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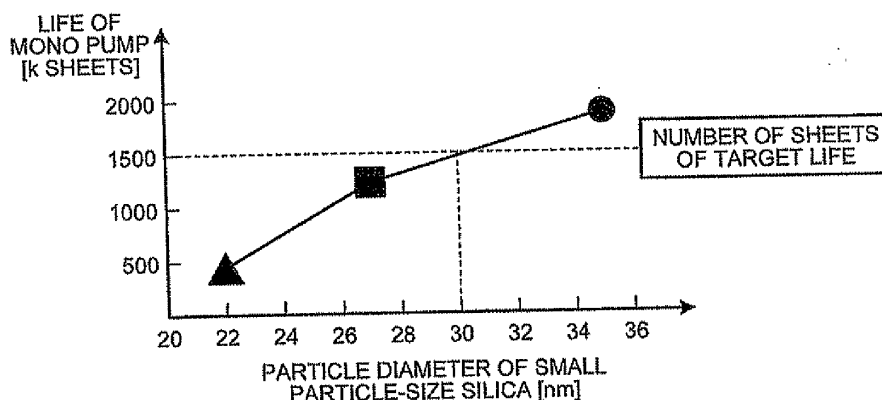
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(54) **Toner supplying unit and image forming apparatus**

(57) In the present invention, a toner supplying unit (130) includes a powder pump (131) and houses therein toner transferred by the powder pump (131). The powder pump (131) includes a stator (132) having a through hole (106) formed of a groove extending helically and a rotor (135) having a helical groove formed on the outer circumferential surface thereof such that a gap (G) for trans-

ferring the toner is formed between the helical groove and the inner circumferential surface of the through hole (106), and transfers the toner entering the gap (G) by rotating the rotor (135) and moving the gap (G). To the toner, inorganic fine particles with a volume-average particle diameter of equal to or larger than 30 nm are externally added.

FIG.1





EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 6 March 2017	Examiner Mandreoli, Lorenzo
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	

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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EP 13 15 3574

5 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
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