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(71) Applicant: **AGFA-GEVAERT N.V.**
2640 Mortsel (BE)

(72) Inventors:
• **Van Damme, Marc**
2640 Mortsel (BE)
• **Vermeersch, Joan**
2640 Mortsel (BE)
• **Deroover, Geert**
2640 Mortsel (BE)

(54) **A method for making positive working printing plates from a heat mode sensitive imaging element**

(57) According to the present invention there is provided a method for making lithographic printing plates including the following steps

- a) preparing a heat mode imaging element consisting of a lithographic base with a hydrophilic surface and a top layer which top layer is sensitive to IR-radiation, comprises a polymer, soluble in an aqueous alkaline solution and is unpenetrable for an alkaline developer containing SiO₂ as silicates;
- b) exposing imagewise said heat mode imaging element to IR-radiation;
- c) developing said imagewise exposed heat mode imaging element with said alkaline developer so that the exposed areas of the top layer are dissolved and the unexposed areas of the top layer remain undissolved characterized in that said top layer includes an IR-dye selected from the group consisting of indoaniline dyes, cyanine dyes, merocyanine dyes, oxonol dyes, porphine derivatives, anthraquinone dyes, merostyryl dyes, pyrylium compounds, diphenyl and triphenyl azo compounds and squarylium derivatives.

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 4 November 1999	Examiner Rasschaert, A
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