

BL O/203/11

10 June 2011

PATENTS ACT 1977

APPLICANT

Techniqs Ltd

ISSUE Whether patent application number GB 1015057.1 complies with sections 1(1)(a)-(c) and 14(3)

HEARING OFFICER J Pullen

DECISION

- 1 This application GB 1015057.1 entitled 'A charging unit' is directed to a charging unit, incorporating an air cooling system, to place the charge back in an electric vehicle. It was filed on 10 September 2010 claiming priority from GB 0917530.8, dated 7 October 2009, and was published as GB 2474328 on 13 April 2011.
- 2 There have been several rounds of correspondence between the inventor, Mr Christopher Lee, and the examiner. I do not need to go into this in detail, but as matters stand Mr Lee has been unable to overcome the substantive examiner's objections under sections 1(1)(a)-(c) and 14(3) of the Patents Act 1977.
- 3 The matter therefore came before me at a hearing on 15 April 2011, attended by Mr Lee (who is not professionally assisted), my assistant, Mrs Nicola Payne and the substantive examiner, Mr Rowland Hunt were also present.
- 4 The invention claims to be a charging unit for an electric vehicle consisting of a turbine attached to a driveshaft or axle of said vehicle to create electric current to power a battery and further comprising an internal air cooling system. An outer mechanism of the turbine remains static as it is attached to an outer shell/casing of the driveshaft or axle as a fixed component. An inner mechanism of the turbine is joined to an inner mechanism of the driveshaft or axle as a the electric vehicle moves. The air cooling mechanism includes an outer casing surrounding the turbine, said casing having angled vents, and an inner casing also having angled vents. The application states that as the electric vehicle moves, air is forced through the outer casing and the inner casing, thus cooling the turbine.

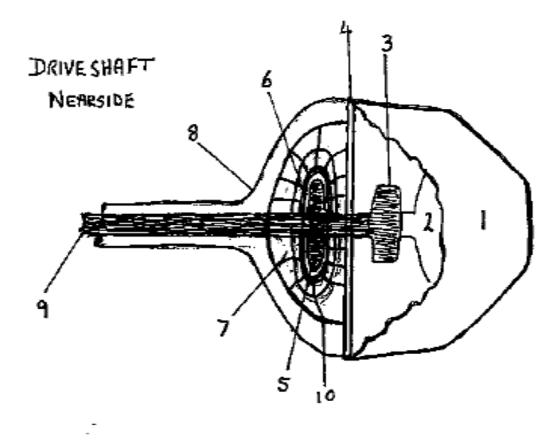


Figure 1 of the application is shown below:

- 5 It is unclear from the description how the outer mechanism of the turbine (labelled 6 on the above figure), which is intended to remain static, is fixed, as no shell/casing of the driveshaft or axle is shown.
- 6 I began the Hearing by asking Mr Lee to describe how his invention, as set out in the application as originally filed, was intended to work. Mr Lee could not clearly describe how the components of the apparatus of his invention interacted in a manner which would allow the apparatus to function.
- 7 If I were to assume, for the sake of argument, that a shell/casing of the driveshaft or axle were implicit, it is not clear how the blades of the turbine would rotate without interfering with the shell/casing of the driveshaft or axle. Whilst several scenarios were discussed at the hearing, none could be achieved without a significant level of inventive skill.
- 8 It follows that the specification does not disclose the invention in a manner which is clear enough and complete enough for the invention to be performed by a person skilled in the art.
- 9 I therefore agree with the examiners assessment that the invention is not sufficiently disclosed to meet the requirements of section 14(3) of the Act. Since

it is not possible to add new information to the specification in order to overcome this defect, I therefore refuse this application under section 18(3) of the Act.

10 Having refused the application, I therefore do not need to consider the remaining outstanding objections with respect to Sections 1(a)-(c) of the Act.

Appeal

11 Under the Practice Direction to Part 52 of the Civil Procedure Rules, any appeal must be lodged within 28 days.

J Pullen

Deputy Director, acting for the Comptroller