

# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the  
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# PCT

To:

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WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY  
(PCT Rule 43*bis*.1)

Date of mailing  
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference  
see form PCT/ISA/220

**FOR FURTHER ACTION**  
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.  
PCT/EP2018/076397

International filing date (day/month/year)  
28.09.2018

Priority date (day/month/year)  
29.09.2017

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC  
INV. B23B29/034

Applicant  
SECO-E.P.B.

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 43*bis*.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step and 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 usually 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 66.1*bis*(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:



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Date of completion of  
this opinion

see form  
PCT/ISA/210

Authorized Officer

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**Box No. I Basis of the opinion**

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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:
  - 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 13ter.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 13ter.1(a)).
    - on paper or in the form of an image file (Rule 13ter.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:

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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)	Yes: Claims	<u>4, 5, 7, 8, 11-15</u>
	No: Claims	<u>1-3, 6, 9, 10</u>
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	<u>1-15</u>
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	<u>1-15</u>
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

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**Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application**

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The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

see separate sheet

**Re Item V**

**Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

Reference is made to the following documents:

- D1        US 3 755 868 A (LA FORGE R ET AL) 4 September 1973 (1973-09-04)
- D2        US 4 544 309 A (KRSTOVIC DRAGISA [US]) 1 October 1985  
(1985-10-01)
- D3        US 3 853 422 A (BENJAMIN M ET AL) 10 December 1974 (1974-12-10)

1. The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(2) PCT, because the subject-matter of claims 1,13 is not new.

D1-D3 disclose (reference to D1) *an adjustable cartridge (1) for a boring bar (2), including:*

*a support structure (3) including an surface for abutment with a peripheral area of a boring bar (3);*

*a load-bearing structure (5) for a cutting insert (6) assembled to be movable translationally in a first direction on the support structure (3),*

**~~characterized in that~~** *wherein the cartridge includes:*

*a mechanism to adjust the position of the load-bearing structure (5) in relation to the support structure (3), the adjustment mechanism including at least a first elastic means (31) arranged to exert force against a first surface (s. fig. 3) of the load-bearing structure (5), and*

*an adjustment part (20) disposed between the support structure (3) and a second surface (15) of the load-bearing structure (5), the adjustment part (20) being arranged to contact the support structure (3) and the second surface (15) of the load-bearing structure (5), and to be movable translationally in a second direction relative to the support structure (3) and the load-bearing structure (5),*

*the adjustment part (20) having a surface (21) forming an acute angle with the second direction and being disposed in contact with the second surface (15) of the load-bearing structure (5), the first surface (s. fig. 3) and the second surface (15) of the load-bearing structure (5) facing in generally opposite directions.*

2. The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(3) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 13 does not involve an inventive step.

D1 is regarded as being the prior art closest to the subject-matter of claim 13, and discloses *a boring bar assembly, comprising:  
a boring bar (2) ~~comprising a cartridge receiving seat; and~~  
an adjustable cartridge according to any of claims 1-12 (see point 1.) ~~mounted in the cartridge receiving seat.~~*

The subject-matter of claim 1 therefore differs from this known boring bar assembly in that the boring bar comprises a seat in which the adjustable cartridge is mounted and is therefore new.

The problem to be solved by the present invention may therefore be regarded as how to provide a more flexible boring bar assembly.

The solution proposed in claim 13 of the present application cannot be considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) for the following reasons.

This feature is merely one of several straightforward possibilities from which the skilled person would select, in accordance with circumstances, without the exercise of inventive skill, in order to provide a boring assembly with an adjustable cartridge more easily replaceable thereby providing a more flexible boring bar assembly.

3. Dependent claims 2-12,14,15 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty and/or inventive step.

3.1 The subject matter of claims 2,3,6,9,10 is already known from D1.

3.2 The features of claims 4,5,7,8,11,12,14,15 are merely some straightforward possibilities from which the skilled person would select, in accordance with circumstances, without the exercise of inventive skill, in order to solve the problem posed.

### **Re Item VIII**

#### **Certain observations on the international application**

The application does not meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT, because claims 7,8 are not clear.

The expressions "*the support structure (2) includes an "L"-shaped section so that an external face of a first branch of the "L" has an area forming a surface for abutment (2a) with a boring bar (13)*" and "*the second branch of the "L"-shape of the support structure (2) is arranged so as to be positioned in a plane parallel to a plane passing through a rotational axis of the boring bar (13)*" used in claims 7 and 8 are unclear

and leave the reader in doubt as to the meaning of the technical features to which they refer, thereby rendering the definition of the subject-matter of said claims unclear, Article 6 PCT. Indeed these expressions defines the subject matter with reference to an entity ("*boring bar (13)*") which is not part of the claims.