



(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:
02.09.2009 Bulletin 2009/36

(51) Int Cl.:
G03G 15/00 (2006.01) G03G 21/02 (2006.01)

(43) Date of publication A2:
07.05.2008 Bulletin 2008/19

(21) Application number: **07119039.1**

(22) Date of filing: **23.10.2007**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR HU IE IS IT LI LT LU LV MC MT NL PL PT RO SE SI SK TR
Designated Extension States:
AL BA HR MK RS

(72) Inventors:
• **Mullender, Matthijs F.**
5912 SC, Venlo (NL)
• **Meijer, Joost**
5921 HC, Venlo (NL)

(30) Priority: **03.11.2006 EP 06123438**

(74) Representative: **van Meeteren, Arend Anthonie**
Océ-Technologies B.V.
Corporate Patents
Postbus 101
5900 MA Venlo (NL)

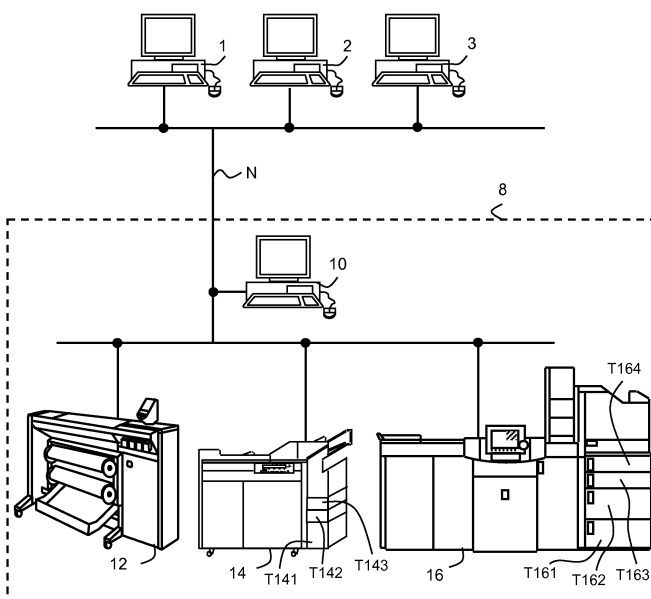
(71) Applicant: **Océ-Technologies B.V.**
5914 CC Venlo (NL)

(54) **Method and system for monitoring a stock of consumable material**

(57) The invention relates to a method for monitoring a stock of consumable material in a system comprising an image forming apparatus having means for identifying a consumable material item inserted therein, a stock monitoring module, means for deriving usage data relating to consumable material in the stock and memory means. The method comprises the steps of identifying a

consumable material item inserted in the image forming apparatus, sending the identity of said item to the stock monitoring module, creating a distinct entry for said item in the memory means upon reception for the first time by the stock monitoring module of the identity of said item and deriving usage data relating to said item. The invention further relates to a system for monitoring a stock of consumable material.

FIG. 1





EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 07 11 9039

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	US 2006/029399 A1 (PARK SANG-CHEOL [KR] ET AL) 9 February 2006 (2006-02-09)	1-3,7-11	INV. G03G15/00 G03G21/02
Y	* paragraphs [0003], [0028], [0029]; figure 4 *	6	
A		5	
X	US 2005/120260 A1 (SUZUKI KENJI [JP] ET AL) 2 June 2005 (2005-06-02)	1-3,7-11	
	* paragraphs [0004], [0030], [0031]; figure 1 *		
D,X	US 5 305 199 A (LOBIONDO MARTIN F [US] ET AL) 19 April 1994 (1994-04-19)	1,4,7,8,12	
	* column 2, lines 39-68 *		
	* column 3, line 47 - column 4, lines 4,45-49 *		
	* column 5, lines 21-24; figures 3,7 *		
Y	EP 0 996 041 A2 (HEWLETT PACKARD CO [US]) 26 April 2000 (2000-04-26)	6	
	* paragraphs [0029], [0023] - [0026]; figures 1,2A,2B *		
A	US 2006/133831 A1 (ROMMELMANN HEIKO [US] ET AL) 22 June 2006 (2006-06-22)	1-12	
	* paragraphs [0005], [0025] - [0027], [0036], [0038]; figures 3,6,7 *		
A	JP 08 152816 A (MITA INDUSTRIAL CO LTD) 11 June 1996 (1996-06-11)	1,8	
	* abstract; figures 9-11 *		
A	EP 0 589 130 A2 (TOKYO SHIBAURA ELECTRIC CO [JP] TOKYO SHIBAURA ELECTRIC CO [US]) 30 March 1994 (1994-03-30)	1,8	
	* column 7, lines 32-42,56 - column 8, line 5 *		
	* column 10, lines 36-44; figures 6,9,14,15 *		
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
The Hague		24 July 2009	Van Ouytsel, Krist'l
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

 2
EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 07 11 9039

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

24-07-2009

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 2006029399 A1	09-02-2006	NONE	
US 2005120260 A1	02-06-2005	JP 2005148647 A	09-06-2005
US 5305199 A	19-04-1994	JP 6149851 A	31-05-1994
EP 0996041 A2	26-04-2000	DE 69920134 D1	21-10-2004
		DE 69920134 T2	22-09-2005
		JP 2000132363 A	12-05-2000
		US 6052547 A	18-04-2000
US 2006133831 A1	22-06-2006	CN 1834800 A	20-09-2006
		JP 2006171768 A	29-06-2006
JP 8152816 A	11-06-1996	NONE	
EP 0589130 A2	30-03-1994	DE 69312830 D1	11-09-1997
		DE 69312830 T2	05-03-1998
		JP 3139849 B2	05-03-2001
		JP 6102717 A	15-04-1994