

ARGUMENTS

After the foregoing Amendment, claims 1 and 3-10 are currently pending in this application. Claim 2 was previously cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1 and 9 are amended.

Claim 1 has been amended consistent with the requirements for review under the AFCP 2.0 program. Claim 9 has been amended to correct an informality noted in the Action. Accordingly entry of this amendment After Final and reconsideration of the application under the AFCP 2.0 program are appropriate and are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 3-8 contain allowable subject matter.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for the lack of a period at the end of claim 9. A period has been added. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 1 was rejected under pre-AIA 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,786,679 (“Huang”) in view of U.S. Pat. No. 7,819,073 (“Sveen”).

The Action asserts that in view of Huang et al. (US 6,786,679) and Sveen et al. (US 7,819,073), it would have been easy for one of ordinary skill in the art to arrive at the features added to claim 1 by the previous Amendment (i.e., the shape of the column portion, and the third extended portion). However, the deck structure 17 of Huang et al. is a flat-plate structure. Unlike the third extended portion of the invention as defined by claim 1, the deck structure 17 is not located in water. Sveen et al. also does not teach the third extended portion as defined by claim 1 that is located in water.

The claimed shape of the third extended portion defined by claim 1 provides working, advantageous effects, etc. as set forth in the application. Claim 1 is amended to make it clear that the third extended portion is located in water, and accordingly the claimed third extended portion along with the claimed deck structure etc. differ in working and effectiveness from the structures taught by the cited references.

Based on the arguments presented above, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

If the Examiner believes that any additional minor formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, or that a telephonic interview will help to materially advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application, including the pending claims, is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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