

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
12 September 2008 (12.09.2008)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
WO 2008/109672 A3

- (51) International Patent Classification:  
G06F 7/00 (2006.01)
- (21) International Application Number:  
PCT/US2008/055910
- (22) International Filing Date: 5 March 2008 (05.03.2008)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:  
61/007,932 8 March 2007 (08.03.2007) US
- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): 3M INNOVATIVE PROPERTIES COMPANY [US/US]; 3M Center, Post Office Box 33427, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55133-3427 (US).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): EISENBERG, Peter M. [US/US]; 3M Center, Post Office Box 33427, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55133-3427 (US). GRUNES, Mitchell B. [US/US]; 3M Center, Post Office Box 33427, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55133-3427 (US).
- (74) Agents: BUSS, Melissa E. et al.; 3M Center, Office Of Intellectual Property Counsel, Post Office Box 33427, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55133-3427 (US).

- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SV, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

**Declarations under Rule 4.17:**

- as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))
- as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SPECIMEN TRACKING AND MANAGEMENT VERIFICATION

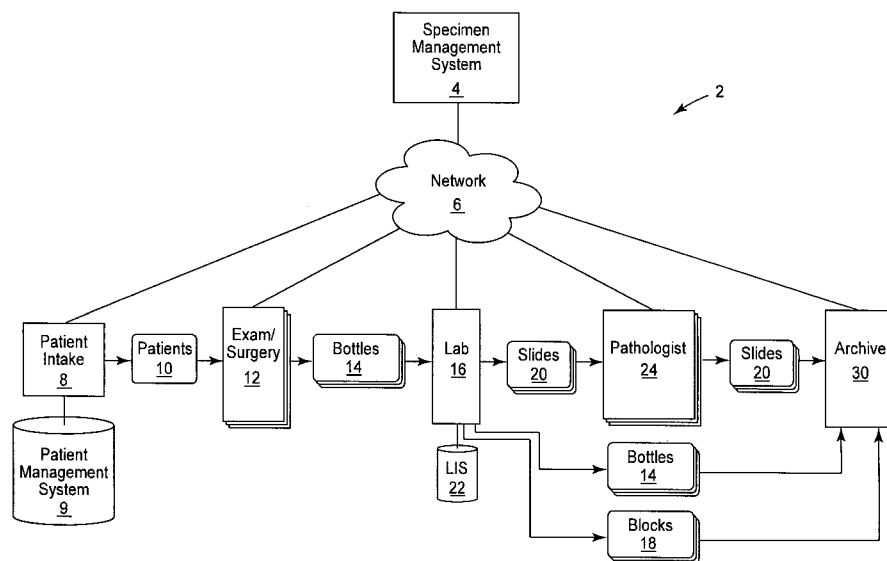


Fig. 1

(57) Abstract: Techniques are described for using radio-frequency identification (RFID) tags to track patient specimens throughout the collection and analysis of patient specimens. A series of RFID tags may be used to track the specimens starting with the collection of a patient's tissue specimen at a surgery or examination room, through the process of preparing the specimens at a laboratory, to a specialist's office where the specimens are analyzed, and eventually into storage where the left-over specimen materials may be archived. A database may be used to capture unique identifiers for the RFID tags and other information throughout the process.

WO 2008/109672 A3



---

**Published:**

— *with international search report*

**(88) Date of publication of the international search report:**

30 October 2008

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 08/55910

<b>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b> IPC(8) - G06F 7/00 (2008.04) USPC - 700/215 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
<b>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</b> Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) USPC - 700/215 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched USPC - 235/375; 705/2; 700/213, 214, 225 Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) PubWEST(USPT,PGPB,EPAB,JPAB) Search Terms: Patient, biological specimen, tracking, histology, pathology, RFID, tissue, slide, cassette, program, tag, record, related, associated, collect		
<b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b>		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X ---- Y	US 2005/0159982 A1 (Showalter et al.) 21 July 2005 (21.07.2005) abstract, para. [0003], [0014], [0028], [0029], [0046], [0050], [0092], [0093], [0205], [0206], [0212], [0213], [0218]-[0220], [0222], [0223], [0221], [0225], [0258], [0260], [0266], [0306], [0307]	1-20,24-34 ----- 21-23,35
Y	US 2003/0183683 A1 (Stewart) 02 October 2003 (02.10.2003) fig. 2, abstract, para. [0005], [0034]	21-23,35
A	US 2005/0276728 A1 (Muller-Cohn et al.) 15 December 2005 (15.12.2005) entire document	1-35
A	US 2004/0129769 A1 (Kovach) 09 October 2003 (09.10.2005) entire document	1-35
A	US 5,963,368 A (Domanik et al.) 05 October 1999 (05.10.1999) entire document	1-35
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/>		
* 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 10 August 2008 (10.08.2008)		Date of mailing of the international search report <b>15 AUG 2008</b>
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US, Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. 571-273-3201		Authorized officer: Lee W. Young PCT Helpdesk: 571-272-4300 PCT OSP: 571-272-7774