

**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)	<b>16.06.2015</b>
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Applicant's or agent's file reference <b>S167022-PCT</b>	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> See paragraph 2 below
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International application No. <b>PCT/JP2015/001394</b>	International filing date (day/month/year) <b>12.03.2015</b>	Priority date (day/month/year) <b>18.03.2014</b>
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International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC  
**B60W40/068 (2012.01) i, B60C19/00 (2006.01) i**

Applicant  
**DENSO 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 43bis.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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<b>Box No. V</b>	<b>Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</b>
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1. Statement			
Novelty (N)	Claims	1-6	YES
	Claims	_____	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	_____	YES
	Claims	1-6	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-6	YES
	Claims	_____	NO

2. Citations and explanations:	
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Document 1: WO 2006/135090 A1 (BRIDGESTONE CORP.) 21 December 2006, paragraphs [0027], [0030], [0031]

Document 2: JP 2008-100610 A (THE YOKOHAMA RUBBER CO., LTD) 01 May 2008, paragraphs [0044], [0048], [0066], [0067], [0087]

The invention as in claims 1-3 and 6 does not involve an inventive step in the light of documents 1 and 2 cited in the ISR.

Document 1 discloses a road surface condition estimation device, provided with a sensor unit attached to the back of a tread of a tire, in which vibration level data for a region that includes at least the ground contact surface region of a tire is calculated to estimate road surface condition.

Document 2 discloses a feature in which a high pass filter that extracts a high-frequency component from a signal of an acceleration sensor that detects vibration and an RC integration circuit that integrates the high-frequency component are provided as means for calculating

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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**

vibration level in a road condition detection system and the peak-to-peak value of the vibration component is integrated by calculating the integral.

A person skilled in the art could easily conceive of applying the circuit disclosed in document 2 as the means for calculating the vibration level in the invention disclosed in document 1 so that the integral value is used as the vibration level.

Moreover, a person skilled in the art could easily use integration of a rectified signal in place of integration of the peak-to-peak value when integrating the extracted high-frequency component in the invention disclosed in document 2.

The invention as in claims 4-5 does not involve an inventive step in the light of documents 1 and 2 cited in the ISR.

The ground contact surface region is extracted by detecting the contact-entry and contact-exit peaks in the invention disclosed in document 1, so a person skilled in the art, when applying the sensor unit, comprising an integration circuit, of the invention disclosed in document 2, could easily conceive of beginning integration by detecting the contact-entry peak and detecting the contact-exit peak to end integration to find the vibration level for the ground contact surface region.