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APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING or 371(c) DATE	GRP ART UNIT	FIL FEE REC'D	ATTY. DOCKET NO	TOT CLAIMS	IND CLAIMS
60/977,870	10/05/2007		105	HYDR-1-1003		

CONFIRMATION NO. 1371

FILING RECEIPT



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Date Mailed: 10/19/2007

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Applicant(s)

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Power of Attorney:

Christopher Douglas--56950

If Required, Foreign Filing License Granted: 10/15/2007

The country code and number of your priority application, to be used for filing abroad under the Paris Convention, is **US 60/977,870**

Projected Publication Date: None, application is not eligible for pre-grant publication

Non-Publication Request: No

Early Publication Request: No

**** SMALL ENTITY ****

Title

SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR A WEB BASED INSPECTION COMPLIANCE REGISTRY AND
COMMUNICATION TOOL

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Almost every country has its own patent law, and a person desiring a patent in a particular country must make an application for patent in that country in accordance with its particular laws. Since the laws of many countries differ in various respects from the patent law of the United States, applicants are advised to seek guidance from specific foreign countries to ensure that patent rights are not lost prematurely.

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Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, 5.11 & 5.15

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Andrew Stanton Moren et al.

Attorney Docket No. HYDR-1-1003

Filing Date: October 5, 2007

Title: SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR A WEB BASED INSPECTION
COMPLIANCE REGISTRY AND COMMUNICATION TOOL

TRANSMITTAL FOR PROVISIONAL APPLICATION

37 C.F.R. § 1.51(c)(1)

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

The following comprises the information required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.51(c)(1):

1. Inventors:

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2. MOREN	Robert J.	United States

2. Addresses of the Inventors:

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2. Gig Harbor, Washington

3. Title of the Invention:

SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR A WEB BASED INSPECTION
COMPLIANCE REGISTRY AND COMMUNICATION TOOL

4. Correspondence Address and Telephone Number of the Patent Attorney or Agent for this Application:

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5. Docket Number Used to Identify this Application: HYDR-1-1003
6. Invention Made by an Agency of the U.S. Government or Under Contract with an Agency of the U.S. Government?

x

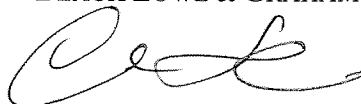
YES

NO

Name of the U.S. Government Agency and Government Contract Number: N/A

Respectfully submitted,

BLACK LOWE & GRAHAM^{PLLC}



Christopher T.L. Douglas

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SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR A WEB BASED INSPECTION COMPLIANCE REGISTRY AND COMMUNICATION TOOL

INVENTORS
Andrew Moren
Robert Moren

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

[0001] Systems and methods for a web based inspection compliance registry and communication tool are disclosed herein. An Inspection Compliance Registry will be optionally advantageous to the following groups, however it should be recognized that this is not an exclusive list. The owner of an asset needing an inspection, an authority requiring the inspection, and an inspector performing the inspection. Some or all of these parties may be handled by the same person or group, however, the registry by its own nature will encourage a checks-and-balances system of at least three parties. The Inspection Compliance Registry model will have a wide variety of commercial applications due to the broad range of assets that can require inspection. Below are examples of some of the preferable commercial applications.

[0002] In the fire sprinkler industry, national code requires annual inspections of fire sprinkler systems and related components (such as standpipes, fire department

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connections, fire pumps). In one embodiment, the fire marshal/building official will input information via the online registry regarding properties with fire sprinkler systems after initial inspection. A year later, the property owner will receive notice (via email, physical mail, or other) that the fire sprinkler system is due for annual inspection. The fire marshal will receive weekly or monthly updates of all due and overdue inspections. He will then use the registry to communicate to the owner his intention to enforce the inspection and the requirement for using the registry. The owner will use the registry to find qualified inspection companies and/or request bids from participating inspection companies. The registry will manage the bidding process and return the results to the owner for selection. The inspection company will use the registry to advertise their service and receive requests for bids and/or work. They will also use the registry (via the web or mobile device) to input their inspections which the registry sends to the fire marshal for review per the fire marshal's declared preferences. Depending on his preferences, he can review the inspection, verify city business license status of the inspection company, and approve, disapprove, or just confirm the inspection. The registry communicates the approval process between all parties until approval or confirmation is received. At that time the owner is notified the inspection is complete and approved and awaiting payment. The registry prepares an invoice for the inspection company to send to the fire sprinkler system owner. The owner receives the invoice and is able to pay online through the registry. Money is transferred to the inspection company, to the city (for any declared city/FM charges), and to any other necessary parties. The registry sends a message to the inspection company to confirm payment has been received. The inspection company verifies payment. The registry confirms that all transaction fees and fire marshal review fees are paid. If fees are not paid then the final submission will not be complete. The inspection is sent to the registry for final submission when payment is confirmed and the registry transaction fees and fire marshal review fees are

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paid. Until then the registry continues to notify the fire marshal that the inspection is due/incomplete.

[0003] An example of similar assets, but not limited to these similar assets, requiring annual or regular inspection that will benefit from the Inspection Compliance Registry are fire alarm systems, kitchen hood systems, fire extinguishers, emergency lighting systems, backflow preventers, bridges, fire hydrants, catch basins, retention ponds, electrical systems, heating/venting/air conditioning systems, plumbing systems, aircraft, vehicles, school transportation vehicles, cranes, powerplants, dams, stormwater runoff, animals, industrial sites, environmental interests, housing, real estate, boilers, farm equipment, viaducts, tunnels, businesses, financials, pharmaceutical caches, weapon caches, amusement parks/rides, elevators, escalators, pilings, piers, safety equipment, kitchens, and others.

[0004] Software companies may use the inspection compliance registry to write inspection input software on mobile devices for integration with the registry via wired or wireless internet connection.

[0005] Inspection service companies will use the registry to generate work by advertising on the website and by responding to owners requesting bids.

[0006] The owner's (of the asset needing inspection) will be able to request bids for inspections and use the registry as a resource for finding service companies, managing bids, maintenance tips for their asset, and a marketplace for purchasing or selling goods and service related to their asset.

[0007] Authorities may use the registry to display their specific requirements for inspection. They will use the registry to manage assets due for inspection and review inspections for approval. If required they can use the approval process to confirm an inspection company has paid their city business license (in the case of a city official) and that they are fully qualified for the inspection. They also use the registry to assure that any review fees that are due to them are paid. Insurance companies may use the registry to



confirm that insured properties or assets are being inspected as required. Upper management and higher authorities (i.e. State Fire Marshals) may use the registry to confirm that lower management and authorities (i.e. City Fire Marshals) are performing their duties.

[0008] The Inspection Compliance Registry is optionally advantageous to improve the process of inspections and in many cases introduce a new ability to enforce inspections. The authorities will be able to easily monitor, require, enforce, review, approve, and summarize all the inspections under their control. This new method will provide an easier way for them to charge for their review time and a way to confirm inspection companies are licensed to work in their city. This will help the cities recuperate lost expenses previously overlooked or ignored.

[0009] The Registry will also create a new demand for inspections which will benefit the inspection service industries. With the authority's ability to easily enforce inspections, a need for more inspections and therefore more inspection companies will be generated. This new method will generate many new jobs. Inspection companies will also find it easier to organize their work with bidding and scheduling features.

[0010] Owners of assets needing inspection will have a resource for finding service companies and even getting competitive bids. The registry will also provide a resource for recommended preventative maintenance they can perform themselves to ensure repair costs are minimized. When all of these parties benefit from the registry then the process of inspections is greatly improved this encourages the ultimate purpose of inspections; to protect lives, property, and quality.

[0011] Another purpose of the inspection compliance registry and communication tool is to present a system to the inspection process that does not demand the authorities to have to make any changes to their existing method of handling inspections. Adoption of the Inspection Compliance Registry is self-paced by the authority. It fully allows the authority to continue with their current method of enforcing inspections. And will only report due



inspections that they have had inputted. (i.e. if they only input 2 inspections that year, they will only get a report for those two items a year later). Many solutions require an overhaul of their existing inspection methods to implement a new program to their computers and training period for employees to adapt to a whole new system. Some solutions require new hardware. This discourages a lot of parties to adopt a new method of inspection enforcement.

[0012] The current process of managing inspections requires each party to participate independent of the others. This independent approach to the inspection process deters enforcement by the authorities, leaves owners without resources to complete inspections, and makes it difficult for inspection companies to schedule consistent work. The prior approaches do not focus on facilitating communication between all parties which makes it difficult for authorities to enforce, review, and approve inspections.

[0013] In one embodiment, a web-based registry/database can be created that allows users to input and review inspections. Allow customizing of inspection information for different industries. Gather contact information and preferences from each new user. Define the user as an authority, owner, or inspector. Record initial inspection information and establish frequency of inspections. Create standard letters and forms for the registry to deliver.

[0014] In one embodiment, a 'Notification' program can be created that searches the database for owners that have an inspection due or overdue and creates a report for each authority. The program then sends an email to the authority with a link to the authority's account. The authority can select specific owners to automatically notify with their intention of enforcing inspections. The owners are notified by email from the registry. If no email is known then the owners contact information is recorded to a list and either sent back to the authority or a mail service for notification. Until the inspection is approved and paid for, the authority will continue to receive notification of status of inspection.



[0015] In one embodiment, an 'Owner Information' program can be created that assists the owner in inputting contact information, payment information, personal preferences, and updating asset information. Save the information in the registry.

[0016] In one embodiment, a 'Marketplace' program can be created that allows inspectors/companies to advertise their service. Also create a 'Bidding Management' program that allows the owner to request bids for inspection. Qualified inspectors/companies can respond directly to the bid requests or have automatic responses based on their preset pricing settings. The registry organizes the bid results and returns it to the owner. The owner can choose to announce their selection and have the registry notify the inspector/company of the awarded work.

[0017] In one embodiment, an 'Inspection Input' program can be created that assists the inspector in inputting the inspection into the registry. This can be done either on the web-server or via a mobile device. Inspections can be customized for each new industry.

[0018] In one embodiment, an 'Approval' program can be created that submits a completed inspection to the authority for review. The authority receives notice that an inspection is awaiting their approval depending on their preset preferences. If the authority disapproves the inspection then notice is sent along with reasons for disapproval. The registry notifies the inspection company and the owner (depending on their preset preferences). This process continues until the authority approves the inspection and the registry notifies the inspection company and the owner.

[0019] In one embodiment, an 'Invoice' program can be created that assists the inspection company in preparing an invoice for the owner. The registry references the awarded bid price (if defined) and includes any applicable transaction fees such as registry fees, authority review fees, or licensing fees. The inspection company may also include added time or material needed to complete the inspection. The invoice is recorded into the



registry and sent to the owner for payment. Along with invoice, send reminder to owner that inspection is not final until payment is confirmed.

[0020] In one embodiment, a 'Payment' program can be created that assists the owner in paying for the inspection and all necessary fees. The registry will be setup to receive online payment. The program keeps track of payment amounts and due monies to each party. If automatic deposit is setup for each party, the registry transfers the money and automatically confirms payment. The inspection company is sent a notice to confirm payment. If payment has been received, the registry checks if all fees and transactions have been paid. If not the inspection company is requested to pay fees. Until all fees and transactions have been paid and the inspection company has confirmed payment the inspection is not finalized and the 'Notification' process continues.

[0021] In one embodiment, a 'Final Submission' can be created program that verifies the inspection is approved and all invoices and fees have been paid. Upon verification the inspection is finalized and submitted to the registry is completed. The registry records the date and begins the cycle again based on the required frequency of inspections for that industry (annually, biannually, etc).

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Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal

Application Number:				
Filing Date:				
Title of Invention:	SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR A WEB BASED INSPECTION COMPLIANCE REGISTRY AND COMMUNICATION TOOL			
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Andrew Stanton Moren			
Filer:	Richard Thomas Black/Myla Kent			
Attorney Docket Number:	HYDR-1-1003			
Filed as Small Entity				
Provisional Filing Fees				
Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Basic Filing:				
Provisional Application filing fee	2005	1	105	105
Pages:				
Claims:				
Miscellaneous-Filing:				
Petition:				
Patent-Appeals-and-Interference:				
Post-Allowance-and-Post-Issuance:				
Extension-of-Time:				

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Miscellaneous:				
Total in USD (\$)				105

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt

EFS ID:	2286377
Application Number:	60977870
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	1371
Title of Invention:	SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR A WEB BASED INSPECTION COMPLIANCE REGISTRY AND COMMUNICATION TOOL
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Andrew Stanton Moren
Customer Number:	25315
Filer:	Richard Thomas Black/Myla Kent
Filer Authorized By:	Richard Thomas Black
Attorney Docket Number:	HYDR-1-1003
Receipt Date:	05-OCT-2007
Filing Date:	
Time Stamp:	16:24:39
Application Type:	Provisional

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	yes
Payment was successfully received in RAM	\$ 105
RAM confirmation Number	1451
Deposit Account	

File Listing:

Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes) /Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
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1	Miscellaneous Incoming Letter	HYDR-1-1003T1.pdf	108569 538fe2c2a0c2bb07a41d482803345877 91bf6713	no	2
Warnings:					
Information:					
2	Specification	HYDR-1-1003AP.pdf	89781 8e29ccada83c38fdd3fd7b0f6be7c1fb4d 84f52b	no	7
Warnings:					
Information:					
3	Fee Worksheet (PTO-06)	fee-info.pdf	8187 26f01d875203902162cfadc1db7e8d03 ca7a51b8	no	2
Warnings:					
Information:					
Total Files Size (in bytes):			206537		
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