Title: METHOD FOR REDUCING THE COST OF IMAGING FOR CUSTOMERS

- Establish an imaging reward threshold value (S202)
- Determine a rate of supply item consumption (S204)
- Compare the rate of consumption to the imaging reward threshold value (S206)
- Prompt customer as to how to qualify in the future (S212)
- Renew supply item (S226)

Abstract: A method for reducing the cost of imaging for customers includes the steps of establishing an imaging reward threshold value (S202); determining a rate of consumption of a supply item (S204); comparing the rate of consumption with the imaging reward threshold value (S206); and, based on an outcome of the comparing step, determining whether the customer qualifies to receive an imaging reward (S208).

Published:
— with international search report

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

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
15 December 2005

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.
## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

### A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IPC(7)</td>
<td>G06F 17/60, 3/12</td>
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<tr>
<td>US CL</td>
<td>705/14</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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)

- U.S. : 705/14,

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)

### C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>US 5,918,211 (SLOANE) 29 June 1999, whole document.</td>
<td>1-44</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>US 5,857,175 (DAY et al.) 5 January 1999, whole document.</td>
<td>1-44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>US 5,056,019 (SCHULTZ et al.) 8 October 1991, whole document.</td>
<td>1-44</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

- **A** document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- **E** earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date
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- **P** document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed
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- **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

07 June 2005 (07.06.2005)

Date of mailing of the international search report

13 OCT 2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US

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Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (January 2004)