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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **WILSON-COOK MEDICAL, INC.** [US/US]; 4900 Bethania Station Road, P.O. Box 4191, Winston-salem, NC 27105 (US).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **JONES, Brian, K.** [US/—]; P.O. Box 6833, Spartanburg, SC 29306 (US).

(74) Agents: **MILZ, Michael, E.** et al.; Brinks Hofer Gilson & Lione, P.O. Box 10087, Chicago, IL 60610 (US).

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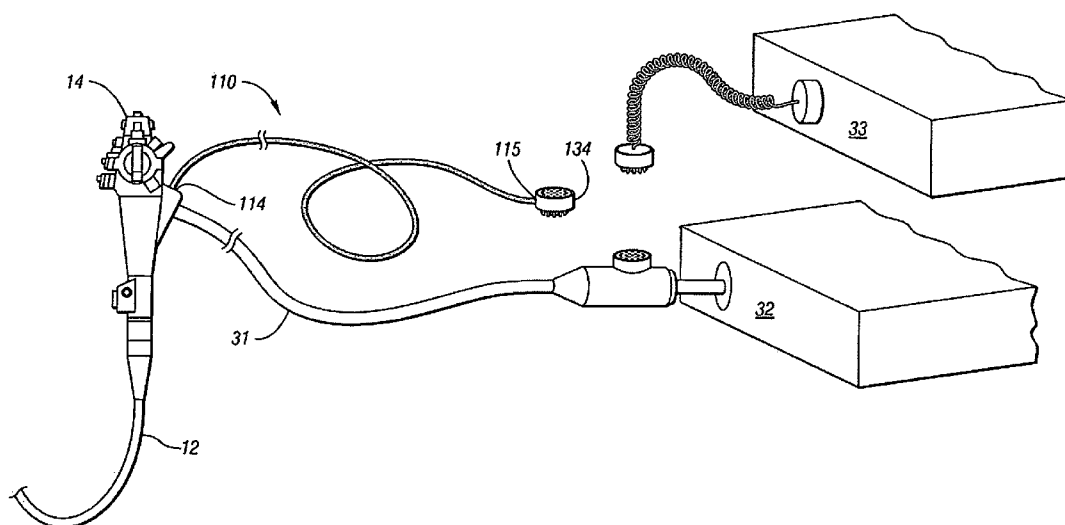
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(54) Title: FIBERSCOPE INTERFACING APPARATUS FOR ENDOSCOPIC PROCEDURES



(57) Abstract: A fiberscope interfacing apparatus for an endoscope system insertable in a body cavity is disclosed. The apparatus comprises an elongate communication medium having a first end and a second end for transmitting an optical signal of an image of the body cavity. The apparatus further comprises a lens attached to the first end of the communication medium for receiving the optical signal from the body cavity. The lens is in communication with the communication medium. The apparatus further comprises an interface collar attached to the second end of the communication medium and is in communication therewith. The interface collar is configured to communicate with the endoscope system and transfer the optical signal thereto for simultaneous fiber optic imaging and fluoroscopic imaging.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/US2007/077350

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

INV. A61B1/04

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)

A61B G02B H04N

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

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 196 928 A (KARASAWA ISAMU [US] ET AL) 23 March 1993 (1993-03-23)	1-4
Y	figures 1,5 column 1, lines 12-30 column 2, line 60 - column 3, line 8 column 5, line 63 - column 6, line 28 column 7, lines 19-32	5
A	-----	6
Y	US 2003/025830 A1 (PERRY JOHN R [US]) 6 February 2003 (2003-02-06)	5
A	paragraphs [0024], [0033], [0037], [0038], [0043], [0044], [0054] - [0056] figure 3 ----- -/--	6

☒ 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.

8 document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

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Name and mailing address of the ISA/

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Rapp, Alexander

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/US2007/077350

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	JP 08 227040 A (MITSUBISHI CABLE IND LTD) 3 September 1996 (1996-09-03) Abstract figures 1-3 -----	2,3
A	DE 101 36 145 A1 (WOLF GMBH RICHARD [DE]) 20 February 2003 (2003-02-20) paragraph [0005] -----	4

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US2007/077350

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.: 15, 16
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
Rule 39.1(iv) PCT – Method for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery. Minimal invasive surgical method employing an endoscope in a body cavity.
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:

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 reportcovers 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.:

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.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/US2007/077350

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5196928	A	23-03-1993	JP	4307024 A	29-10-1992
US 2003025830	A1	06-02-2003	NONE		
JP 8227040	A	03-09-1996	JP	3053350 B2	19-06-2000
DE 10136145	A1	20-02-2003	NONE		