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Declaration under Rule 4.17:

— of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv))

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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: IMPROVEMENTS IN OR RELATING TO OPTICAL FIBRE MANAGEMENT

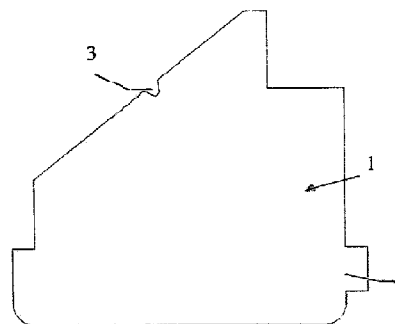
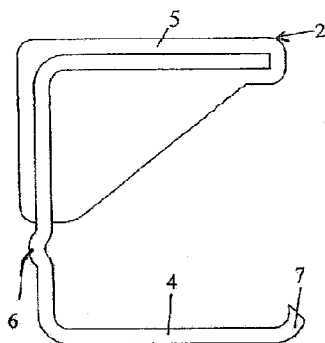


FIGURE 1

(57) Abstract: An optical fibre connector for forming a mechanical splice between first and second optical fibres the connector comprising a base part (1) and a lid part (2) arranged to clamp the optical fibres therebetween, and wherein the base and lid are resiliently biased towards each other by biasing means (4) at least partly incorporated in the lid and/or the base.

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— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No PCT/GB2008/050566

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. G02B6/38

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

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 practical, 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	JP 63 046407 A (MIRAI IND) 27 February 1988 (1988-02-27) abstract	1-3
X	US 5 216 736 A (ESSERT ROBERT [US]) 1 June 1993 (1993-06-01) column 3, line 49 - column 6, line 15; figures 1-6	1,10

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 document 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

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/GB2008/050566

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.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.:
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:

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 allsearchable 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.:

1-3, 10

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.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

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

1. claims: 1-3,10

Subject 1 relates to a fibre splice connector with base and lid held together by integral resilient biasing means, to a living hinge connecting the base and the lid, and to alignment means between base and lid.

2. claims: 4,7

Subject 2 also relates to a fibre splice connector with base and lid held together by integral resilient biasing means, and to a preferably U-shaped spring fixed to the exterior of base and/or lid.

3. claims: 5,6,8

Subject 3 also relates to a fibre splice connector with base and lid held together by integral resilient biasing means, and to an overmoulded spring connecting lid and base.

4. claim: 9

Subject 4 also relates to a fibre splice connector with base and lid held together by integral resilient biasing means, and to several clamping portions incorporated in the connector.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/GB2008/050566

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
JP 63046407	A	27-02-1988	JP 1772426 C	14-07-1993
			JP 4062646 B	07-10-1992
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US 5216736	A	01-06-1993	NONE	
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