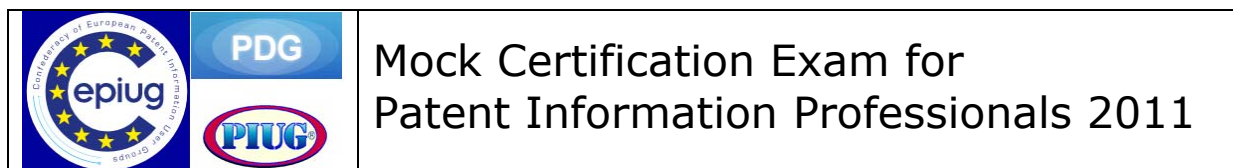


PATENT INFORMATION ANALYSIS MOCK CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION

Paper A

Engineering



The general advice for all candidates:

This paper is a test of the candidates search skills so most marks will be awarded for the planning of and actual carrying out of the search with only limited emphasis on the final selection of relevant documents.

In order to demonstrate detailed knowledge of search processes candidates are expected to:

- Discuss their understanding of the actual request (including any points that in a real situation might have needed further clarification);
- Plan out suitable search strategies - explaining which concepts should be searched on in which sources and any additional tools that might be useful;
- Conduct a (number of) suitable "online" searching - discussing in detail the reason for selecting specific "terms" and search logic;
- Knowledge of unused search techniques can also be demonstrated by discussing why these are not appropriate for a specific search request;
- Select potentially interesting documents from a list of results
- Demonstrate knowledge of structure of patents and coding systems.

Question 1

Please try to find prior art in patent databases to possibly invalidate claim 1 of EP 784139 B1.

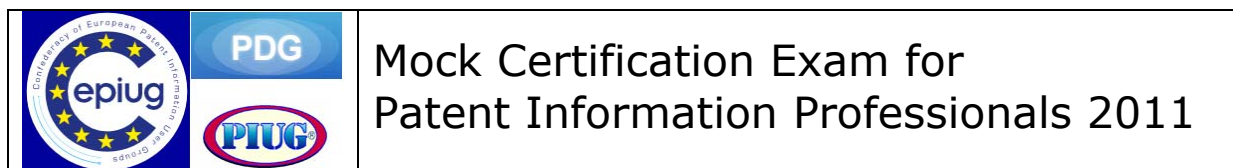
(abstract and figure see below)

Question 2

A client contacts you regarding a new project for developing an optical rain sensor with Fresnel lens structure which controls a windscreen wiper system.

He informs you that he wants to sell this product to car manufacturers in the US and Germany. The client does not want to infringe patents of third parties.

Please perform a patent search and describe the necessary steps for a freedom-to-operate search.

**Patent Number:**

EP0784139-B1

Title:

Vehicular communication system using an ignition key ;

Abstract:

Source: US5745026A In a vehicular communication system a microcomputer of a transmission-reception electronic control unit (ECU) transmits stored data via an antenna coil to a transceiver disposed in an ignition key when the ignition key is inserted in an ignition key cylinder of a vehicle. During communication with the transceiver the microcomputer outputs a key interlock actuating signal. While the key interlock actuating signal is being inputted to a key interlock control circuit the key interlock control circuit operates a key interlock actuator to prevent the ignition key cylinder from being turned to a position at which the ignition key may be freely removed from the ignition key cylinder. Thus the ignition key is prevented from being removed from the ignition key cylinder during communication between the ignition key transceiver and the microcomputer thereby ensuring that data about the vehicle will be stored in a reception device disposed in the ignition key without a failure. ;

Patent Applicants:

TOKAI RIKA CO LTD;

Inventors:

AOKI HISASHI; KOGA SHINICHI; KOKUBU SADA0; MIZUNO TAKASHI;

Family Information:

DE69727087-D1 20040212; EP0784139-A1 19970716;
 EP0784139-B1 20040107; JP9188224-A2 19970722;
 US5745026-A 19980428;

International class (IPC 8):

B60R25/02; B60R25/04; G07C5/08; G07C9/00; H04Q9/00; B60R25/02; B60R25/04; G07C5/00;
 G07C9/00; H04Q9/00;

European class (EPC):

G07C5/08R2B; G07C9/00E4; S07C9/00E12F; S07C9/00E14C2;



Mock Certification Exam for Patent Information Professionals 2011

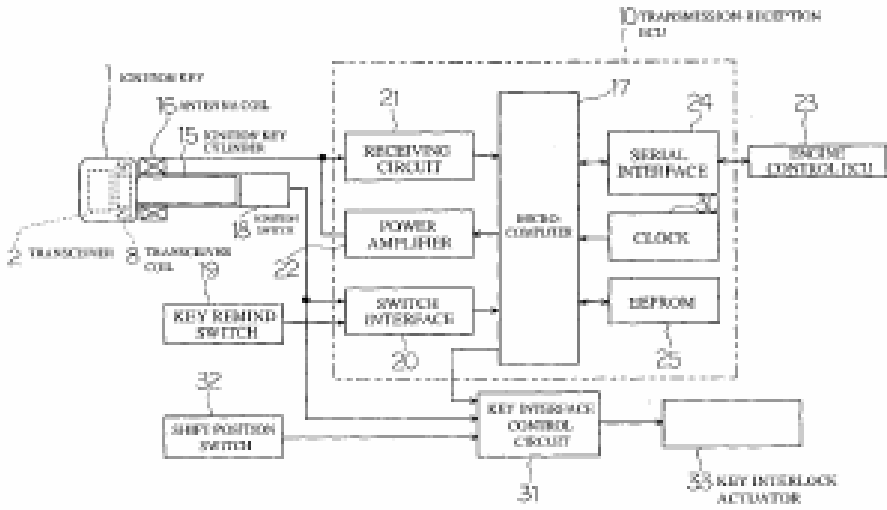


Fig.1