IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Request for Extension of Time
Under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a)

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

It is hereby requested that a three-month extension of time be granted in the above identified application from the Final Office Action, dated July 6, 2006, which extends the period for reply to January 6, 2007.

This Extension of time is being requested for the purpose of filing:

☐ a response to the _______ dated _______.
☐ formal drawings.
☐ (The Issue Fee due ______ has been timely filed.)
☐ a Notice of Appeal.
☐ (A timely response to the Final Rejection due ______ has been filed.)
☐ an Appeal Brief.
☒ a Request for Continued Examination (RCE).
☐ Other: ______
☐ Other: ______
☐ The fee for a ______-month extension of time has previously been paid on ______.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 13-2725 in the amount of $1,020.00 to cover any required fees. In the event any variance exists between this amount and the Patent Office Charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary extension of time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to Deposit Account No. 13-2725. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a request is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD, P.C.

Denise M. Kettelberger, Ph.D.
Registration No. 33,924

Suzanne E. Ziska, Ph.D.
Registration No. 43,371

P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
Telephone No. (202) 326-0300
Facsimile No. (202) 326-0778

December 14, 2006

Date

23552
Patent & Trademark Office