

STATEMENT OF CONSIDERATIONS

REQUEST BY GENERAL MOTORS CORPORATION FOR AN ADVANCE
WAIVER OF PATENT RIGHTS UNDER DOE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT
NO. DE-FC36-04GO14255; ENTITLED "TOOLS FOR ASSURANCE OF HIGH
STRENGTH AND FATIGUE RESISTANT ALUMINUM CASTINGS";
W(A)-04-044; CH-1212

As set out in the attached waiver petition and in subsequent discussions with DOE Patent Counsel, General Motors Corporation (GM) has requested an advance waiver of domestic and foreign patent rights for all subject inventions made under the above-identified cooperative agreement by its employees and its subcontractors' employees, regardless of tier, except inventions made by subcontractors eligible to retain title to inventions pursuant to P.L. 96-517, as amended, and National Laboratories. GM is leading a teaming arrangement including various industrial and university participants and the Oak Ridge National Laboratory under DOE's Metal Casting Industries of the Future Program.

Referring to item 2 in GM's waiver petition, the purpose of this agreement encompasses the development of computational techniques for cast aluminum alloy design, melt treatment, microstructure control, and heat treatment optimization that will enable metal casting manufacturers to more reliably and predictably produce fatigue resistant aluminum castings. The computational tools developed under this project will be used to reduce casting development costs, scrap rates, and overall energy consumption in the metal casting industry.

The work under this subcontract is expected to take place over a period of about 36 months at a total cost of \$5,639,748 GM is obligated to cost share \$2,874,127 or 50% of the total cost of the work under the agreement.

In view of the cost sharing and other equities between GM and its subcontractors, it is anticipated that the parties will develop an appropriate allocation of patent rights among the participants to facilitate the expeditious development of the technology forming the subject matter of the agreement. Accordingly, DOE will waive title to all subject inventions made by GM's employees and its subcontractors' employees, regardless of tier, except inventions made by subcontractors eligible to retain title pursuant to P.L. 96-517, as amended, and National Laboratories, to GM or its subcontractors, as mutually agreed by the parties. Except as otherwise approved in writing by DOE Patent Counsel, a party's acceptance of a subcontract under this agreement, at any tier, shall constitute GM's certification that it has provided that party with a copy of this Statement of Considerations and that party's notice to DOE that it accepts the terms and conditions of this advance waiver. Additionally, subcontractors who receive title under this waiver shall notify DOE Patent Counsel in writing of such disposition of patent rights.

Referring to items 5-9 of GM's waiver petition, GM is a leading manufacturer of aluminum castings in the United States which are used in both automotive and marine markets. This, coupled with GM's cost sharing, clearly demonstrates the likelihood that GM will continue development and commercialization of the results of this agreement.

This advance waiver of the Government's rights in inventions is subject to the usual advance patent waiver and background data licensing provisions, and the government license, march-in rights, and preference for U.S. industry provisions set out in 35 U.S.C. 202-204. The advance patent waiver also includes the attached U.S. Competitiveness clause (paragraph t) which requires products embodying any waived invention or produced through the use of any waived invention be manufactured substantially in the United States unless the participant can show to the satisfaction of DOE that it is not commercially feasible to do so. The contractor further agrees to make the above condition binding on any assignee, licensee or other entity acquiring rights to any waived invention, including subsequent assignees or licensees. Should the Contractor or other such entity receiving rights in any waived invention undergo a change in ownership amounting to a controlling interest, then the waiver, assignment, license, or other transfer of rights in the waived invention is suspended until approved in writing by DOE.

Referring to item 10 of the waiver petition, granting this waiver is not anticipated to have any adverse impact on competition as there are a variety of competing technologies in the relevant computational software market.

Considering the foregoing, it is believed that granting this waiver will provide Petitioner with the necessary incentive to invest its resources in the commercialization of the results of the agreement in a fashion which will make the technology available to the public in the shortest practicable time. Therefore, upon evaluation of the waiver petition and in view of the objectives and considerations set forth in 10 CFR Part 784, all of which have been considered, it is recommended that the requested waived be granted.


Thomas G. Anderson
Assistant Chief Counsel
Intellectual Property Law Division

Date: 8-12-04

Based upon the foregoing Statement of Considerations and representations in the attached waiver petition, it is determined that the interests of the United States and the general public will best be served by a waiver of patent rights of the scope described above, and therefore the waiver is granted. This waiver will not apply to any modification or extension of the contract, where through such modification or extension, the purpose, scope or cost of the contract has been substantially altered.

CONCURRENCE:


Douglas E. Kaempfer (Acting) Director
Office of Industrial Technology
Program, EE-2F

Date: 9/15/04

APPROVAL:


Paul A. Gottlieb
Assistant General Counsel for Technology
Transfer and Intellectual Property, GC-62

Date: 9-17-04

(t) U. S. COMPETITIVENESS

The Contractor agrees that any products embodying any waived invention or produced through the use of any waived invention will be manufactured substantially in the United States unless the Contractor can show to the satisfaction of the DOE that it is not commercially feasible to do so. In the event the DOE agrees to foreign manufacture, there will be a requirement that the Government's support of the technology be recognized in some appropriate manner, e.g., recoupment of the Government's investment, etc. The Contractor agrees that it will not license, assign or otherwise transfer any waived invention to any entity unless that entity agrees to these same requirements. Should the Contractor or other such entity receiving rights in the invention undergo a change in ownership amounting to a controlling interest, then the waiver, assignment, license, or other transfer of rights in the waived invention is suspended until approved in writing by the DOE.

WAIVER ACTION - ABSTRACT

W(A)-04-044 (CH-1212)

REQUESTOR

GENERAL MOTORS
CORPORATION

CONTRACT SCOPE OF WORK

TOOLS FOR ASSURANCE OF HIGH
STRENGTH AND FATIGUE RESISTANT
ALUMINUM CASTINGS

RATIONALE FOR DECISION

50% COST SHARING

DISPOSITION