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## **Green Technology Petition Pilot**

**Robert W. Bahr**



# Green Tech: Discussion Points

1. Authority and Overview: resources / overview
2. Petition Requirement: common errors and tips
3. Petition Review: process, statistics, examples
4. Future



# Green Tech: Authority

- **Federal Register: December 8, 2009 (Vol. 74, No. 234); pages 64666-64669**
- **Pilot was announced by Secretary Locke in Washington, DC – coinciding with the start of UN’s Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark**
- **Part of an Obama Administration effort to spur innovation and create jobs**
- **Information, including Press Release, Federal Register Notice, Form, FAQs, Statistics and Contacts, can be found at:  
[http://www.uspto.gov/patents/init\\_events/green\\_tech.jsp](http://www.uspto.gov/patents/init_events/green_tech.jsp)**



# Green Tech: Overview

- **Pilot will run for twelve months from its effective date, i.e. December 8, 2009**
- **Limited to specific areas of green technology**
  - Environmental quality
  - Energy conservation
  - Development of renewable energy resources
  - Greenhouse gas emission reduction
  - Must meet USPC requirements set forth in the Federal Register Notice
- **Limited to the first 3,000 petitions granted by USPTO**
- **“Special” status**
  - Advances an application out of turn for initial examination
  - Accorded special status in any appeal to the BPAI and in the patent publication process



# Green Tech: Filing Requirements

1. **Non-reissue, non-provisional utility application filed under 35 USC 111(a) or a 35 USC 371 application**
2. **Application must have been filed prior to December 8, 2009 or be a 35 USC 371 filing based on an international application filed prior to December 8, 2009**
3. **Filed electronically via EFS-Web**
4. **Filed at least one day prior to the date that a first Office action appears in PAIR**
5. **Include a request for early publication in compliance with 37 CFR 1.219 and the publication fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.18(d). Note that payment is required even if the application has already published**



# Green Tech: Filing Requirements

6.  **$\leq 3/20$  claims directed to a single invention having no multiple dependent claims**
7. **State basis for special status and include a statement explaining how the materiality standard is met**
8. **Statement that the applicant agrees to make a telephonic election without traverse if a restriction requirement is made by the examiner**
9. **Application must be classified in one of the U.S. patent classifications (USPCs) set forth in the Federal Register Notice**



# Green Tech: Filing Requirements

- **USPC requirement includes subclasses in 58 distinct classification classes and encompasses seven TCs**
- **Eligible classifications cover a wide range of green technologies**
  - **Some examples include:**
    - **Biofuel (USPC 44/589, 605)**
    - **Solar energy (USPC 126/561-714; 320/101)**
    - **Hybrid-powered vehicles (USPC 180/65.21-65.29; 73/35.01-35.13, 112-115, 116-119A, 121-132)**
- **USPC requirement is purposefully narrow in order for the USPTO to balance the workload**
- **The USPTO recognizes that many technologies that could be considered “green”, but are not included in the pilot**



# Green Tech: Common Filing Errors

- **USPC requirement not met**
  - Accounts for >80% of dismissals to-date
- **Petition missing materiality statement**
- **Petition does not include publication fee**
- **Application filed after December 8, 2009**



# Green Tech: Filing Tips

- **Use of form PTO/SB/420 is strongly encouraged**
- **Ensure that the USPC requirements are met**
  - **Contact SPE/examiner to correct erroneous USPC's prior to filing petition**
- **Include payment of publication fee**
  - **Must be paid even if application has been published**



# Green Tech: Petition Review

- **The Technology Centers are currently deciding all Green Technology petitions**
- **Current goal is for an initial decision to be rendered within two weeks of petition receipt date**
- **Applications must be in a docket-ready status, *i.e.* released by Office of Patent Application Processing (OPAP), in order for a decision to be rendered**
- **A single request for reconsideration may be filed within 30 days of a decision dismissing the petition**
- **Applicant may amend the claims and suggest a new USPC to overcome any initial USPC defect**



# Green Tech: Statistics





# Green Tech: Statistics





# Green Tech: Example

(19) **United States**  
(12) **Patent Application Publication**  
**Potter**

(10) **Pub. No.: US 2008/0290665 A1**  
(43) **Pub. Date: Nov. 27, 2008**

(54) **FUNNELED WIND TURBINE AIRCRAFT**

**Publication Classification**

(76) **Inventor:** Lynn Potter, Barstow, CA (US)  
**Correspondence Address:**  
**LOZA & LOZA LLP**  
305 N. Second Avenue, #127  
Upland, CA 91786-6064 (US)

(51) **Int. Cl.**  
*F03D 1/04* (2006.01)  
*F03D 11/04* (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... 290/55; 244/33; 416/9; 415/7

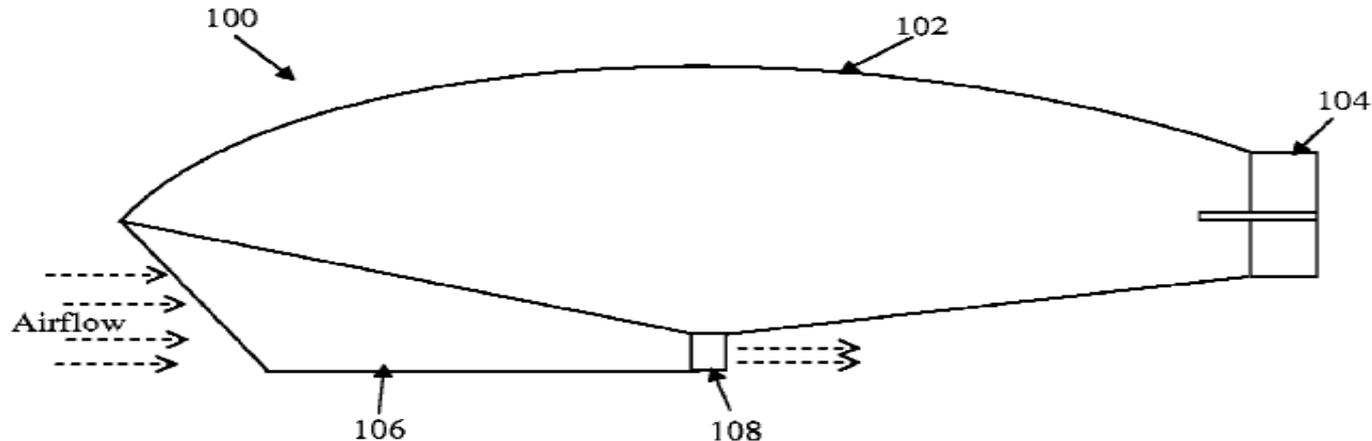
(21) **Appl. No.:** 12/124,573  
(22) **Filed:** May 21, 2008

**Related U.S. Application Data**

(60) Provisional application No. 60/939,604, filed on May 22, 2007.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

An aircraft adapted to house a wind funnel and a wind turbine configured to convert the airflow through the wind funnel into electricity. An electrical cable between the aircraft and a ground station transfers the generated electricity from the aircraft to the receiving ground station for distribution. A plurality of aircraft according to certain embodiments may form a system for generating electricity from airflow.





# Green Tech: Example

(19) **United States**

(12) **Patent Application Publication**

Hacke et al.

(10) **Pub. No.: US 2010/0024881 A1**

(43) **Pub. Date: Feb. 4, 2010**

(54) **INTERCONNECT TECHNOLOGIES FOR BACK CONTACT SOLAR CELLS AND MODULES**

(60) Provisional application No. 60/871,717, filed on Dec. 22, 2006.

#### Publication Classification

(75) **Inventors:** Peter Hacke, Golden, CO (US); David H. Meakin, Albuquerque, NM (US); James M. Gee, Albuquerque, NM (US); Brian Murphy, Albuquerque, NM (US)

(51) **Int. Cl.**  
*H01L 31/00* (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... 136/256

(57) **ABSTRACT**

Correspondence Address:  
**PEACOCK MYERS, P.C.**  
201 THIRD STREET, N.W., SUITE 1340  
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87102 (US)

Methods and systems for interconnecting back contact solar cells. The solar cells preferably have reduced area busbars, or are entirely busbarless, and current is extracted from a variety of points on the interior of the cell surface. The interconnects preferably relieve stresses due to solder reflow and other thermal effects. The interconnects may be stamped and include external or internal structures which are bonded to the solder pads on the solar cell. These structures are designed to minimize thermal stresses between the interconnect and the solar cell. The interconnect may alternatively comprise porous metals such as wire mesh, wire cloth, or expanded metal, or corrugated or fingered strips. The interconnects are preferably electrically isolated from the solar cell by an insulator which is deposited on the cell, placed on the cell as a discrete layer, or laminated directly to desired areas of the interconnect.

(73) **Assignee:** ADVENT SOLAR, INC., Albuquerque, NM (US)

(21) **Appl. No.:** 12/563,040

(22) **Filed:** Sep. 18, 2009

#### Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation of application No. 11/963,841, filed on Dec. 23, 2007.



# Green Tech: Future

- USPTO may extend the pilot program (with or without modifications) to extend longer than twelve months and/or include more than 3,000 granted petitions
- Any extension will be announced by the USPTO via a written notice, i.e. a Federal Register or OG Notice.
- Future suggestions regarding the Green Tech Petition Pilot should be directed to Pinchus Laufer ([Pinchus.Laufer@uspto.gov](mailto:Pinchus.Laufer@uspto.gov)) and Blaine Copenheaver ([Blaine.Copenheaver@uspto.gov](mailto:Blaine.Copenheaver@uspto.gov))



# Questions

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**Thank You**