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**Declarations under Rule 4.17:**

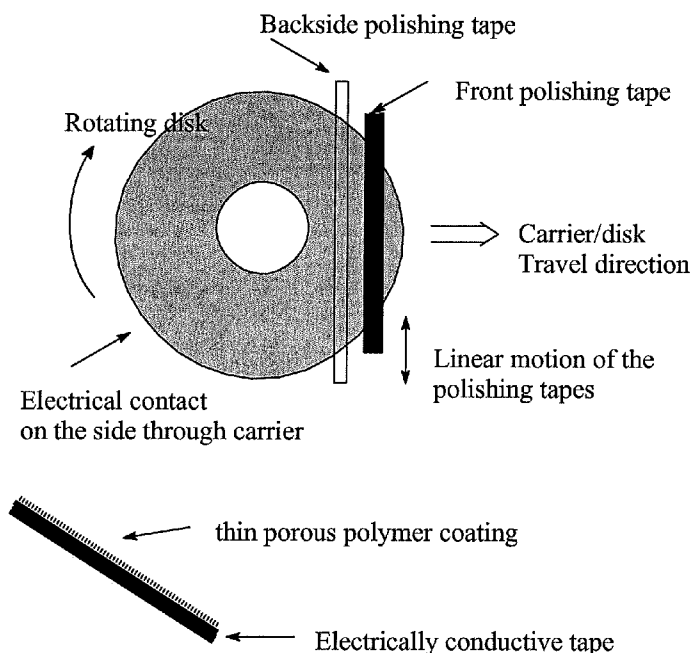
- as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))
- as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))

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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ELECTROCHEMICAL MECHANICAL POLISHING NiP SUBSTRATES



(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to an apparatus and a method of electrochemical mechanical polishing (ECMP) for microelectronics applications. The apparatus and method of electrochemical mechanical polishing can be used planarize NiP substrate for a magnetic storage medium and for a process which allows polishing with a controlled surface finish, and a set of corresponding polishing electrolytes and slurry.

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**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

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<p><b>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b>                  IPC(8) - B24B 1/00 (2008.04)                  USPC - 451/57                  According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC</p>																				
<p><b>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</b></p> <p>Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)                  IPC(8) - B24B 1/00 (2008.04)                  USPC - 451/57</p> <p>Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched</p> <p>Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)                  Patbase, Google Scholar</p>																				
<p><b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b></p> <table border="1"> <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> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Y</td> <td>US 6,957,511 B1 (LEIGH et al) 25 October 2005 (25.10.2005) entire document</td> <td>1-3, 5-14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Y</td> <td>US 6,811,467 B1 (BERESFORD et al) 02 November 2004 (02.11.2004) entire document</td> <td>1, 5, 7-14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Y</td> <td>US 6,250,995 B1 (HAKOMORI) 26 June 2001 (26.06.2001) entire document</td> <td>2, 3, 6, 11-14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Y</td> <td>US 6,261,433 B1 (LANDAU) 17 July 2001 (17.07.2001) entire document</td> <td>4, 10, 14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Y</td> <td>US 6,896,875 B2 (SCHNEIDER et al) 24 May 2005 (24.05.2005) entire document</td> <td>4, 10, 14</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.	Y	US 6,957,511 B1 (LEIGH et al) 25 October 2005 (25.10.2005) entire document	1-3, 5-14	Y	US 6,811,467 B1 (BERESFORD et al) 02 November 2004 (02.11.2004) entire document	1, 5, 7-14	Y	US 6,250,995 B1 (HAKOMORI) 26 June 2001 (26.06.2001) entire document	2, 3, 6, 11-14	Y	US 6,261,433 B1 (LANDAU) 17 July 2001 (17.07.2001) entire document	4, 10, 14	Y	US 6,896,875 B2 (SCHNEIDER et al) 24 May 2005 (24.05.2005) entire document	4, 10, 14
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<p><input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/></p>																				
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<p>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</p>		<p>Authorized officer:                   Blaine R. Copenheaver                  PCT Helpdesk: 571-272-4300                  PCT OSP: 571-272-7774</p>																		