Title: SYSTEMS AND METHODS THAT FACILITATE MINIMALLY INVASIVE SPINE SURGERY

Abstract: A system and method that facilitates minimally invasive spine surgery. The system includes screw preparation instruments that include a targeted guide with a laser attached to a fluoroscope, at least one polyaxial screw and rod guidance instruments that selectively insert the at least one polyaxial screw within the spine. The screw preparation instruments include an awl, a hand-held drill or tap, a ball-tipped probe, a cannulated depth gauge ruler, and a hexagonal screwdriver. Each screw preparation instrument have respective handles marked with a targeting guide oriented along respective central axes of the instruments. The rod guidance instruments include a rod with a tapered tip, a T-handle rod holder, a T-handle alignment guide, an alignment marker sleeve, a flexible alignment marker with a polyaxial head, and a template rod.
# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

**International application No.**
PCT/US05/16236

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
**IPC:** A61B 17/56(2006.01); A61B 17/58(2006.01)
**USPC:** 606/61,90
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)
U.S. : 606/61, 90,60,72,73,86,99,102,104,96

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 practicable, search terms used)

**EAST**

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

<table>
<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>A</td>
<td>US 6,648,888 B1 (Shluzas) 18 November 2003 (18.11.2003) see entire document</td>
<td>1-20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

□ 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
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Date of the actual completion of the international search: 08 June 2006 (08.06.2006)

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

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Authorized officer: Pedro Philogene
Telephone No. (571) 272-4716

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