

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1-11 are made subject to a restriction requirement. The claims were restricted in the Office Action into the following inventions:

Group I: Claims 1-8, drawn to a multi-layer piezoelectric element;

Group II: Claim 9, drawn to an injection device;

Group III: Claim 10, drawn to a fuel injection device; and

Group IV: Claim 11, drawn to a method of manufacturing a multi-layer piezoelectric element.

Applicant elects without traverse Group I, corresponding to claims 1-8 for examination on the merits, without prejudice to the filing of a divisional application based on the non-elected claims.

The Office Action states this application also contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention which are as follow:

Injection System (IS) Species:

IS Species I, Figure 11

IS Species II, Figure 12

Multi-Layer Piezoelectric Element (MLPE) Species:

MLPE Species I, Figures 1-4

MLPE Species II, Figures 8 and 9

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External Electrode (EE) Species:

EE Species I, Figures 5(a)

EE Species II, Figures 5(b)

EE Species III, Figure 5(c)

EE Species IV, Figure 5(d)

Non-Formed Region Stress Relaxing Layer (NFRSRL) Species:

NFRSRL Species I, Figure 6(a)

NFRSRL Species II, Figure 6(b);

NFRSRL Species III, Figure 7(a);

NFRSRL Species IV, Figure 7(b).

Applicant elects EE Species III, Figure 5(c).

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Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests examination of claims 1-8. If for any reason the Examiner believes that an interview, either telephonically or in person, would advance prosecution of the application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned to arrange an interview.

Respectfully submitted,

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