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Date
09-04-2014

Reference AJF/P124484EPO	Application No./Patent No. 07113031.4 - 1559 / 1850151
Applicant/Proprietor WesternGeco Seismic Holdings Limited, et al	

Summons to attend oral proceedings pursuant to Rule 115(1) EPC

You are hereby summoned to attend oral proceedings arranged in connection with the above-mentioned European patent.

The matters to be discussed are set out in the communication accompanying this summons (EPO Form 2906).

The oral proceedings, which will be public, will take place before the opposition division

on 17.09.14 at 10.00 hrs in Room 2.5 at the
EPO Rijswijk, Patentlaan 2, NL-2280 HV Rijswijk (ZH)

No changes to the date of the oral proceedings can be made, except on serious grounds (see OJ EPO 1/2009, 68). If you do not appear as summoned, the oral proceedings may continue without you (R. 115(2) EPC).

Your attention is drawn to Rule 4 EPC, regarding the language of the oral proceedings, and to the Special edition No. 3 OJ EPO 2007, 128, concerning the filing of authorisations for company employees and lawyers acting as representatives before the EPO.

The final date for making written submissions and/or amendments (R. 116 EPC) is 18.08.14.

You are requested to report in good time beforehand to the porter in the EPO foyer. Room _____ is available as waiting room.

1st Examiner:
Vollmer T

2nd Examiner:
Meyer M

Chairman:
de Jong F

For the Opposition Division



Annexes:
Confirmation of receipt (Form 2936)
Rule 4 EPC (EPC Form 2043)
Communication (EPO Form 2906)





European Patent Office - The Hague - Getting there



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Le Croisé Building



Rijsvoort Building

Visitors address:

Patentlaan 2
2288 EE Rijswijk
The Netherlands

Using local public transport

From The Hague Central Station (Den Haag CS), Hollands Spoor (Den Haag HS), Town Centre and Rijswijk train station, take the 17 tram (heading for Wateringseveld) to Patentlaan.

From Scheveningen, take the 1 tram (stops at Central Station (CS), Town Centre and Hollands Spoor (HS), to Vlietbrug. From here it is a 10-minute walk (up the stairs, along the footpath on the motorway bridge, down the steps and round the building (Tinbergenstraat, Koopmansstraat) to the main entrance at the front.

By train (Train information: www.ns.nl)

From Rotterdam Central Station (CS), take the "stoptrein" (heading for Den Haag) to Rijswijk. From there, take 17 tram (heading for Statenkwartier) to Patentlaan.

By car: (Route planner: www.viamichelin.com)

On the A13 from Rotterdam:

Follow the signs for Rijswijk, Den Haag. Approaching The Hague, this motorway becomes the E30. Follow the signs for Rijswijk, Den Haag Zuid, Hoek van Holland (A4/N4), i.e. DO NOT take the exit for Rijswijk Centrum. On the A4/N4, take the Plaspoelpolder exit (white sign with black lettering, exit Nr. 10). To get to Plaspoelpolder, turn right at the first set of traffic lights. The main building on your right is the EPO. At the next traffic lights, turn right into Veraartlaan.

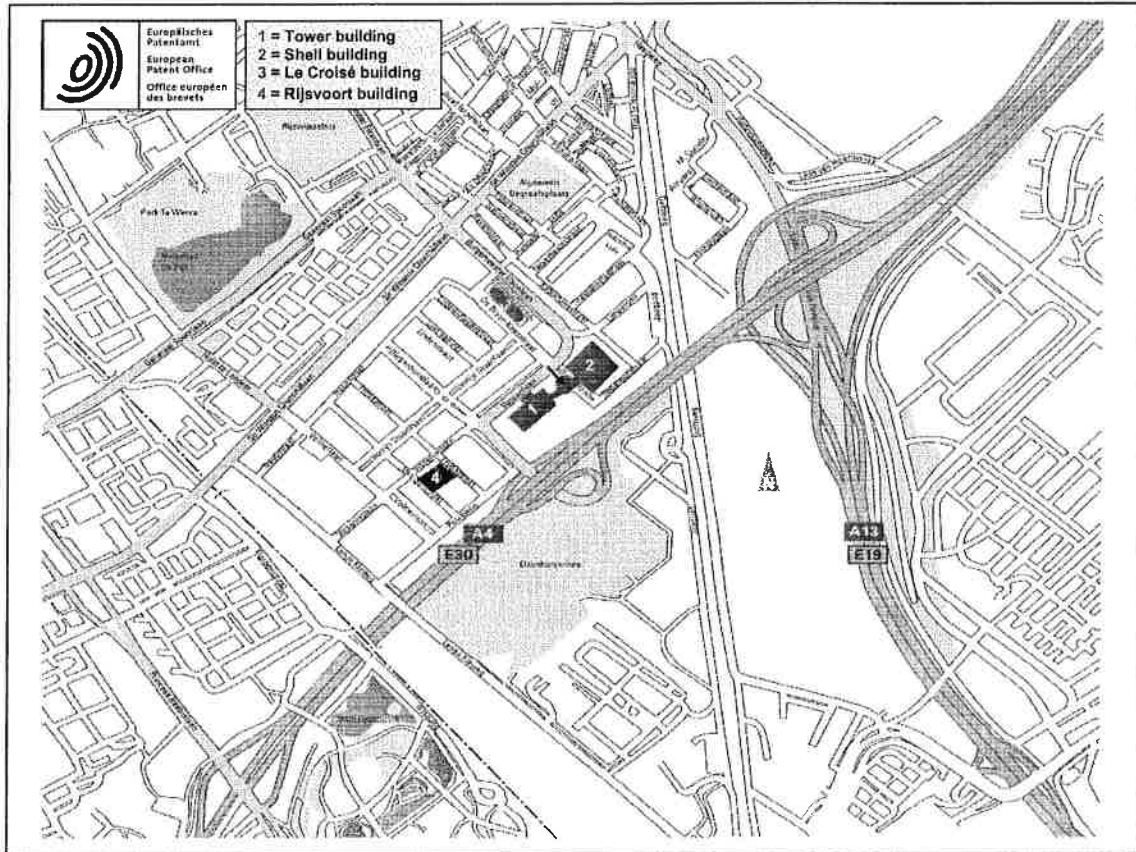
On the A4 from Amsterdam or the A12 from Utrecht:

Follow the signs for Rijswijk, Den Haag Zuid, Hoek van Holland (A4/N4). On the A4/N4, take the Plaspoelpolder exit (white sign with black lettering, exit Nr. 10). From here, follow the directions given above.

Parking: Limited number of parking spaces (Tinbergenstraat entrance).

By air:

From Schiphol airport, Amsterdam, take the direct train to The Hague Central Station (Den Haag CS) or Holland Spoor (Den Haag HS). Change to the 17 tram (heading for Wateringseveld) to Patentlaan.



1 Preamble

The following communication presents a **provisional and non-binding opinion** based on the documents currently on file.

2 Facts and submissions

European patent No EP1850151 is based upon European patent application No EP 07113031, filed on 28.09.1999 and claiming priority of GB 9821277 filed on 01.10.1998. Furthermore, the European patent No EP1850151 is a divisional filing of the European patent application No EP 99943180, filed on 01.10.1998, which itself is the regional phase of the international application PCT/IB99/01590, published as WO/00/20895 and having a priority date of 01.10.1998.

The mention of the grant of the patent has been published in European Patent Bulletin 2011/32 of 10.08.2011.

2.1 Proprietor of the patent are:

- WesternGeco Seismic Holdings Limited (IT, NL).
- Services Pétroliers Schlumberger (FR).

2.2 Notice of opposition has been filed by ION Geophysical Corporation.

2.3 Requests

With his letter of 10.05.2012 the opponent ION Geophysical Corporation requests that:

- the contested patent be revoked in its entirety in accordance with Articles 99 and 100 (a) EPC on the ground of lack of novelty (Art. 54 EPC) and on ground of lack of inventive step (Art. 56 EPC), on the ground of insufficiency of disclosure (Art. 100(b) EPC and 83 EPC) and on the ground of added subject-matter that extends beyond the content of the application of the earlier application as filed (Art. 100(c) EPC and 123(2) EPC).
- auxiliary, oral proceedings to be held (Art. 116 EPC).

With letter of response of 28.01.2013 the proprietors request

- maintenance of the patent as granted; and
- auxiliary, oral proceedings to be held (Art. 116 EPC)
- auxiliary, in case that submissions by the Opponent's Representatives are

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Demande n°:

made in an another language than English, then the patentee requests simultaneous translation into English of the Opponent's Representatives submissions .

2.3.1 The following documents were cited by the opponent:

- E1 US 5 200 930 A (ROUQUETTE ROBERT E [US]) 6 April 1993 (1993-04-06)
- E2 WO 98/28636 A1 (GECO AS [NO]; BITTLESTON SIMON HASTINGS [NO]) 2 July 1998 (1998-07-02)
- E3 US 5 790 472 A (WORKMAN RICKY L [US] ET AL) 4 August 1998 (1998-08-04)
- E4 EP 0 613 025 A1 (GECO AS [NO]) 31 August 1994 (1994-08-31)
- E5 WO 97/11395 A2 (LAITRAM CORP [US]; OLIVIER ANDRE W [US]; RAU BRIEN G [US]; ROUQUETTE R) 27 March 1997 (1997-03-27)
- E6 US 4 404 664 A (ZACHARIADIS ROBERT G [US]) 13 September 1983 (1983-09-13)
- E7 EP 0 018 053 A1 (SHELL INT RESEARCH [NL]) 29 October 1980 (1980-10-29)
- E8 US 4 890 568 A (DOLENGOWSKI GEORGE A [US]) 2 January 1990 (1990-01-02)
- E9 US 4 676 183 A (CONBOY MICHAEL R [US]) 30 June 1987 (1987-06-30)
- E10 US 4 729 333 A (KIRBY ROBERT A [US] ET AL) 8 March 1988 (1988-03-08)
- E11 GB 2 122 562 A (SEISMOGRAPH SERVICE) 18 January 1984 (1984-01-18)
- E12 US 5 532 975 A (ELHOLM TOR [NO]) 2 July 1996 (1996-07-02)
- E13 WO 97/30361 A1 (THOMSON CSF [FR]; BERTHEAS JEAN [FR]; MORESCO GILLES [FR]; SUPPA VITO) 21 August 1997 (1997-08-21)
- E14 US 5 138 582 A (FURU HARALD [NO]) 11 August 1992 (1992-08-11)
- E15 COURT I N: "Applications of acoustics to streamer/source positioning", SEG EXPANDED ABSTRACTS, XX, XX, 1 January 1989 (1989-01-01), pages 610-612, XP002480425,

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