

CURO AS
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Oslo, 2019.11.05

Your ref.: P20180975NO
Application no.: 20180975 (please include in your reply)
Applicant: OCEANTECH INNOVATION AS
Due date: 2020.02.05

Office action in patent application no. 20180975

We refer to your response of 2019.08.07 with amended claims and arguments and support for these.

We regard the features as stated in the characteristic clause of the amended claim 1 as novel over D1 as the closest prior art. However, the following paragraphs in *italics* should be noted:

In D1, the attachment assembly is not movable in circumferential direction, but the carriage in D1 is movable in a circumferential direction and relative to the attachment assembly, as apparent from for example figs. 5 and 6 and the related description in D1.

In your reply, you obviously equate the features of being movable in circumferential direction and of being arranged for rotation 360 degrees around the tubular member, and in which we disagree. Also an attachment assembly which can be moved just along a sector of the circumference of a tubular member is to be regarded as movable in circumferential direction. However, in D1 and as indicated above, the attachment assembly provided with clamps 23 is not movable at all when in a clamped position.

The objective technical problem to be solved by the invention according to the amended claim 1, in light of D1, may thus be regarded as how to provide a more accurate movement of the inspection probe holder assembly, and thus the inspection probe.

A skilled person would not arrive at the solution as stated in claim 1, by starting from D1 and in combination with any of D2-D5, without the exercise of inventive skill. Accordingly, claim 1 possesses inventive step.

As the amended claim 1 possesses both novelty and inventive step, cf. Norwegian Patents Act, section 2, first paragraph, the dependent claims 2-12 possess novelty and inventive step at least due to their claim dependency.

Instructions

As the present claims can be accepted, a translation of the claims into Norwegian must be filed, and the defects and observations pointed out in our first office action must be attended to. Further, the description must be amended into conformity with the claims.

If you amend the patent claims, you must state where in the application as filed support for the amendment is found, ref. Regulations to the Norwegian Patents Act (Patent Regulations), Section 20.

If you file an amended description, you must specify which parts of the description are not in accordance with the previously filed description and specify in which way the amendments imply anything new with respect to the substantive content, ref. Patent Regulations, Section 21.

Time limit for response

You are invited to submit a written response within the due date above. You may respond via [Altinn](#). If you fail to respond, the application will be shelved. However, the processing of the application may be resumed by paying a fee. Ref. Norwegian Patents Act, Section 15, third paragraph and Regulation Relating to Payments etc. to the Norwegian Industrial Property Office and the Board of Appeal for Industrial Property Rights (Regulation on fees), Section 26. You may request an extension of the due date, see «patentretningslinjene del A, kap. I, punkt 5.1» Examination Guidelines, part A, Chapter I, 5.1 (in Norwegian only). This must be done within the due date.

For general provisions regarding submitting of documents and payments, see Regulation on fees, Sections 1-6 and 8.

Additional information to the applicant

Application documents in English - provisional protection

The patent application will be published 18 months after it was first submitted. In order to obtain provisional protection for the invention described in the application from the publishing date, you must submit a translation of the claims into Norwegian. The patent claims in Norwegian will form the basis for provisional protection during the application period. The provisional protection applies only insofar as the Norwegian and English texts correspond with each other. Provisional protection takes effect once you have supplied a translation of the claims and we have published a notice of this in the Norwegian Official Patent Gazette (Norsk patenttidende).

Postponement of grant

A prospective grant of a patent implies that all documents of the application become publicly available, even when this happens earlier than 18 months after the filing date. However, you may request that the grant of the patent shall be postponed until the application becomes publicly available according to Norwegian Patents Act, Section 22, second paragraph, i.e. after 18 months, see Regulations to the Norwegian Patents Act (Patent Regulations), Section 33. The request for postponement should be filed in a separate letter.

Supplementary search

A novelty search is not considered to be complete if it was carried out at a time when the newest relevant material was not yet included in the search material. You can request a supplementary search to disclose whether there exist older patent applications, not publicly available when the first novelty search was done. This may be national patent applications, EPO applications that may apply to Norway, see Norwegian Patents Act, Section 66f or international patent applications that have been continued in Norway according to Norwegian Patents Act, Section 31. Such applications may prevent novelty according to Norwegian Patents Act, Section 2, second paragraph, second sentence. A supplementary

search can not be carried out until after approximately 22 months from the filing date of the application.

Application documents in English – patent claims in Norwegian at the time of grant

We would like to remind you that before the time of grant of patent you must submit a translation into Norwegian of the approved claims, see Norwegian Patents Act, Section 21, third paragraph and Patent Regulations, Section 33a.

For your information

Relevant laws and regulations, as well as Examination Guidelines are available on our webpage, www.nipo.no.

Information to applicants using Altinn: You will find cited publications linked in the enclosed search report or as electronic attachments. They will be forwarded in paper format only if not available in electronic format or if protected by copyright.

Please contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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