

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference P46508WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Form PCT/ISA/220 as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/GB2017/050372	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 10 February 2017 (10-02-2017)	(Earliest) Priority Date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 12 February 2016 (12-02-2016)
Applicant IMPERIAL INNOVATIONS LIMITED		

This international search report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This international search report consists of a total of 7 sheets.

It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. **Basis of the report**

a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out 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))

b. This international search report has been established taking into account the **rectification of an obvious mistake** authorized by or notified to this Authority under Rule 91 (Rule 43.6*bis*(a)).

c. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, see Box No. I.

2. **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box No. II)

3. **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box No III)

4. With regard to the **title**,

- the text is approved as submitted by the applicant
 the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,

- the text is approved as submitted by the applicant
 the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2, by this Authority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority

6. With regard to the **drawings**,

- a. the figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 2
 as suggested by the applicant
 as selected by this Authority, because the applicant failed to suggest a figure
 as selected by this Authority, because this figure better characterizes the invention
- b. none of the figures is to be published with the abstract

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International application No.
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Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: 35, 38
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
Rule 39.1(iv) PCT - Diagnostic method practised on the human or animal body
2. Claims Nos.: 42-44
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
3. Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:
1-15, 20, 27-34, 36, 37, 39-41

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. G02B21/34 B01L3/00
ADD. G02B21/16

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
G02B B01L

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2011/277565 A1 (WINKLER SIEGFRIED [DE] ET AL) 17 November 2011 (2011-11-17) figures 2a-2d paragraph [0002] paragraph [0068] - paragraph [0083] -----	1-6, 9-13, 27-31, 33,34, 36,37, 39-41
X	US 2010/055698 A1 (STIBELLI SERGIO [IT] ET AL) 4 March 2010 (2010-03-04) figures 1-4 paragraph [0037] - paragraph [0063] ----- -/--	1,2,7-9, 12-14, 20,27, 30-32

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search 28 April 2017	Date of mailing of the international search report 05/07/2017
Name and mailing address of the ISA/ European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer Beutter, Matthias

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

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C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2002/185457 A1 (SMITH EMERY [US] ET AL) 12 December 2002 (2002-12-12) figures 1-7 paragraph [0023] - paragraph [0039] -----	1,2,4,5, 7,9,10, 12-15, 27,30-32
A	DE 10 2013 210269 B3 (HANNOVER LASER ZENTRUM [DE]; LAVISION BIOTEC GMBH [DE]) 6 November 2014 (2014-11-06) figures 1-14 -----	1,31-34, 36,37

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/GB2017/050372

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 2011277565 A1	17-11-2011	EP 2193847 A1	09-06-2010
		EP 2364217 A1	14-09-2011
		JP 5714498 B2	07-05-2015
		JP 2012511164 A	17-05-2012
		US 2011277565 A1	17-11-2011
		WO 2010063474 A1	10-06-2010

US 2010055698 A1	04-03-2010	BR PI0716274 A2	28-07-2015
		CN 101600501 A	09-12-2009
		EP 2091645 A1	26-08-2009
		HK 1136523 A1	22-03-2013
		JP 2010510783 A	08-04-2010
		KR 20090112640 A	28-10-2009
		RU 2009119971 A	10-01-2011
		US 2010055698 A1	04-03-2010
WO 2008064783 A1	05-06-2008		

US 2002185457 A1	12-12-2002	AT 453319 T	15-01-2010
		CA 2448415 A1	12-12-2002
		CY 1109878 T1	10-09-2014
		EP 1406492 A2	14-04-2004
		ES 2338868 T3	13-05-2010
		US 2002185457 A1	12-12-2002
		WO 02098566 A2	12-12-2002

DE 102013210269 B3	06-11-2014	DE 102013210269 B3	06-11-2014
		US 2016109357 A1	21-04-2016
		WO 2014195005 A1	11-12-2014

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-15, 20, 27-34, 36, 37, 39-41

A device for supplying liquid to a container comprising first and second parts, an inlet port, a first conduit having an outlet hole and spacing means, in particular collars, to space the second part from the walls of a chamber.

1.1. claims: 12-15

A device for supplying liquid to a container comprising first and second parts, an inlet port, a first conduit having an outlet hole, an outlet port and an outlet mouth placed on the first part and being connected to said outlet port.

2. claims: 16-19

A device for supplying liquid to a container comprising first and second parts, an inlet port, a first conduit having an outlet hole, said first part being provided with an opening through which a specimen can extend, an assembly of a cuvette and said device and a method of examining a specimen in said assembly using a microscope.

3. claims: 21-26

A device for supplying liquid to a container comprising first and second parts, an inlet port, a first conduit having an outlet hole and a surface modification of the second part or additional functional elements provided on/in the second part.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box II.1

Claims Nos.: 35, 38

Rule 39.1(iv) PCT - Diagnostic method practised on the human or animal body

Continuation of Box II.2

Claims Nos.: 42-44

Claims 42 to 44 try to define the subject-matter by merely referring to the description and/or drawings. However, such a way of formulating the claims leaves doubt about what the subject-matter for which protection is sought should be and therefore lacks clarity (Art. 6 PCT). They lack clarity to such an extent that no meaningful search is possible.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guidelines C-IV, 7.2), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be overcome.