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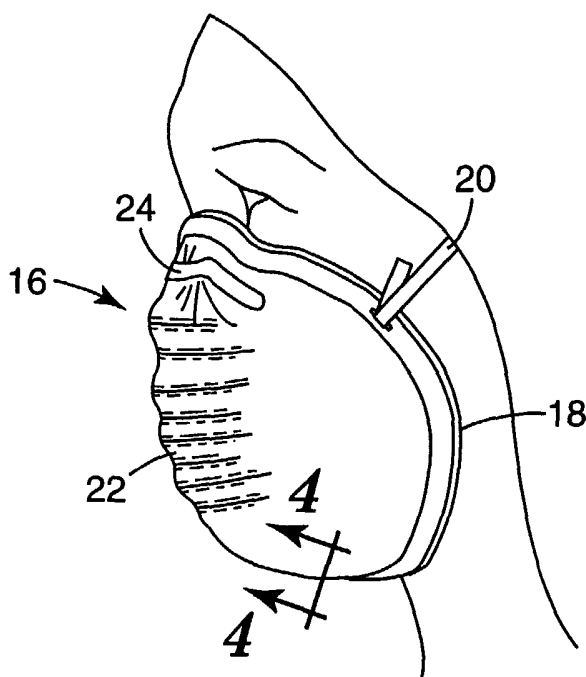
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Declarations under Rule 4.17:

— *as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM,*

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: MOLDED FILTER ELEMENT THAT CONTAINS THERMALLY BONDED STAPLE FIBERS AND ELECTRICALLY-CHARGED MICROFIBERS



(57) Abstract: A filter element that comprises a porous molded web 10 that contains thermally bonded staple fibers 12 and non-thermally bonded electrically charged microfibers 14. The molded web is retained in its molded configuration, at least in part, by bonds between the staple fibers 12 at points of fiber intersection 13. The web may be molded, for example, into the shape of filtering face mask 16.

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KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG)

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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT				
Category ^a	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.		
A	US 4 215 682 A (D.A.KUBIK ET AL.) 5 August 1980 (1980-08-05) cited in the application claims 1-17; figures 1,4 -----	1-16		
A	US 3 016 599 A (R.W.PERRY, JR) 16 January 1962 (1962-01-16) the whole document -----	1-4		
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A	EP 0 428 400 A (MINNESOTA MINING) 22 May 1991 (1991-05-22) claims 1,2 -----	1		
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.				
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Date of the actual completion of the international search <p style="text-align: center;">11 March 2004</p>	Date of mailing of the international search report <p style="text-align: center;">19/03/2004</p>			
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 <p style="text-align: center;">Bertram, H</p>			

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