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Geneva 20, Switzerland
World Intellectual Property
Organization(WIPO)International Bureau

NOTIFICATION OF EX OFFICIO PROVISIONAL REFUSAL
TO THE INTERNATIONAL BUREAU OF WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (WIPO)
UNDER RULE 17(1) OF THE COMMON REGULATIONS

1. Office of the Designated Contracting Party:

Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO)
189 Cheongsa-ro, Seo-gu, Daejeon Metropolitan City, 35208, Republic of Korea

2. International Registration/Subsequent Designation No. (International Registration/Subsequent Designation Date):

1574744 (11/11/2020)

3. Trademark:

Dermapen

4. Name and Address of the Holder:

Biosoft (Australia) Pty Ltd
14/13a Narabang Way, Belrose, NSW, 2085 Australia

5. Goods/Services Affected by this Provisional Refusal:

All the designated goods/services

※ This is a total provisional refusal. The effect of this provisional refusal covers all the designated goods/services. Please be noted that a grant of protection for the partial designated goods/services is not allowed. [Act 54, Korean Trademark Act]

6. Date on which the Provisional Refusal was issued (Time Limit):

10/02/2022(10/04/2022)

7. Grounds for the Decision:

- ☐ Lack of distinctiveness
- ☒ Likelihood of confusion with others' earlier marks
- ☐ Vagueness and/or broadness of the designated goods/services
- ☐ Unconformity to "a single application for a single trademark rule"
- ☐ Other grounds

※ Please refer to item 9 for the details

8. Provisions of Refusal:

Article 34(1)(vii), Article 35(1)

9. Details of the Provisional Refusal:

The International Registration has been reviewed by the assigned examiner and is not eligible for registration for the following ground(s):

(Ground 1)

The applied-for mark is identical or similar to the registered marks (see below) which were applied for registration in the Republic of Korea prior to the International Registration date of

the applied-for mark. [Article 34(1)(vii), Korean Trademark Act]

More specifically, the applied-for mark “**Dermapen**” is identical/similar to the registered marks presented below in sound.

☐ Information concerning the earlier mark

- Filing number : 4020150014617
- Filing date : 27/02/2015
- Korean registration number : 4011308420000
- Korean registration date : 17/09/2015
- Name and address of the owner : LEE Sang Tae
13, Nambusunhwan-ro 297na-gil, Seocho-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea
- Goods :

[Class 10] 미용 의료기기,스킨케어/치료용 IPL장치,약액흡입촉진용 의료장치,약액주입기,약제 흡입촉진용 의료장치,약제용 주사기,외과용 핸드피스,의료기기(치과용은 제외),의료용 레이저 피부관리기구,의료용 및 주입용 주사기,의료용 바늘,의료용 사혈기,의료용 실 삽입기,의료용 여드름치료기,의료용 주사액주입기,의료용 주사기,의료용 주사침,의료용 천공기,의료용 천자침,의료용 필러주입기,

- Reproduction of the mark:

DermaPen

* Goods of the applied-for mark in relation to this ground : all the designated goods.

(Ground 2)

The assigned examiner has reviewed the International Registration and determined that it is not eligible for registration, regarding all the designated goods under Korean Trademark Act, Article 35(1).

Trademark registration is not acceptable under the above-mentioned Article if the applied-for mark is identical to another person's pending marks (see below), which were applied for registration before the international registration date of the applied-for mark and all the designated goods are related to those of the earlier marks.

In this case, the applied-for mark “**Dermapen**” is similar to the earlier marks because the former is identical in sound to the latter presented below.

However, this reason for refusal could be reviewed if another person's pending applications are abandoned, withdrawn, invalidated or finally decided to be refused or if the applicant deletes the refused goods listed below (underlined goods).

In the case where the earlier marks applied by another person are finally registered, the subject application of trademark can not be registered according to Article 34(1)(vii) of the same Act.

☐ Information concerning the earlier mark (1)

- International registration number : 1542201
- Priority date : US/88304173/15/02/2019
- International registration date : 19/06/2019
- Korean registration date : undefined
- Name and address of the owner : DERMA PEN IP HOLDINGS, LLC
1975 West Bay Drive, Suite 301 Largo FL 33770 United States of America
- Goods/services :

[Class 03] Non-medicated creams for topical application to the skin, Non-medicated creams for topical application to the skin, Non-medicated creams for topical application to the skin, sunscreen, body lotions, body lotions, body lotions, moisturizing body lotions, moisturizing body lotions, moisturizing body lotions, skin lotions, skin lotions, skin lotions, skin masks for cosmetic purposes, non-medicated creams containing hyaluronic acid, non-medicated creams containing hyaluronic acid, non-medicated creams containing hyaluronic acid, non-medicated skin serums, non-medicated skin serums, non-medicated skin serums, non-medicated creams containing vitamin C, non-medicated creams containing vitamin C, non-medicated creams containing vitamin C, non-medicated creams containing peptides, non-medicated creams containing peptides, non-medicated creams containing peptides, non-medicated serums for scars, non-medicated serums for scars, non-medicated serums for scars, cosmetics., cosmetics., cosmetics., sunscreen, sunscreen

[Class 10] Cosmetic micro-needling devices, microneedling devices for non-surgical treatments, therapeutic devices, skin treatment devices using multiple needles in a vibrating method for performing skin treatment procedures, microneedling tips.

[Class 35] Online wholesale and retail services related to cosmetics, Online wholesale and retail services related to beauty devices, Online wholesale and retail services related to cosmetic products, Online wholesale and retail services related to beauty products, retail and wholesale services for micro-needling devices, microneedling products and sales.

[Class 39] Online and wholesale distribution of cosmetic products, cosmetic and beauty products, devices and procedures, Online and wholesale distribution of cosmetic products, cosmetic and beauty products, devices and procedures, Online and wholesale distribution of cosmetic products, cosmetic and beauty products, devices and procedures.

[Class 41] Education and training services including cosmetic and aesthetics educational and training service, workshops, seminars, courses live and online and downloadable training in the field of cosmetic and aesthetics educational and training service, workshops, seminars live, online and downloadable, online training, training, workshops, courses for topical sales, microneedling products and sales and instructional courses for microneedling products, sales, and training, online training, training, workshops, courses for topical sales, microneedling products and sales and instructional courses for microneedling products, sales, and training, online training, training, workshops, courses for

topical sales, microneedling products and sales and instructional courses for microneedling products, sales, and training, online training, training, workshops, courses for topical sales, microneedling products and sales and instructional courses for microneedling products, sales, and training, online training, training, workshops, courses for topical sales, microneedling products and sales and instructional courses for microneedling products, sales, and training, online training, training, workshops, courses for topical sales, microneedling products and sales and instructional courses for microneedling products, sales, and training, Education and training services including cosmetic and aesthetics educational and training service, workshops, seminars, courses live and online and downloadable training in the field of cosmetic and aesthetics educational and training service, workshops, seminars live, online and downloadable

[Class 44] Cosmetic services, and skin services, and skin services, health services, and cosmetic skin care services, and treatments .

– Reproduction of the mark:

DERMAPEN

* Goods of the applied-for mark in relation to this ground : all the designated goods

☐ Information concerning the earlier mark (2)

– International registration number : 1513095

– International registration date : 26/11/2019

– Korean registration date : undefined

– Name and address of the owner : Dermapen IP Holdings, LLC

1975 West Bay Dr. Suite 301 Largo, Florida 33770 United States of America

– Goods :

[Class 10] Needles and multiple hypodermic needles for use in a vibrating method for performing skin treatment procedures, needles and hypodermic needles for use with skin devices, medical devices, namely, surgical devices that facilitate the identification, separation or ablation of biologic tissues, apparatus for the regeneration of stem cells for medical purposes, skin treatment devices using multiple needles in a vibrating method for performing skin treatment procedures.

– Reproduction of the mark:

Derma
IP
Dermapen

* Goods of the applied-for mark in relation to this ground : all the designated goods.

10. Guidance for the response:

It is suggested that you may choose one of responses as below

A. Response before KIPO

- (1) In order to respond to this provisional refusal before KIPO directly [Article 66(1), Korean Trademark Act], the holder of the International Registration is obliged to be represented by a licensed attorney who is entitled to represent third parties in the Republic of Korea. [Article 6, Korean Trademark Act]
- (2) Time limit is within two months from the date on which the notification of this provisional refusal is issued. The holder may request an extension of time to submit a written opinion/amendment to KIPO. The extension can be permitted twice for a period of one month respectively. The request for extension must be made within the given time limit. [Article 17(1)(i), Korean Trademark Act]

B. Response before WIPO

The holder may submit a limitation of the list of goods and/or services (MM6 form) before WIPO directly within the given time limit. [Rule 25 (1)(a)(ii), Common Regulations]

11. Official Seal or Signature by the Office:

KIPO Examiner Jinhee Bae 

<< Information >>

※ If the holder has any questions or needs assistance in responding to this notification, please contact the examiner. E-mail: kipomadrid@korea.kr, Telephone: (+82) (42) 481 8349, Fax: (+82) (42) 472 3507
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Extract from the Korean Trademark Act

Article 3 Persons Entitled to Registration of Trademark

(1) Any person who uses or intends to use a trademark in the Republic of Korea may obtain registration of his/her trademark: Provided, That no employee of the Korean Intellectual Property Office or the Intellectual Property Trial and Appeal Board shall obtain registration of a trademark while he/she is in office, except by inheritance or bequest.

Article 6 Trademark Manager of Non-Resident

(1) Except where a person who is not domiciled or does not have his/her place of business in the Republic of Korea (hereinafter referred to as "non-resident") resides in the Republic of Korea, the non-resident (in cases of a corporation, referring to the representative thereof) may follow trademark-related procedures or bring a lawsuit against measures taken by an administrative authority in accordance with this Act or an order issued under this Act only through a person who is domiciled or has his/her place of business in the Republic of Korea (hereinafter referred to as "trademark manager") as an agent managing the trademark of the non-resident.

(2) A trademark manager shall represent his/her principal in a lawsuit with respect to trademark-related procedures or a disposition made by an administrative authority in accordance with this Act or an order issued under this Act, within the scope of authority delegated to him/her.

Article 220 Service on Non-Resident

(1) Where a non-resident has a trademark manager, any document to be served on such non-resident shall be served on his/her trademark manager: Provided, That the foregoing shall not apply where an examiner notifies an applicant for international trademark registration of grounds for rejection via the International Secretariat pursuant to Article 190.

(2) Where a non-resident does not have a trademark manager, any document to be served on such non-resident may be sent by registered airmail.

(3) Where a document is sent by registered airmail pursuant to paragraph (2), such document shall be deemed served on the date the document is sent.

Article 33 Requirements for Trademark Registration

(1) Trademark registration may be obtained, excluding the following trademarks:

1. A trademark consisting solely of a mark indicating, in a common manner, the common name of the goods;
 2. A trademark used customarily in connection with the goods;
 3. A trademark consisting solely of a mark indicating, in a common manner, the place of production, quality, raw materials, effect, usage, quantity, shape, price, method of production, method of processing, method of use or time of the goods;
 4. A trademark consisting solely of a conspicuous geographical name, the abbreviation thereof, or a map;
 5. A trademark consisting solely of a mark indicating a common surname or name according to the method in common use;
 6. A trademark consisting solely of a simple and readily available mark;
 7. In addition to trademarks under subparagraphs 1 through 6, a trademark which is unrecognizable for consumers to identify which goods related to whose business it indicates.
- (2) Even if a trademark falls under any of paragraph (1) 3 through 6, where such trademark is recognizable to consumers as a trademark indicating the source of goods of a specific person as a result of using the trademark before filing an application for trademark registration, trademark registration may be granted limited to the goods on which such trademark is used.
- (3) Even if a mark falls under paragraph (1) 3 (limited to place of production) or 4, where such mark is a geographical indication for specific goods, an applicant may obtain registration of a collective mark with geographical indication for goods using such geographical indication as designated goods (referring to the goods designated pursuant to Article 38 (1) and the goods additionally designated pursuant to Article 86 (1); hereinafter the same shall apply).

Article 34 Trademarks Ineligible for Trademark Registration

(1) Notwithstanding Article 33, none of the following trademarks shall be registered:

1. Any of the following trademarks, which is a national flag of a country, an insignia of an international organization, etc.:

(a) Any trademark identical or similar to the national flag, the national emblem, the colors, medals, decorations or insignias of the Republic of Korea, or seals or signs used for supervision or certification by the Republic of Korea or public institutions;

(b) Any trademark identical or similar to any national flag of a country of the Union to the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property (hereinafter referred to as the "Paris Convention"), of a member of the World Trade Organization, or of a Contracting Party to the Trademark Law Treaty (hereafter in this paragraph, referred to as "countries of the Union, etc.");

(c) Any trademark identical or similar to the title, abbreviated title, or mark of the Red Cross, the International Olympic Committee, or a renowned international organization: Provided, That where such organization has applied for trademark registration of its title, abbreviated title, or mark, trademark registration may be obtained;

(d) Any trademark identical or similar to coats of arms, flags, medals, decorations or badges of the countries of the Union, etc., designated by the Commissioner of the Korean Intellectual Property Office after notification by the World Intellectual Property Organization pursuant to Article 6-3 of the Paris Convention, or titles, abbreviated titles, coats of arms, flags, medals, decorations or badges of inter-governmental international organizations which countries of the Union, etc., have joined: Provided, That where an inter-governmental international organization which the countries of the Union, etc., have joined applies for trademark registration of its title, abbreviated title, or mark, trademark registration may be obtained;

(e) Any trademark identical or similar to seals or signs used for supervision or certification by countries of the Union, etc., designated by the Commissioner of the Korean Intellectual Property Office after notification by the World Intellectual Property Organization pursuant to Article 6-3 of the Paris Convention or their public organizations, which is used for the goods identical or similar to those for which such seals or signs are used;

2. Any trademark which falsely indicates a relationship with a state, race, ethnic group, public organization, religion, or famous deceased person, or which slanders, insults, or is likely to defame any of them;

3. Any trademark identical or similar to a famous mark, which is a mark indicating nonprofit business or public service of a state, public organization, or any of its agencies and a non-profit corporation: Provided, That where such state, etc., has applied for trademark registration of its mark, trademark registration may be obtained;

4. Any trademark whose meaning, content, etc., conveyed to consumers is likely to harm public order, such as being contrary to moral norms, the prevailing moral sense of ordinary people, where the trademark itself is used or the trademark is used for goods;

5. Any trademark consisting of a mark identical or similar to a medal, certificate of merit or decoration awarded at an exhibition held by or with the approval of the Government of the Republic of Korea or at an exhibition held by or with the approval of the government of a foreign country: Provided, That where a person who has been awarded at such exhibition uses such mark as part of the trademark for the awarded goods, trademark registration may be obtained;

6. Any trademark containing the name, title, or trade name, portrait, signature, seal, literary name, stage name, pen name of a prominent person, or his/her abbreviated title: Provided, That where the consent of such person has been obtained,

trademark registration may be obtained;

7. Any trademark used for goods identical or similar to the designated goods, which is identical or similar to the registered trademark of another person (excluding any registered collective mark with geographical indication) based on first to file;

8. Any trademark used on goods recognized as identical to the designated goods, which is identical or similar to a registered collective mark with geographical indication of another person based on first to file;

9. Any trademark identical or similar to a trademark (excluding a geographical indication) widely recognized by consumers as indicating the goods of another person, which is used on goods identical or similar to the goods of another person;

10. Any trademark identical or similar to a geographical indication of another person widely recognized by consumers as indicating the goods of a specific region, which is used on goods recognized as identical to the goods using such geographical indication;

11. Any trademark likely to cause confusion with goods or business of another person remarkably recognized by consumers or to dilute their distinctiveness or reputation;

12. Any trademark which is likely to mislead consumers about the quality of goods or deceive consumers;

13. Any trademark which is identical or similar to a trademark (excluding a geographical indication) recognized as indicating the goods of a specific person by consumers in the Republic of Korea or overseas, which is used for unlawful purposes, such as unjust enrichment or inflicting loss on the specific person;

14. Any trademark which is identical or similar to a geographical indication recognized as indicating the goods of a specific region by customers in the Republic of Korea or overseas, which is used for unlawful purposes, such as unjust enrichment or inflicting loss on any legitimate users of such geographical indication;

15. Any trademark consisting solely of the three-dimensional shape, color, combination of colors, sound, or smell, which is essential (in cases of services, referring to cases essential for the use and purpose thereof) to secure the function of goods intended to obtain trademark registration or of the package of such goods;

16. Any trademark intended to be used on wine or distilled beverages, which consists of a geographical indication of the place of production of wine or distilled beverages or contains such geographical indication in a member of the World Trade Organization: Provided, That where a legitimate user of the geographical indication applies for registration of a collective mark with geographical indication under Article 36 (5) by designating the relevant goods as the designated goods, he/she may obtain trademark registration;

17. Any trademark which is identical or similar to the name of a variety registered pursuant to Article 109 of the Act on the Protection of New Varieties of Plants, which is used for goods identical or similar to the name of such variety;

18. Any trademark which is identical or similar to a geographical indication of another person registered pursuant to Article 32 of the Agricultural and Fishery Products Quality Control Act, which is used on goods recognized as identical to the goods using such geographical indication;

19. Any trademark which is identical or similar to a geographical indication of another person protected in accordance with a bilateral or multilateral free trade agreement which has come into effect, concluded by the Republic of Korea with a foreign country or foreign countries, or which consists of or contains such geographical indication, used on goods deemed identical to the goods using such geographical indication;

20. Any trademark for the registration of which an applicant applies on goods, which is identical or similar to such trademark, while he/she is aware that another person uses or intends to use the trademark through a contractual relationship, such as partnership or employment, or business transactional relationship, or any other relationship;

21. Any trademark for the registration of which any person who has or had a contractual relationship, such as partnership or employment, business contractual relationship, or any other relationship with a person who holds the right to the trademark registered, which is identical or similar to the trademark registered in a State party to the treaty, applies on goods by designating goods identical or similar to the goods on which the trademark is designated as the designated goods without the consent of the person who holds the right to the trademark.

(2) Whether paragraph (1) and an applicant for trademark registration (hereinafter referred to as "applicant") correspond to another person under the relevant provision shall be determined based on the time a decision corresponding to any of the following is made (hereinafter referred to as "decision on whether to grant trademark registration"): Provided, That in cases falling under paragraph (1) 11, 13, 124, 20 and 21, whether an applicant corresponds to another person under the relevant provision shall be determined based on the time an application for trademark registration is filed:

1. Decision to reject trademark registration under Article 54;

2. Decision to grant trademark registration under Article 68.

(3) Where a trial to revoke trademark registration is requested because a trademark right holder or a person who uses a trademark of such trademark right holder falls under Article 119 (1) 1 through 3 and 5 through 9, and he/she falls under any of the following after the date such lawsuit is commenced, he/she may obtain trademark registration only where he/she applies for registration of a trademark identical or similar to such trademark (limited to where he/she intends to obtain trademark registration again by designating identical or similar goods (in cases of a collective mark with geographical indication, referring to goods deemed identical) as the designated goods) after three years from the date he/she falls under any of the following:

1. Where trademark rights are extinguished upon expiry;

2. Where a trademark right holder relinquishes trademark rights or abandons some of the designated goods;

3. Where a trial decision to revoke trademark registration is final and conclusive.

(4) None of the provisions of paragraph (1) 8 and 10 shall apply to homonymous collective marks with a geographical indication.

Article 35 First to File

(1) Where at least two applications for trademark registration are filed on different days with respect to the same or similar trademark to be used on the same or similar goods, only the first person who files an application may obtain registration of such trademark.

Article 38 One Application for One Trademark

(1) Any person who intends to file an application for trademark registration shall file an application for each trademark by designating at least one category of goods in accordance with the classification of goods.

(2) Specific goods belonging to the category of goods under paragraph (1) shall be prescribed and announced by the Commissioner of the Korean Intellectual Property Office.

(3) No classification of any category of goods under paragraph (1) shall be construed as prescribing the range of similarity of goods.

Article 54 Decision to Reject Trademark Registration

Where an application for trademark registration falls under any of the following, an examiner shall decide to reject trademark registration:

1. Where a trademark fails to meet the definitions of a trademark, collective mark, geographical indication, collective mark with geographical indication, certification mark, certification mark with geographical indication, or business emblem under Article 2 (1);

2. Where a trademark is in violation of the treaty;

3. Where a trademark cannot be registered pursuant to Articles 3, 27, 33 through 35, 38 (1), the latter part of Article 48 (2), paragraph (4) or (6) through (8) of the aforesaid Article;

4. Where a person is not entitled to registration of a collective mark, certification mark and business emblem under Article 3;

5. In cases of an application for registration of a collective mark with geographical indication, the articles of incorporation of an organization

actually do not permit persons to join the organization as its members, such as the prohibition of persons from joining the organization in accordance with the articles of incorporation, or impracticable conditions for joining the organization are stipulated in the articles of incorporation;

6. Where all or some of the matters concerning the use of a collective mark prescribed by Presidential Decree are not stated in the articles of incorporation under Article 36 (3), or all or some of the matters concerning the use of a certification mark prescribed by Presidential Decree are not stated in the articles of incorporation or the rules under paragraph (4) of the aforesaid Article;

7. In cases of an application for registration of a certification mark, the articles of incorporation actually do not permit persons who may use such certification mark to use it, such as the prohibition of persons from using it in accordance with the articles of incorporation or the rules without justifiable grounds, or impracticable conditions of use thereof are stipulated in the articles of incorporation or the rules.

Article 55 Notification of Grounds for Rejection

(1) Where an examiner intends to decide to reject trademark registration pursuant to Article 54, he/she shall notify an applicant of grounds for rejection (referring to grounds provided in any of the subparagraphs of the aforesaid Article; hereinafter referred to as "grounds for rejection") in advance. In such cases, the applicant may submit a written opinion about grounds for rejection within a period prescribed by Ordinance of

the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy.

(2) Where an examiner notifies an applicant of grounds for rejection pursuant to paragraph (1), he/she shall specify the grounds and basis for rejection of each of the designated goods.

(3) An applicant who fails to submit a written opinion within a period under the latter part of paragraph (2) may apply for continuing trademark-related procedures and submit a written opinion addressing the grounds for rejection within two months from the expiration date of such period.

Article 115 Trial against Decision to Dismiss Amendment

Where a person who receives a decision to dismiss an amendment under Article 42 (1) appeals against such decision, he/she may request a trial within 30 days from the date he/she is served with a certified copy of such decision.

Article 116 Trial against Decision to Reject

Where a person who receives a decision to reject trademark registration, decision to reject registration of additional designated goods or decision to reject registration of the conversion of the classification of goods (hereinafter referred to as "decision to reject") under Article 54 appeals against such decision, he/she may request a trial within 30 days from the date he/she is served with a certified copy of such decision to reject.

Korean Trademark Act URL: <http://www.kipo.go.kr/eng/>