

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)	31.05.2016
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Applicant's or agent's file reference 15P00007PC
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FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraph 2 below
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International application No. PCT/JP2016/055140	International filing date (day/month/year) 23.02.2016	Priority date (day/month/year) 25.02.2015
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International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC A01G25/02 (2006.01) i

Applicant ENPLAS CORPORATION
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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:
 - a. forming part of the international application as filed:
 - in the form of an Annex C/ST.25 text file.
 - on paper or in the form of an image file.
 - b. furnished together with the international application under PCT Rule 13*ter*.1(a) for the purposes of international search only in the form of an Annex C/ST.25 text file.
 - c. furnished subsequent to the international filing date for the purposes of international search only:
 - in the form of an Annex C/ST.25 text file (Rule 13*ter*.1(a)).
 - on paper or in the form of an image file (Rule 13*ter*.1(b) and Administrative Instructions, Section 713).
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 forming part of the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
5. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
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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
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1. Statement			
Novelty (N)	Claims	1-10	YES
	Claims	_____	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-10	YES
	Claims	_____	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-10	YES
	Claims	_____	NO

2. Citations and explanations:	
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Document 1: WO 2013/175802 A1 (ENPLAS CORP.) 28 November 2013, entire text, all drawings

Document 2: US 2012/0199673 A1 (COHEN, Amir) 09 August 2012, entire text, all drawings

Document 3: JP 2010-46094 A (HYDRO PLAN ENGINEERING, LTD.) 04 March 2010, entire text, all drawings

Document 4: WO 2014/097638 A1 (ENPLAS CORP.) 26 June 2014, entire text, all drawings

Remarks:

Claims 1-10

The invention as in claims 1-10 is novel and involves an inventive step.

Documents 1-4 each disclose an emitter that is joined onto the inner wall of a tube, in which the irrigation liquid flows, at a position corresponding to a discharge opening connecting the inside and outside of the tube, and is used for quantitatively discharging the irrigation liquid in the tube out of the tube from the discharge opening (see drawings of documents 1-4).

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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

However, none of documents 1-4 discloses or suggests a configuration of an emitter in which the emitter is provided with a first flow path and a second flow path that link a water intake part and a discharge part; a pressure-reducing flow path and a flow-rate-reducing part disposed in the first flow path; and a flow bypass path and a flow path opening/closing part disposed in the second flow path, and when the pressure of the irrigation liquid flowing in the tube is less than a first pressure, the irrigation liquid taken in from the water intake part is led to the discharge part via the pressure-reducing flow path and flow bypass path, and when the pressure of the irrigation liquid flowing in the tube is equal to or greater than the first pressure, the flow path opening/closing part closes the second flow path, and the irrigation liquid taken in from the water intake part is led to the discharge part via the pressure-reducing flow path.