

SUPPLEMENTARY EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 09 80 3547

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	US 4 336 795 A (NICHOLS STEVEN B) 29 June 1982 (1982-06-29) * column 3, line 39 - line 58; figure 7 *	1-7	INV. A61F5/01
X	US 2 963 020 A (MORAN JOHN H) 6 December 1960 (1960-12-06) * column 2, line 4 - line 60; figures 1, 2 *	8-15	
A	US 4 412 536 A (KURTZ ROBERT J [US] ET AL) 1 November 1983 (1983-11-01) * abstract; figures 1, 2 *	3-7	
A	US 3 487 829 A (BARNETT HARRY E) 6 January 1970 (1970-01-06) * column 4, line 43 - column 6, line 37; figures 1-3 *	3-7	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			A61F
The supplementary search report has been based on the last set of claims valid and available at the start of the search.			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 23 June 2017	Examiner Moers, Roelof
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing claims for which payment was due.

☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):

☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

☐ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present (supplementary) European search report has been drawn up for all claims.

☒ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.

☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present (supplementary) European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:

☐ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present (supplementary) European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. claims: 1-15

Foot abduction system.

1.1. claims: 1-7

Foot abduction system allowing vertical and horizontal movement.

1.2. claims: 8-15

Foot abduction system having parallel rigid members.

Please note that all inventions mentioned under item 1, although not necessarily linked by a common inventive concept, could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee.

The common subject-matter of independent claims 1 and 8 is: a foot abduction system having multiple links and pivot points allowing movement. This common subject-matter is known in the prior art, see for instance US 4336795 A (D1). Therefore, these common features cannot form "special technical features" according to Rule 44 EPC.

The possible "special technical features" of the first subject are formed by the features of claim 3, since D1 discloses all the features of claim 1 and the features of claim 2 are considered to be trivial.

The possible "special technical features" of the second subject are formed by the fact that pivots and links are positioned such that the rigid members pivot in a single plane only. Since these features are different and they solve different problems (I: how to provide movement in different planes; II: how to provide stable movement in a single plane only), there is a case of non-unity.

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 09 80 3547

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

23-06-2017

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 4336795	A	29-06-1982	NONE	

US 2963020	A	06-12-1960	NONE	

US 4412536	A	01-11-1983	AU 561341 B2	07-05-1987
			CA 1181307 A	22-01-1985
			DE 3235134 A1	28-07-1983
			ES 8305578 A1	16-07-1983
			FR 2520227 A1	29-07-1983
			GB 2113552 A	10-08-1983
			IL 66724 A	30-11-1984
			IT 1208083 B	06-06-1989
			JP H0357781 B2	03-09-1991
			JP S58133251 A	08-08-1983
			MX 154572 A	30-09-1987
			US 4412536 A	01-11-1983

US 3487829	A	06-01-1970	NONE	
