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Aaron Phillips

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EXAMINER

EVERETT, CHRISTOPHER E

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2116

NOTIFICATION DATE

DELIVERY MODE

02/06/2024

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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DETAILED ACTION

Notice of Pre-AIA or AIA Status

The present application is being examined under the pre-AIA first to invent provisions.

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the “right to exclude” granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on nonstatutory double patenting provided the reference application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with the examined application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the

scope of a joint research agreement. See MPEP § 717.02 for applications subject to examination under the first inventor to file provisions of the AIA as explained in MPEP § 2159. See MPEP § 2146 *et seq.* for applications not subject to examination under the first inventor to file provisions of the AIA. A terminal disclaimer must be signed in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(b).

The filing of a terminal disclaimer by itself is not a complete reply to a nonstatutory double patenting (NSDP) rejection. A complete reply requires that the terminal disclaimer be accompanied by a reply requesting reconsideration of the prior Office action. Even where the NSDP rejection is provisional the reply must be complete. See MPEP § 804, subsection I.B.1. For a reply to a non-final Office action, see 37 CFR 1.111(a). For a reply to final Office action, see 37 CFR 1.113(c). A request for reconsideration while not provided for in 37 CFR 1.113(c) may be filed after final for consideration. See MPEP §§ 706.07(e) and 714.13.

The USPTO Internet website contains terminal disclaimer forms which may be used. Please visit www.uspto.gov/patent/patents-forms. The actual filing date of the application in which the form is filed determines what form (e.g., PTO/SB/25, PTO/SB/26, PTO/AIA/25, or PTO/AIA/26) should be used. A web-based eTerminal Disclaimer may be filled out completely online using web-screens. An eTerminal Disclaimer that meets all requirements is auto-processed and approved immediately upon submission. For more information about eTerminal Disclaimers, refer to www.uspto.gov/patents/apply/applying-online/eterminal-disclaimer.

Claims 1-20 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-15 and 17 of U.S. Patent No. 11,726,504 and claims 1-20 of U.S. Patent No. 11,294,403. Although the claims at issue are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other as outlined below.

App. No. 18/212131	U.S. Patent No. 11,726,504	U.S. Patent No. 11,294,403
1. A system, comprising: a first computer system disposed at a first fluid handling site, the first fluid handling site comprising a first pump, a first valve, and a first tank that handle a first fluid, the first tank having a first fluid-level sensor with which the first computer system is configured to communicate to obtain a level of the first fluid in the first tank, and the first computer system being configured to provide remote control of the first pump or the first valve; and a server system remote from the fluid handling site, wherein the server system has memory storing instructions that, when executed, effectuate operations comprising: receiving, with the server system,	1. A fluid processing system, comprising: a first computer system disposed at a first fluid handling site, wherein the first computer system is configured to: receive information comprising one or more properties of a first fluid from one or more sensors disposed at a first fluid tank itself disposed at the first fluid-handling site, the fluid-handling site comprising one or more fluid-handling devices, the one or more fluid-handling devices comprising one or more	1. A system, comprising: a first computer system disposed at a first fluid handling site, the first fluid handling site comprising a first pump, a first valve, and a first tank that handle a first fluid, the first tank having a first fluid-level sensor with which the first computer system is configured to communicate to obtain a level of the first fluid in the first tank, and the first computer system being configured to provide remote control of the first pump or the first valve; and

from the first computer, via a network, a first fluid level sensed by the fluid-level sensor; obtaining, with the server system, credentials from a first client computing device; determining, with the server system, based on the credentials, that a user of the first client computing device is authorized to interact with the first fluid handling site, wherein the server system hosts data about other fluid handling sites the user is not authorized to interact; after the determination, providing, with the server system, via the network, information by which a first client computing device presents a user interface indicating the first fluid level, the first client computing device being remote from the server system and the first computer system;	of a first pump, a first filter, and a first valve; and provide remote control of a first fluid-handling device of the one or more fluid-handling devices; and a server system wherein the server system has memory storing instructions that, when executed, effectuate operations comprising: receiving, with the server system, from the first computer system, via a network, a first fluid property of the one or more properties associated with the first fluid sensed by a first	a server system remote from the fluid handling site, wherein the server system has memory storing instructions that, when executed, effectuate operations comprising: receiving, with the server system, from the first computer, via a network, a first fluid level sensed by the fluid-level sensor; obtaining, with the server system, credentials from a first client computing device; determining, with the server system, based on the credentials, that a user of the first client computing device is authorized to interact with the first fluid handling site, wherein the
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receiving, with the server system, from the first client computing device, a first command to change a state of the first pump; and causing, with the server system, the first computer system disposed at the first fluid handling site to effectuate the command by changing the state of the first pump to a sequence of different target states that change over time.	sensor of the one or more sensors; obtaining, with the server system, credentials from a first client computing device; determining, with the server system, based on the credentials, that a user of the first client computing device is authorized to interact with the first fluid handling site, wherein the server system hosts data about other fluid handling sites the user is not authorized to interact; after the determination, providing, with the server system, via the network, information by which a first client computing	server system hosts data about other fluid handling sites the user is not authorized to interact; after the determination, providing, with the server system, via the network, information by which a first client computing device presents a user interface indicating the first fluid level, the first client computing device being remote from the server system and the first computer system; receiving, with the server system, from the first client computing device, a first command to change a state of the first pump; and causing, with the server system, the first computer
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	device presents a user interface indicating the first fluid property, the first client computing device being remote from the server system and the first computer system; receiving, with the server system, from the first client computing device, a first command to change a state of the first fluid-handling device; and causing, with the server system, the first computer system disposed at the first fluid handling site to effectuate the command by changing the state of the first fluid-handling device to a sequence of	system disposed at the first fluid handling site to effectuate the command by changing the state of the first pump to a sequence of different target states that change over time.
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	different target states that change over time.	
2. The system of claim 1, wherein:the first fluid handling site comprises a second pump and a second tank that handle a second fluid, the second tank having a second fluid-level sensor with which the first computer system is configured to communicate to obtain a level of the second fluid in the second tank, and the first computer system being configured to provide remote control of the second pump.	17. The system of claim 1, wherein the system further comprises: a plurality of fluids, the plurality of fluids comprising a second fluid; a plurality of computer systems disposed at a plurality of fluid-handling sites, the plurality of computer systems comprising a second computer system; a plurality of fluid tanks, the plurality of fluid tanks comprising a second fluid tank; and a plurality of fluid-handling devices, the	2. The system of claim 1, wherein: the first fluid handling site comprises a second pump and a second tank that handle a second fluid, the second tank having a second fluid-level sensor with which the first computer system is configured to communicate to obtain a level of the second fluid in the second tank, and the first computer system being configured to provide remote control of the second pump.

	plurality of fluid-handling devices comprising a second fluid-handling device.	
3. The system of claim 2, comprising:the first tank, the first pump, the first valve, the second tank, and the second pump, wherein the first fluid is water and the second fluid is oil, wherein the first tank or the second tank is an oil/water separation tank.		3. The system of claim 2, comprising: the first tank, the first pump, the first valve, the second tank, and the second pump, wherein the first fluid is water and the second fluid is oil, wherein the first tank or the second tank is an oil/water separation tank.
4. The system of claim 1, wherein:the sequence of different target states that change over time are configured to ramp up or down a speed of the first pump.	2. The system of claim 1, wherein: the sequence of different target states that change over time are configured to ramp up or	4. The system of claim 1, wherein: the sequence of different target states that change over time are configured to

	down a speed of the first fluid-handling device.	ramp up or down a speed of the first pump.
5. The system of claim 1, wherein:the sequence of different target states that change over time are determined with steps for mitigating shocks to up-stream or down-stream fluid-handling devices relative to the first pump.	3. The system of claim 1, wherein: the sequence of different target states that change over time are determined with steps for mitigating shocks to up-stream or down-stream fluid-handling devices relative to the first fluid-handling device.	5. The system of claim 1, wherein: the sequence of different target states that change over time are determined with steps for mitigating shocks to up-stream or down-stream fluid-handling devices relative to the first pump.
6. The system of claim 1, wherien:at least some of the sequence of different target states that change over time are determined by the first computer system in response to a rate of change in the level of the first fluid in the first tank.	4. The system of claim 1, wherein: at least some of the sequence of different target states that change over time are determined by the first computer system in response to a rate of change in the first	6. The system of claim 1, wherein: at least some of the sequence of different target states that change over time are determined by the first computer system in response to a rate of

	fluid property, wherein the first fluid property corresponds to a level of the first fluid in the first tank.	change in the level of the first fluid in the first tank.
7. The system of claim 1, wherein:the server system is configured to interface with both a web browser on the client computing device and a special-purpose application executing on the client computing device to present the user interface indicating the first fluid level.	5. The system of claim 1, wherein: the server system is configured to interface with both a web browser on the client computing device and a special-purpose application executing on the client computing device to present the user interface indicating the first fluid property, wherein the first fluid property corresponds to a first fluid level.	7. The system of claim 1, wherein: the server system is configured to interface with both a web browser on the client computing device and a special-purpose application executing on the client computing device to present the user interface indicating the first fluid level.

8. The system of claim 1, wherein:the first computer system is configured to communicate with the server system via a cellular wireless connection.	6. The system of claim 1, wherein: the first computer system is configured to communicate with the server system via a cellular wireless connection.	8. The system of claim 1, wherein: the first computer system is configured to communicate with the server system via a cellular wireless connection.
9. The system of claim 1, wherein the first computer system is configured to translate a plurality of commands from the server system, including the command, from an input format to a plurality of different formats and protocols configured to effectuate changes in states of a plurality of different fluid-handling devices at the first fluid handling site, the different fluid-handling devices including the first pump or the first valve.	7. The system of claim 1, wherein the first computer system is configured to translate a plurality of commands from the server system, including the command, from an input format to a plurality of different formats and protocols configured to effectuate changes in states of a plurality of different fluid-handling devices at	9. The system of claim 1, wherein the first computer system is configured to translate a plurality of commands from the server system, including the command, from an input format to a plurality of different formats and protocols configured to effectuate changes in states of a plurality of different fluid-handling devices at the first fluid handling site,

	the first fluid handling site.	the different fluid-handling devices including the first pump or the first valve.
10. The system of claim 9, wherein translating the plurality of commands comprises steps for translating commands.	8. The system of claim 7, wherein translating the plurality of commands comprises steps for translating commands.	10. The system of claim 9, wherein translating the plurality of commands comprises steps for translating commands.
11. The system of claim 9, wherein the plurality of different formats and protocols comprise: modbus protocol; and analog electrical signals.	9. The system of claim 7, wherein the plurality of different formats and protocols comprise: modbus remote terminal unit protocol; and analog electrical signals.	11. The system of claim 9, wherein the plurality of different formats and protocols comprise: modbus protocol; and analog electrical signals.
12. The system of claim 9, wherein at least some of the plurality of different fluid-handling devices comprise proportional-integral-derivative controllers configured to	10. The system of claim 7, wherein at least some of the plurality of different fluid-handling devices comprise	12. The system of claim 9, wherein at least some of the plurality of different fluid-handling devices comprise proportional-

drive respective fluid-handling devices to different target setpoints determined by the first computer system responsive to corresponding commands from the server system.	proportional-integral-derivative controllers configured to drive respective fluid-handling devices to different target setpoints determined by the first computer system responsive to corresponding commands from the server system.	integral-derivative controllers configured to drive respective fluid-handling devices to different target setpoints determined by the first computer system responsive to corresponding commands from the server system.
13. The system of claim 9, wherein:the first computer system is coupled to at least some of the plurality of different fluid handling devices via a bus; and the first computer system comprises means for controlling which fluid handling devices are permitted to transmit signals on the bus at a given point in time.	11. The system of claim 7, wherein: the first computer system is coupled to at least some of the plurality of different fluid-handling devices via a bus; and the first computer system comprises means for controlling which fluid handling devices are permitted to transmit	13. The system of claim 9, wherein: the first computer system is coupled to at least some of the plurality of different fluid handling devices via a bus; and the first computer system comprises means for controlling which fluid handling devices are permitted to transmit

	signals on the bus at a given point in time.	signals on the bus at a given point in time.
14. The system of claim 9, wherein the plurality of different formats and protocols comprise three different protocols communicated over three different types of control busses to corresponding fluid handling devices among the plurality of different fluid handing devices.	12. The system of claim 7, wherein the plurality of different formats and protocols comprise three different protocols communicated over three different types of control busses to corresponding fluid handling devices among the plurality of different fluid-handling devices.	14. The system of claim 9, wherein the plurality of different formats and protocols comprise three different protocols communicated over three different types of control busses to corresponding fluid handling devices among the plurality of different fluid handing devices.
15. The system of claim 9, wherein two of the plurality of different formats and protocols comprise binary frames with redundant bits used to detect errors.		15. The system of claim 9, wherein two of the plurality of different formats and protocols comprise binary frames with redundant bits used to detect errors.

16. The system of claim 9, wherein the plurality of different formats and protocols comprise command code format, an on-off signal format, and an application-program interface format.	13. The system of claim 7, wherein the plurality of different formats and protocols comprise command code format, an on-off signal format, and an application-program interface format.	16. The system of claim 9, wherein the plurality of different formats and protocols comprise command code format, an on-off signal format, and an application-program interface format.
17. The system of claim 9, wherein the first computer system is configured to operate in an automatic mode, a mixed automatic mode, and a manual mode.	14. The system of claim 7, wherein the first computer system is configurable to operate in an automatic mode, a mixed automatic mode, and a manual mode.	17. The system of claim 9, wherein the first computer system is configured to operate in an automatic mode, a mixed automatic mode, and a manual mode.
18. The system of claim 17, wherein the automatic mode comprise executing s process recipe in which a collection of set points are targeted.		18. The system of claim 17, wherein the automatic mode comprise executing s process recipe in which a

		collection of set points are targeted.
19. The system of claim 9, wherein translating the plurality of commands comprises steps for identifying protocols and control busses.	15. The system of claim 7, wherein translating the plurality of commands comprises steps for identifying protocols and control busses.	19. The system of claim 9, wherein translating the plurality of commands comprises steps for identifying protocols and control busses.
20. The system of claim 1, wherein the first computer system comprises a protocol multiplexer.		20. The system of claim 1, wherein the first computer system comprises a protocol multiplexer.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHRISTOPHER E EVERETT whose telephone number is (571)272-2851. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm (Eastern).

Examiner interviews are available via telephone, in-person, and video conferencing using a USPTO supplied web-based collaboration tool. To schedule an interview, applicant is

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encouraged to use the USPTO Automated Interview Request (AIR) at

<http://www.uspto.gov/interviewpractice>.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kenneth Lo can be reached on 571-272-9774. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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/Christopher E. Everett/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2116

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims, which replaces all previous versions and listings of the claims.

1-20. (canceled)

21. (new) A fluid processing method, comprising:

receiving, with a first computer system disposed at a first fluid-handling site, information comprising one or more properties of a first fluid from one or more sensors disposed at a first fluid tank itself disposed at the first fluid-handling site, the fluid-handling site comprising one or more fluid-handling devices, the one or more fluid-handling devices comprising one or more of a first pump, a first filter, and a first valve;

providing, with the first computer system disposed at a first fluid handling site, remote control of a first fluid-handling device of the one or more fluid-handling devices;

receiving, with a server system, from the first computer system, via a network, a first fluid property of the one or more properties associated with the first fluid sensed by a first sensor of the one or more sensors;

obtaining, with the server system, credentials from a first client computing device;

determining, with the server system, based on the credentials, that a user of the first client computing device is authorized to interact with the first fluid handling site, wherein the server system hosts data about other fluid handling sites the user is not authorized to interact;

after the determination, providing, with the server system, via the network, information by which the first client computing device presents a user interface indicating the first fluid property, the first client computing device being remote from the server system and the first computer system;

receiving, with the server system, from the first client computing device, a first command to change a state of the first fluid-handling device; and

causing, with the server system, the first computer system disposed at the first

fluid handling site to effectuate the command by changing the state of the first fluid-handling device to a sequence of different target states that change over time.

22. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein:

the sequence of different target states that change over time are configured to ramp up or down a speed of the first fluid-handling device.

23. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein:

the sequence of different target states that change over time are determined with steps for mitigating shocks to up-stream or down-stream fluid-handling devices relative to the first pump.

24. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein:

at least some of the sequence of different target states that change over time are determined by the first computer system in response to a rate of change in the first fluid property, wherein the first fluid property corresponds to a level of the first fluid in the first tank.

25. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein:

the server system is configured to interface with both a web browser on the client computing device and a special-purpose application executing on the client computing device to present the user interface indicating the first fluid property, wherein the first fluid property corresponds to a first fluid level.

26. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein:

the first computer system is configured to communicate with the server system via a cellular wireless connection.

27. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein the first computer system is configured to translate a plurality of commands from the server system, including the command, from an input format to a plurality of different formats and protocols configured to effectuate changes in states of a plurality of different fluid-handling devices at the first fluid handling site.

28. (new) The method of claim 27, wherein translating the plurality of commands comprises steps for translating commands.

29. (new) The method of claim 27, wherein the plurality of different formats and protocols comprise:

modbus remote terminal unit protocol; and
analog electrical signals.

30. (new) The method of claim 27, wherein at least some of the plurality of different fluid-handling devices comprise proportional-integral-derivative controllers configured to drive respective fluid-handling devices to different target setpoints determined by the first computer system responsive to corresponding commands from the server system.

31. (new) The method of claim 27, wherein:

the first computer system is coupled to at least some of the plurality of different fluid-handling devices via a bus; and

the first computer system comprises means for controlling which fluid handling devices are permitted to transmit signals on the bus at a given point in time.

32. (new) The method of claim 27, wherein the plurality of different formats and protocols comprise three different protocols communicated over three different types of control busses to corresponding fluid handling devices among the plurality of different fluid-handling devices.

33. (new) The method of claim 27, wherein the plurality of different formats and protocols comprise command code format, an on-off signal format, and an application-program interface format.
34. (new) The method of claim 27, wherein the first computer system is configurable to operate in an automatic mode, a mixed automatic mode, and a manual mode.
35. (new) The method of claim 27, wherein translating the plurality of commands comprises steps for identifying protocols and control busses.
36. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein the first computing system is configured to receive and transmit data and commands via a remote terminal unit protocol wherein the data and commands comprise redundant bits.
37. (new) A method, comprising:
- measuring, with one or more sensors at a first fluid tank located at a first fluid-handling site, one or more properties associated with a first fluid;
 - receiving, with a first computer system disposed at a first fluid handling site, information associated with the one or more properties associated with the first fluid;
 - providing, with the first computer system, remote control of a first fluid-handling device of a plurality of fluid-handling devices, the first fluid-handling device comprising at least one of a first pump, a first filter, and a first valve;
 - receiving, with a server system, from the first computer system, via a network, a first fluid property of the one or more properties associated with the first fluid sensed by a first sensor of the one or more sensors;
 - obtaining, with the server system, credentials from a first client computing device;
 - determining, with the server system, based on the credentials, that a user of the first client computing device is authorized to interact with the first fluid handling site,

wherein the server system hosts data about other fluid handling sites the user is not authorized to interact;

after the determination, providing, with the server system, via the network, information by which the first client computing device presents a user interface indicating the first fluid property, the first client computing device being remote from the server system and the first computer system;

receiving, with the server system, from the first client computing device, a first command to change a state of the first fluid-handling device; and

causing, with the server system, the first computer system disposed at the first fluid handling site to effectuate the command by changing the state of the first fluid-handling device to a sequence of different target states that change over time.



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TERMINAL DISCLAIMER TO OBVIATE A DOUBLE PATENTING REJECTION OVER A PRIOR PATENT

APPLICATION #
18212131

FILING DATE
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FIRST NAMED INVENTOR
Aaron Phillips

ATTORNEY DOCKET #
034392-0576394

Title of Invention

REMOTE CONTROL OF FLUID-HANDLING DEVICES



Filing of terminal disclaimer does not obviate requirement for response under 37 CFR 1.111 to outstanding Office Action



This electronic Terminal Disclaimer is not being used for a Joint Research Agreement.

Owner	Percent interest
SitePro, Inc.	100%
Total	100%

The owner(s) of percent interest listed above in the instant application hereby disclaims, except as provided below, the terminal part of the statutory term of any patent granted on the instant application which would extend beyond the expiration date of the full statutory term of any patent granted on pending reference Application Number(s)

Application #	Filing Date
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as the term of any patent granted on said reference application may be shortened by any terminal disclaimer filed prior to the grant of any patent on the pending reference application. The owner hereby agrees that any patent so granted on the instant application shall be enforceable only for and during such period that it and any patent granted on the reference application are commonly owned. This agreement runs with any patent granted on the

instant application and is binding upon the grantee, its successors or assigns.

In making the above disclaimer, the owner does not disclaim the terminal part of any patent granted on the instant application that would extend to the expiration date of the full statutory term of any patent granted on said reference application, "as the term of any patent granted on said reference application may be shortened by any terminal disclaimer filed prior to the grant of any patent on the pending reference application," in the event that any such patent granted on the pending reference application: expires for failure to pay a maintenance fee, is held unenforceable, is found invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, is statutorily disclaimed in whole or terminally disclaimed under 37 CFR 1.321, has all claims canceled by a reexamination certificate, is reissued, or is in any manner terminated prior to the expiration of its full statutory term as shortened by any terminal disclaimer filed prior to its grant.

The owner(s) of percent interest listed above in the instant application hereby disclaims, except as provided below, the terminal part of the statutory term of any patent granted on the instant application which would extend beyond the expiration date of the full statutory term of prior patent number(s)

Patent #

11726504

11294403

as the term of said prior patent is presently shortened by any terminal disclaimer. The owner hereby agrees that any patent so granted on the instant application shall be enforceable only for and during such period that it and the prior patent are commonly owned. This agreement runs with any patent granted on the instant application and is binding upon the grantee, its successors or assigns.

In making the above disclaimer, the owner does not disclaim the terminal part of the term of any patent granted on the instant application that would extend to the expiration date of the full statutory term of the prior patent, "as the term of said prior patent is presently shortened by any terminal disclaimer," in the event that said prior patent later:

- expires for failure to pay a maintenance fee;
- is held unenforceable;
- is found invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction;
- is statutorily disclaimed in whole or terminally disclaimed under 37 CFR 1.321;
- has all claims canceled by a reexamination certificate;
- is reissued; or
- is in any manner terminated prior to the expiration of its full statutory term as presently shortened by any terminal disclaimer.



Terminal disclaimer fee under 37 CFR 1.20(d) included with Electronic Terminal Disclaimer request.

Applicant claims the following entity status:

Small

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am: An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office who is of record in this application

Signature	Name	Registration #
/Joshua Tucker/	Joshua Tucker	63809

* Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is required if terminal disclaimer is signed by the assignee (owner). Form PTO/SB/96 may be used for making this certification. See MPEP 324.

REMARKS

In the office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-20. By this response, Applicant cancels claims 1-20 and adds new claims 21-37. Upon entry of these amendments, claims 21-37 are pending in the present application and are believed to be in condition for allowance. These amendments are fully supported by the original disclosure. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests consideration and allowance of all pending claims.

The newly added claims are identical to claims that were previously allowed, except that these claims are in method format. The claims are the same (other than being method claims) to the claims allowed in US Pat. 11,726,504¹.

Double patenting

On pages 2-17 of the office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-20 for alleged double patenting over U.S. Pat. 11726504 and U.S. Pat. 11294403. To expedite prosecution and without conceding the merits of the rejection, Applicant is filing a terminal disclaimer herewith. In view of this amendment, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Reservation of Arguments

Applicant stresses that many terms in the claims are defined within the claim itself. Particularly where bespoke noun phrases are used, Applicant has sought to embed the characteristics of their referent relevant to the claim in the claim itself. As such, use of such noun phrases (e.g., those having a meaning particular to the document at hand) should not be taken as an invitation to import limitations from the specification when the relevant limitations are already recited in the claim itself.

¹ Claim 23 is revised to reflect the Examiner's amendment in the Notice of Allowance issued 17 March 2023 for US Pat. 11,726,504, and claims 21 and 37 are revised to fix an issue with antecedent basis corrected through a certificate of correction issued for the '504 patent.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims should be in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner believes certain amendments are necessary to clarify the present claims or if the Examiner wishes to resolve any other issues by way of a telephone conference, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 16 April 2024

/Joshua Tucker/

Joshua Tucker
Registration No. 63809
Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP
P.O. Box 10500
McLean, VA 22102
Phone 512-580-9628



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

909 7590 05/08/2024
Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman, LLP
PO Box 10500
McLean, VA 22102

EXAMINER	
EVERETT, CHRISTOPHER E	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2116	

DATE MAILED: 05/08/2024

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
18/212,131	06/20/2023	Aaron Phillips	034392-0576394	5690

TITLE OF INVENTION: REMOTE CONTROL OF FLUID-HANDLING DEVICES

APPLN. TYPE	ENTITY STATUS	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	SMALL	\$480	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$480	08/08/2024

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the ENTITY STATUS shown above. If the ENTITY STATUS is shown as SMALL or MICRO, verify whether entitlement to that entity status still applies.

If the ENTITY STATUS is the same as shown above, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

If the ENTITY STATUS is changed from that shown above, on PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, complete section number 5 titled "Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)".

For purposes of this notice, small entity fees are 40% the amount of undiscounted fees, and micro entity fees are 20% the amount of undiscounted fees.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Maintenance fees are due in utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due. More information is available at www.uspto.gov/PatentMaintenanceFees.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), by mail or fax, or via the USPTO patent electronic filing system.

By mail, send to: Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

By fax, send to: (571)-273-2885

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications. **Because electronic patent issuance may occur shortly after issue fee payment, any desired continuing application should preferably be filed prior to payment of this issue fee in order not to jeopardize copendency.**

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

909 7590 05/08/2024

Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman, LLP
PO Box 10500
McLean, VA 22102

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being transmitted to the USPTO via the USPTO patent electronic filing system or by facsimile to (571) 273-2885, on the date below.

(Typed or printed name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
18/212,131	06/20/2023	Aaron Phillips	034392-0576394	5690

TITLE OF INVENTION: REMOTE CONTROL OF FLUID-HANDLING DEVICES

APPLN. TYPE	ENTITY STATUS	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	SMALL	\$480	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$480	08/08/2024

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
EVERETT, CHRISTOPHER E	2116	700-083000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/AIA/122 or PTO/SB/122) attached.

☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/AIA/47 or PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

(1) The names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,

1 _____

(2) The name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

2 _____

3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document must have been previously recorded, or filed for recordation, as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11 and 37 CFR 3.81(a). Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent) : ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. Fees submitted: ☐ Issue Fee ☐ Publication Fee (if required)

4b. Method of Payment: (Please first reapply any previously paid fee shown above)

☐ Electronic Payment via the USPTO patent electronic filing system ☐ Enclosed check ☐ Non-electronic payment by credit card (Attach form PTO-2038)

☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. _____

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

☐ Applicant certifying micro entity status. See 37 CFR 1.29

☐ Applicant asserting small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27

☐ Applicant changing to regular undiscounted fee status.

NOTE: Absent a valid certification of Micro Entity Status (see forms PTO/SB/15A and 15B), issue fee payment in the micro entity amount will not be accepted at the risk of application abandonment.

NOTE: If the application was previously under micro entity status, checking this box will be taken to be a notification of loss of entitlement to micro entity status.

NOTE: Checking this box will be taken to be a notification of loss of entitlement to small or micro entity status, as applicable.

NOTE: This form must be signed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.31 and 1.33. See 37 CFR 1.4 for signature requirements and certifications.

Authorized Signature _____

Date _____

Typed or printed name _____

Registration No. _____



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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
18/212,131	06/20/2023	Aaron Phillips	034392-0576394	5690
909	7590	05/08/2024	EXAMINER	
Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman, LLP			EVERETT, CHRISTOPHER E	
PO Box 10500			ART UNIT	
McLean, VA 22102			PAPER NUMBER	
			2116	
DATE MAILED: 05/08/2024				

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (Applications filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Office has discontinued providing a Patent Term Adjustment (PTA) calculation with the Notice of Allowance.

Section 1(h)(2) of the AIA Technical Corrections Act amended 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(3)(B)(i) to eliminate the requirement that the Office provide a patent term adjustment determination with the notice of allowance. See Revisions to Patent Term Adjustment, 78 Fed. Reg. 19416, 19417 (Apr. 1, 2013). Therefore, the Office is no longer providing an initial patent term adjustment determination with the notice of allowance. The Office will continue to provide a patent term adjustment determination with the Issue Notification Letter that is mailed to applicant approximately three weeks prior to the issue date of the patent, and will include the patent term adjustment on the patent. Any request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment determination (or reinstatement of patent term adjustment) should follow the process outlined in 37 CFR 1.705.

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

OMB Clearance and PRA Burden Statement for PTOL-85 Part B

The Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 requires Federal agencies to obtain Office of Management and Budget approval before requesting most types of information from the public. When OMB approves an agency request to collect information from the public, OMB (i) provides a valid OMB Control Number and expiration date for the agency to display on the instrument that will be used to collect the information and (ii) requires the agency to inform the public about the OMB Control Number's legal significance in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.5(b).

The information collected by PTOL-85 Part B is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 30 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) collects the information in this record under authority of 35 U.S.C. 2. The USPTO's system of records is used to manage all applicant and owner information including name, citizenship, residence, post office address, and other information with respect to inventors and their legal representatives pertaining to the applicant's/owner's activities in connection with the invention for which a patent is sought or has been granted. The applicable Privacy Act System of Records Notice for the information collected in this form is COMMERCE/PAT-TM-7 Patent Application Files, available in the Federal Register at 78 FR 19243 (March 29, 2013).

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2013-03-29/pdf/2013-07341.pdf>

Routine uses of the information in this record may include disclosure to:

- 1) law enforcement, in the event that the system of records indicates a violation or potential violation of law;
- 2) a federal, state, local, or international agency, in response to its request;
- 3) a contractor of the USPTO having need for the information in order to perform a contract;
- 4) the Department of Justice for determination of whether the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requires disclosure of the record;
- 5) a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested the Member's assistance with respect to the subject matter of the record;
- 6) a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, in the course of presenting evidence, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations;
- 7) the Administrator, General Services Administration (GSA), or their designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906, in accordance with the GSA regulations and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive, where such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals;
- 8) another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c));
- 9) the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) for personnel research purposes; and
- 10) the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for legislative coordination and clearance.

If you do not furnish the information requested on this form, the USPTO may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings, abandonment of the application, and/or expiration of the patent.

Notice of Allowability	Application No. 18/212,131	Applicant(s) Phillips, Aaron	
	Examiner CHRISTOPHER E EVERETT	Art Unit 2116	AIA (FITF) Status No

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 4/16/2024.
☐ A declaration(s)/affidavit(s) under **37 CFR 1.130(b)** was/were filed on ____.

2. ☐ An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on ____; the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action.

3. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 21-37. As a result of the allowed claim(s), you may be eligible to benefit from the **Patent Prosecution Highway** program at a participating intellectual property office for the corresponding application. For more information, please see http://www.uspto.gov/patents/init_events/pph/index.jsp or send an inquiry to PPHfeedback@uspto.gov.

4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

Certified copies:
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:

1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____. 3. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material _____. 4. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date. _____.	5. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment 6. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 7. ☐ Other _____.
--	--

/Christopher E. Everett/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2116

DETAILED ACTION

The Office Action is responsive to the communication filed on 4/16/2024.

Claims 21-37 are pending.

Notice of Pre-AIA or AIA Status

The present application, filed on or after March 16, 2013, is being examined under the first inventor to file provisions of the AIA.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 21-37 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 21-36

Regarding claim 21, the prior art as described in the prosecution history describes:

21. (new) A fluid processing method, comprising:
 - receiving, with a first computer system disposed at a first fluid-handling site, information comprising one or more properties of a first fluid from one or more sensors disposed at a first fluid tank itself disposed at the first fluid-handling site, the fluid-handling site comprising one or more fluid-handling devices, the one or more fluid-handling devices comprising one or more of a first pump, a first filter, and a first valve;
 - providing, with the first computer system disposed at a first fluid handling site, remote control of a first fluid-handling device of the one or more fluid-handling devices;

However, regarding claim 21, the prior art as described in the prosecution history does not describe:

receiving, with a server system, from the first computer system, via a network, a first fluid property of the one or more properties associated with the first fluid sensed by a first sensor of the one or more sensors;

obtaining, with the server system, credentials from a first client computing device;

determining, with the server system, based on the credentials, that a user of the first client computing device is authorized to interact with the first fluid handling site, wherein the server system hosts data about other fluid handling sites the user is not authorized to interact;

after the determination, providing, with the server system, via the network, information by which the first client computing device presents a user interface indicating the first fluid property, the first client computing device being remote from the server system and the first computer system;

receiving, with the server system, from the first client computing device, a first command to change a state of the first fluid-handling device; and

causing, with the server system, the first computer system disposed at the first

fluid handling site to effectuate the command by changing the state of the first fluid-handling device to a sequence of different target states that change over time.

Dependent claims 22-36 depend from independent claim 21 and are allowable for the same reasons as described above.

Claim 37

Regarding claim 37, the prior art as described in the prosecution history describes:

37. (new) A method, comprising:
measuring, with one or more sensors at a first fluid tank located at a first fluid-handling site, one or more properties associated with a first fluid;
receiving, with a first computer system disposed at a first fluid handling site, information associated with the one or more properties associated with the first fluid;
providing, with the first computer system, remote control of a first fluid-handling device of a plurality of fluid-handling devices, the first fluid-handling device comprising at least one of a first pump, a first filter, and a first valve;

However, regarding claim 37, the prior art as described in the prosecution history does not describe:

receiving, with a server system, from the first computer system, via a network, a first fluid property of the one or more properties associated with the first fluid sensed by a first sensor of the one or more sensors;

obtaining, with the server system, credentials from a first client computing device;

determining, with the server system, based on the credentials, that a user of the first client computing device is authorized to interact with the first fluid handling site,

wherein the server system hosts data about other fluid handling sites the user is not authorized to interact;

after the determination, providing, with the server system, via the network, information by which the first client computing device presents a user interface indicating the first fluid property, the first client computing device being remote from the server system and the first computer system;

receiving, with the server system, from the first client computing device, a first command to change a state of the first fluid-handling device; and

causing, with the server system, the first computer system disposed at the first fluid handling site to effectuate the command by changing the state of the first fluid-handling device to a sequence of different target states that change over time.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2015/0308244 describes a control system with a control computer for controlling a linear motor for a deep well oil pump.
- U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2008/0316048 describes a well site data communication system for monitoring a well.
- U.S. Patent No. 8,667,091 describes a data acquisition and control system that allows a remote host to interface with remote and in-plant subsystems and services.
- U.S. Patent No. 9,709,995 describes a chemical injection system with a controller for translating signals between communication protocols.
- U.S. Patent No. 7,424,399 describes data visualization for sharing fluid data with authorized users.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHRISTOPHER E EVERETT whose telephone number is

Art Unit: 2116

(571)272-2851. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm (Eastern).

Examiner interviews are available via telephone, in-person, and video conferencing using a USPTO supplied web-based collaboration tool. To schedule an interview, applicant is encouraged to use the USPTO Automated Interview Request (AIR) at <http://www.uspto.gov/interviewpractice>.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kenneth Lo can be reached on 571-272-9774. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of published or unpublished applications may be obtained from Patent Center. Unpublished application information in Patent Center is available to registered users. To file and manage patent submissions in Patent Center, visit: <https://patentcenter.uspto.gov>. Visit <https://www.uspto.gov/patents/apply/patent-center> for more information about Patent Center and <https://www.uspto.gov/patents/docx> for information about filing in DOCX format. For additional questions, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Christopher E. Everett/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2116