


PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 17422	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/SK2022/050003	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 08.03.2022	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 27.12.2021
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC INV. A01K1/02		
Applicant GOLDEN LIONS S.R.O.		
<p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>6</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau</i>) a total of <u>19</u> sheets, as follows:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority, unless those sheets were superseded or cancelled, and any accompanying letters (see Rules 46.5, 66.8, 70.16, 91.2, and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets containing rectifications, where the decision was made by this Authority not to take them into account because they were not authorized by or notified to this Authority at the time when this Authority began to draw up this report, and any accompanying letters (Rules 66.4bis, 70.2(e), 70.16 and 91.2).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> superseded sheets and any accompanying letters, where this Authority either considers that the superseding sheets contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, or the superseding sheets were not accompanied by a letter indicating the basis for the amendments in the application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box (see Rule 70.16(b)).</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the International Bureau only</i>) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) , containing a sequence listing, in the form of an Annex C/ST.25 text file, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see paragraph 3ter of Annex C of the Administrative Instructions).</p>		
<p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the report</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application</p>		
Date of submission of the demand 27.10.2023	Date of completion of this report 08.12.2023	
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016	Authorized officer Sommer, Jean Telephone No. +31 70 340-2868	



Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on
- the international application in the language in which it was filed
 - a translation of the international application into English, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
 - international search (under Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1(b))
 - publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4(a))
 - international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2(a) and/or 55.3(a) and (b))
2. With regard to the **elements*** of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):

Description, Pages

1-15 filed in electronic form on 27-10-2023

Claims, Numbers

1-13 filed in electronic form on 27-10-2023

Drawings, Sheets

1/9-9/9 as originally filed

- a sequence listing - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- the description, pages
 - the claims, Nos.
 - the drawings, sheets/figs
 - the sequence listing (*specify*):
4. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since either they are considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, or they were not accompanied by a letter indicating the basis for the amendments in the application as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rules 70.2(c) and (c-bis)):
- the description, pages
 - the claims, Nos.
 - the drawings, sheets/figs
 - the sequence listing (*specify*):
5. This report has been established:
- taking into account the **rectification of an obvious mistake** authorized by or notified to this Authority under Rule 91 (Rules 66.1(d-bis) and 70.2(e)).
 - without taking into account the **rectification of an obvious mistake** authorized by or notified to this Authority under Rule 91(Rules 66.4bis and 70.2(e)).

6. With regard to top-up searches (Rules 66.1 *ter* and 70.2(f)):
- A top-up search was carried out by this Authority on 27.11.2023 (all discovered documents are listed in the Supplemental Box Relating to Top-up Search).
 - Additional relevant documents have been discovered during the top-up search.
 - No top-up search was carried out by this Authority because it would serve no useful purpose.
7. Supplementary international search report(s) from Authority(ies) has/have been received and taken into account in establishing this report (Rule 45bis.8(b) and (c)).

* *If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded".*

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	<u>1-13</u>
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	<u>1-13</u>
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	<u>1-13</u>
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7):

see separate sheet

Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

see separate sheet

1 **Re Item V**

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1.1 Reference is made to the following documents:

D1 US 2016/057968 A1 (CHANDLER KAREN [US]) 3 March 2016
(2016-03-03)

D2 US 3 822 673 A (BENNY J) 9 July 1974 (1974-07-09)

1.2 **D1** is regarded as being the prior art closest to the subject-matter of claim **1**, and discloses (paragraphs [0017], [0018], [0025], [0027], [0029]; figures 1-8):

A mobile animal housing module formed by a skeleton **1**, **50-56**.

The subject-matter of claim **1** therefore differs from this known mobile animal housing module in that a slide-in modular board for mounting electronic components is arranged in the skeleton, wherein the slide-in modular board is connected to the skeleton by the means of an electric connector and wherein there is at least one electronic component selected from the group consisting of: a heart rate sensor, a blood pressure sensor, a blood sugar sensor, an ECG sensor, a camera with a day/night mode, an infrared chip, a microphone for monitoring sounds, a sensor for monitoring the filling of a retaining tank, a altimeter, an autonomous control unit, arranged in the slide-in modular board.

The subject-matter of claim **1** is therefore new (Article 33(2) PCT).

The problem to be solved by the present invention may be regarded as to provide a mobile animal housing module with improved versatility.

The solution to this problem proposed in claim **1** of the present application is considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) for the following reasons:

The available prior art doesn't provide any incentive to the skilled person to provide a mobile animal housing with a slide-in modular board connected to the skeleton of the mobile animal housing by the means of an electric connector, and comprising at least one electronic component selected from the list above.

The term "*slide-in*" implies corresponding structural elements such as rails or guides allowing sliding.

The pet transporter of **D1** comprises a snap-in electronic module without connector.

D2 discloses an animal housing with a replacable plug-in printed circuit board but is silent about the attachment of said circuit board on the housing.

The skilled person would not be motivated to modify the pet transporter of **D1** to provide a slide-in modular board connected to the skeleton of the mobile animal housing by the means of an electric connector because this would imply structural adaptations of the known pet transporter, going beyond the scope of the customary practice followed by persons skilled in the art.

The subject-matter of claim **1** therefore involves an inventive step in the sense of Article 33(3) PCT.

1.3 Claims **2-13** are dependent on claim **1** and as such also meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step Articles 33(2) and (3) PCT.

1.4 The claimed subject-matter can be made or used in industry, and therefore meets the requirements of industrial applicability (Article 33(4) PCT).

2 **Re Item VIII**

Certain observations on the international application

The application does not meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT, because claims **1**, **4** and **13** are not clear.

2.1 Claim **1** is not supported by the description as required by Article 6 PCT, as its scope is broader than justified by the description and drawings.

It is clear from the description on page 3, lines 12-16 and 18-22 that feature "*The plug-in modular board with selected electronic components according to the user's requirements is removable in order to replace it with another plug-in modular board with other electronic components, as a result of which it is possible to completely change the functions of the mobile module according to the actual need*" is essential to the definition of the invention.

Since independent claim **1** does not contain these features it does not meet the requirement following from Article 6 PCT taken in combination with Rule 6.3(b) PCT that any independent claim must contain all the technical features essential to the definition of the invention.

Claim **1** should be limited to *"a slide-in modular board for mounting electronic components is removably arranged in the skeleton"*.

- 2.2 The term *"extending means"* used in claim **4** is vague and unclear and leaves the reader in doubt as to the meaning of the technical feature to which it refers, thereby rendering the definition of the subject-matter of said claim unclear, Article 6 PCT.

The description and drawings (see page 11, line 4 and figure 13) convey the impression that the *"extending"* function can only be carried out in a particular way, namely by *"wheels"*, and no alternative means are envisaged.

Hence, claim **4** is not supported by the description as required by Article 6 PCT.

- 2.3 The term *"transport means"* used in claim **13** is vague and unclear and leaves the reader in doubt as to the meaning of the technical feature to which it refers, thereby rendering the definition of the subject-matter of said claim unclear, Article 6 PCT.

The description and drawings (see page 12, line 12 and figures 1, 2, 8) convey the impression that the *"transport"* function can only be carried out in a particular way, namely by *"handles"*, and no alternative means are envisaged.

Hence, claim **13** is not supported by the description as required by Article 6 PCT.