all drawings & EP 421279 A1		
Document 4:	JP 5-329159 A (TERUMO CORP.) 14 December 1993, entire text, all drawings (Family: none)		
<Claims 1-3, 5-10>			
	The invention as in claims 1-3 and 5-10 is not described in any of the documents cited in the international search report, is novel and involves an inventive step. In particular, none of the documents describes "a second waveform analysis unit which subjects at least one reference data sequence along a prescribed direction in each provisional frame to a second waveform		

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analysis that is different from the first waveform analysis and evaluates the sharpness of an image, and thereby obtains multiple second waveform analysis results for the multiple provisional frames; and an optimal sound velocity unit which calculates the optimal sound velocity on the basis of the multiple first waveform analysis results and the multiple second waveform analysis results”, and said feature would not be obvious from any of the documents.