Abstract: The present invention relates to an implantable device for improving hearing in a subject comprising a vibration generator (5) comprising an output region (19) configured to apply vibrational stimulation to the inner ear (2) fluid, a proximal electrode (X) configured for physical attachment to a wall enclosing the inner ear (2) at a location proximal to the output region of the vibration generator, and a separate distal electrode (3) configured to make electrical contact with the auditory nerve (4). It also relates to a method and kit for improving hearing.

Title: DEVICE AND METHOD FOR IMPROVING HEARING
Declaration under Rule 4.17:
— of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv))

Published:
— with international search report

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
12 September 2008
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. H04R25/00

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)
H04R A61F A61N

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

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<td>GB 2 181 622 A (NAT RES DEV) 23 April 1987 (1987-04-23) the whole document</td>
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Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

A: 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

Date of the actual completion of the international search
17 June 2008

Date of mailing of the international search report
24/06/2008

Name and mailing address of the ISA/Authorized officer
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

Timms, Olegs
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Form PCT/ISA/210 (patent family annex) (April 2005)