

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)	03.03.2015
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Applicant's or agent's file reference SP356639W000	FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraph 2 below
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International application No. PCT/JP2014/082298	International filing date (day/month/year) 05.12.2014	Priority date (day/month/year) 10.03.2014
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International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
H04N5/225 (2006.01) i, H04N5/232 (2006.01) i, H04N7/18 (2006.01) i

Applicant
SONY CORPORATION

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.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/JP	Date of completion of this opinion	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
 - a translation of the international application into _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (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 sequence listing filed or furnished:
 - a. (means)
 - on paper
 - in electronic form
 - b. (time)
 - in the international application as filed
 - together with the international application in electronic form
 - 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 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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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	<u>1-13</u>	YES
	Claims	_____	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	<u>4, 6-11, 13</u>	YES
	Claims	<u>1-3, 5, 12</u>	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	<u>1-13</u>	YES
	Claims	_____	NO

2. Citations and explanations:

Document 1: JP 2009-194687 A (SONY CORP.) 27 August 2009, paragraphs [0050]-[0085], fig. 6 & US 2009/0207269 A1 & CN 101510957 A

Document 2: JP 2006-217161 A (ADVANCED TELECOMMUNICATIONS RESEARCH INSTITUTE INTERNATIONAL) 17 August 2006, paragraph [0097] (Family: none)

Document 3: JP 2005-80156 A (HITACHI KOKUSAI ELECTRIC INC.) 24 March 2005, paragraphs [0015], [0018], fig. 1 (Family: none)

Document 4: JP 2002-281486 A (YUGEN KAISHA DD MARKETING) 27 September 2002, abstract (Family: none)

Document 5: JP 2009-33738 A (SANYO ELECTRIC CO., LTD.) 12 February 2009, abstract & US 2009/0010570 A1

The invention as in claims 1 and 12 does not involve an inventive step in light of documents 1-2 cited in the international search report.

Document 1 (paragraphs [0050], [0054], [0080],

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[0085], fig. 6) discloses the following invention, which partially corresponds to the invention as in claims 1 and 12.

“An information processing device provided with:
a face detector (object detection unit) which detects a face area (object for specifying an individual) from image data captured by an imaging unit <<see paragraph [0050]>>;

an image cutout unit which generates a cutout image IM1 (information capable of restoring the object) cut out from the face area (object) <<see paragraphs [0054], [0080], fig. 6>>; and

a transmission device (communication control unit) which performs a control operation so as to transmit, to a communication server (server) via a network, a background image IM2 generated by omitting the face area (information about an object for specifying an individual) from the image data <<see paragraphs [0080], [0085], fig. 6>>”

However, the invention as in claims 1 and 12 is different from the invention of document 1 in that document 1 does not disclose a “memory control unit which stores, in a memory unit, an image (information capable of restoring the object) cut out from a face area”.

This difference is reviewed below.

Document 2 (paragraph [0097]) indicates that “in an image collecting device which automatically extracts a person captured in a photographed image and hides only

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the extracted portion, only an image of an area which is problematic in terms of privacy (a privacy protection area, for example, a face part) is separated, the image of the area which is problematic in terms of privacy is preserved as information which is associated with another image obtained after the portion has been hidden and is different from the image in which the portion has been hidden, and an original image is allowed to be restored in an emergency (when the original image is required due to the occurrence of a crime or the like) for a user who has been given a prescribed authorization".

Here, documents 1 and 2 pertain to a "privacy protection technology for a camera", and thus address the same problem or belong to the same technical field.

These common features between documents 1 and 2 could motivate a person skilled in the art to easily conceive of applying the preserving process of document 2 to the invention of document 1.

In view of this judgment regarding differences, the invention as in claims 1 and 12 could be easily made by a person skilled in the art.

The invention as in claim 2 does not involve an inventive step in light of documents 1-2 cited in the international search report.

Document 1 (paragraphs [0073], [0079], fig. 6) discloses a "process for transmitting, to the outside, area information AI2 (object ID) indicating a cutout

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location of a cutout image IM1 (information about an object)".

Document 2 (paragraph [0097]) discloses a "process for preserving an image of a portion which is problematic in terms of privacy as information which is associated with another image obtained after the portion has been hidden and is different from the image in which the portion has been hidden".

The above-mentioned common features between documents 1 and 2 could motivate a person skilled in the art to easily conceive of applying the preserving process of document 2 to the invention of document 1 such that a "cutout image IM1 (information about an object) and corresponding area information AI2 (object ID) are preserved in association with each other".

Thus, the invention as in claim 2 could be easily made by a person skilled in the art.

The invention as in claim 3 does not involve an inventive step in light of documents 1-3 cited in the international search report.

Document 3 (paragraphs [0015], [0018], fig. 1) indicates that a "LAN for a surveillance camera (information processing device) is further provided with a wireless LAN (wireless communication unit) capable of wirelessly communicating with a transmitter (wireless terminal) <<see fig. 1>>, and the LAN (communication control unit) transmits, to a surveillance center

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(server), an ID code (device ID) of the transmitter (wireless terminal) detected by the wireless LAN (wireless communication unit) together with location information (information about the distance to the wireless terminal) <<see paragraphs [0015], [0018]>>”.

Here, documents 1 and 3 pertain to a “technology for connecting a surveillance camera to a network”, and thus share a common function and belong to the same technical field.

These common features between documents 1 and 3 could motivate a person skilled in the art to easily conceive of applying the invention of document 3 to the invention of document 1.

Thus, the invention as in claim 3 would be obvious to a person skilled in the art.

The invention as in claim 4 involves an inventive step in relation to documents 1-5 cited in the international search report.

The feature of claim 4 (a device ID is associated with an object ID according to the distance to a wireless terminal, and in the case where the privacy level of the device ID is high, information for restoring an associated object is deleted in response to a deletion request) would not be obvious from documents 1-5.

The invention as in claim 5 does not involve an inventive step in light of documents 1-3 cited in the

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international search report.

Document 2 (paragraph [0097]) indicates that an "area which is problematic in terms of privacy is preserved as information which is associated with another image obtained after the portion has been hidden and is different from the image in which the portion has been hidden, and an original image is allowed to be restored in an emergency (when the original image is required due to the occurrence of a crime or the like) for a user who has been given a prescribed authorization".

The above-mentioned common features between documents 1 and 2 could motivate a person skilled in the art to easily conceive of applying the restoring process of document 2 to the invention of document 1 to thereby achieve the invention as in claim 5.

The invention as in claims 6-11 and 13 involves an inventive step in relation to documents 1-5 cited in the international search report.

The features of claims 6-11 and 13 (when image data from which an object for specifying an individual has been omitted is received from an external device, an object ID is assigned to the omitted area and stored, and the object ID is sent to the external device) would not be obvious from documents 1-5.