

(Correction A)

The following recitation in [Claim 15] of the scope of claims,

"the terminal holder has at least a first stage, and a second stage which projects toward the mount apparatus further than the first stage in a state where the accessory is mounted on the mount apparatus ", is corrected to the following recitation,

"the terminal holder has at least a first stage and a second stage different from the first stage, wherein the first stage projects toward the mount apparatus further than the second stage in a state where the accessory is mounted on the mount apparatus".

The Correction is made with respect to Claims 15 to 28 after the correction, which are a group of claims.

No. 3 Judgment by the body

Hereinafter, regarding Claim 15 according to the Correction A, the claim before the correction and the claim after the correction are referred to as "Claim 15 before correction" and "Claim 15 after correction", respectively. The inventions according to Claim 15 before correction and Claim 15 after correction are referred to as "Invention 15 before correction" and "Invention after correction", respectively.

1 Regarding the Patent

(1) Description of the detailed description of the invention

The detailed description of the invention includes the following description with drawings.

"[Technical field]

[0001]

The present invention relates to a mount apparatus provided with terminals that enable electrical connection to another device, and accessories."

"[Background Art]

[0002]

It is commonly known that an accessory (camera accessory) that can be mounted on and dismounted from an image capturing apparatus is supplied with power from the image capturing apparatus or performs communication to exchange, for example, various commands and data with the image capturing apparatus in a state where the accessory is mounted on the image capturing apparatus. In general, for power supply and communication as described above, a mount portion called a mount of the image

capturing apparatus and that of the accessory are each provided with a plurality of terminals, the plurality of terminals of one of the mounts being electrically connected to those of the other mount when coming into contact with those of the other mount. Each of the plurality of terminals may perform communication independently of one another using different communication systems."

"[Problem to be solved by the invention]

[0005]

With the enhancement of functionality of image capturing apparatuses and accessories, the amount of data transmitted and received between an image capturing apparatus and an accessory increases. Accordingly, it is desirable to increase the number of terminals of the image capturing apparatus and that of the accessory.

[0006]

However, in an image capturing apparatus and an accessory that employ, for example, a bayonet coupling mechanism as described in the technique disclosed in the Patent document 1 described above, the terminals increasingly wear out from mounting and dismounting of the accessory on and from the image capturing apparatus due to an increase in the number of terminals. In this case, wearing out leads to, for example, a decrease in the insulation resistance of the terminals, a short circuit between the terminals, or an increase in the contact resistance of the terminals, resulting in a decrease in reliability in terms of electrical connections between the terminals.

[0007]

In the case of employing, for example, a bayonet coupling mechanism and providing the terminal for detecting mounting as described in the technique disclosed in the Patent document 1 described above, it is desirable to prevent erroneous detection of mounting of an accessory in a state where an electrical connection between corresponding terminals is not established.

[0008]

The present invention provides a technique for preventing erroneous detection of mounting of an accessory on a mount apparatus while suppressing a decrease in reliability in terms of electrical connection."

"[0029]

Now, the functions of terminals common to the camera mount A and the lens mount B are described. VDD terminals 1001 and 2001 are power supply terminals for supplying communication control power (VDD), which is communication power used

mainly in communication control, from the camera body 100 to a camera accessory (for example, the first interchangeable lens 200). The voltage of the power to be supplied to the first interchangeable lens 200 is set to 5.0 V."

"[0033]

MIF terminals 1005 and 2005 are terminals for detecting mounting of a camera accessory (for example, the first interchangeable lens 200) on the camera body 100. The camera controller 101 detects a voltage level indicated by the MIF terminals to detect mounting or removal of a camera accessory on or from the camera body 100. After the camera controller 101 has detected, for example, mounting of a camera accessory as a result of the detection, the camera controller 101 performs control to start supplying power to the power-supply-system terminals and to start communication between the camera body 100 and the camera accessory."

"[0043]

(Structure of Mount Portion 1)

Now, the structure of the mount portion 1 including the camera mount A and the lens mount B is described with reference to FIGS. 4 and 5. FIGS. 4 are diagrams illustrating the structure of the camera mount A and that of the lens mount B relating to the embodiment of the Invention. FIG. 4(a) is a front view of the camera mount A provided on the camera body 100, and FIG. 4(b) is a front view of the lens mount B provided on the first interchangeable lens 200. FIGS. 5 are diagrams each illustrating the state of connection between terminals in a case of rotating the camera mount A and the lens mount B relating to the embodiment of the Invention relative to each other. FIG. 5(a) illustrates a mounting-start state of the camera mount A and the lens mount B, FIG. 5(b) illustrates a mounting-intermediate state of the camera mount A and the lens mount B, and FIG. 5(c) illustrates a mounting-completion state of the camera mount A and the lens mount B. FIGS. 5 illustrate states where the terminals provided on the mounts are viewed in a direction orthogonal to the optical axis of the camera mount A and the lens mount B. The optical axis described above is parallel to a center axis that passes through the center of the opening of the camera mount A and that of the lens mount B."

"[0049]

The mount portion 1 according to this embodiment is a two-stage mount having a height level difference in the optical-axis direction, as illustrated in FIGS. 4 and 5.

As illustrated in FIG. 5(a), in the camera mount A of the camera body 100, a stage that projects toward the object side is referred to as a camera mount upper stage (second stage), and a stage on the image sensor side is referred to as a camera mount lower stage (first stage). That is, the camera mount upper stage projects toward the object side (or the camera accessory side) in the optical-axis direction further than the camera mount lower stage.

[0050]

As illustrated in FIG. 5(b), in the lens mount B of the first interchangeable lens 200, a stage that is recessed toward the object side is referred to as a lens mount lower stage (second stage), and a stage that projects toward the image sensor side in a state where the lens mount is mounted on the camera mount is referred to as a lens mount upper stage (first stage). That is, in the state where the lens mount is mounted on the camera mount, the lens mount upper stage projects toward the image capturing apparatus side in the optical-axis direction further than the lens mount lower stage. In this structure, the terminals on the camera mount upper stage can come into contact with only the terminals on the lens mount lower stage, and the terminals on the camera mount lower stage can come into contact with only the terminals on the lens mount upper stage. In the camera mount A, the camera mount lower stage is located on the near side in the direction of rotation relative to the lens mount B (the accessory mount direction), and the camera mount upper stage is located on the far side. In the lens mount B, the lens mount upper stage is located on the near side in the direction of rotation relative to the camera mount A, and the lens mount lower stage is located on the far side."

"[0058]

In a case of rotating the camera mount and the lens mount relative to each other to mount or dismount the camera accessory on or from the image capturing apparatus, as in a bayonet coupling mechanism, terminals provided on one of the mounts slide on terminals provided on the other mount during mounting or dismounting. In general, on a single plane in the optical-axis direction, on the camera mount side, the contact pin present furthest in the lens mount direction does not slide on contact faces on the accessory side that do not correspond to the furthest contact pin when the camera accessory is mounted on or dismounted from the image capturing apparatus. On a single plane in the optical-axis direction, on the lens mount side, the contact face present nearest in the lens mount direction does not slide on contact pins on the camera side that do not correspond to the nearest contact face when the camera accessory is mounted on

or dismantled from the image capturing apparatus. Therefore, a contact pin (terminal) of the camera mount which is positioned further than the other contact pins (terminals) does not slide (contact) on other contact surfaces of the lens mount, except for a contact surface of the lens mount which contacts the contact pin when the camera accessory is mounted to the image capturing apparatus. Similarly, a contact surface (terminal) of the camera mount which is positioned nearer in the lens mount direction than the other contact surfaces (terminals) does not slide (contact) on other contact pins except for contact pins which contact the contact surface when the camera accessory is mounted to the image capturing apparatus.

[0059]

However, terminals other than the above-described terminals wear out as the number of times the lens mount is mounted on and dismantled from the camera mount increases. Specifically, the terminals (contact pins) of the camera mount are movable pins that can be advanced and retreated (projected and retracted) in a direction parallel to the optical axis, and slide on the terminals (contact faces) of the lens mount at a tip point thereof. Therefore, the contact pins need to be made increasingly durable to sliding.

[0060]

The above-described issue becomes more noticeable as the number of terminals disposed in a line on a single plane orthogonal to the optical axis increases, and the number of times the contact pins slide on the contact faces increases. As the contact pins and the contact faces wear out, the contact impedance of the terminals increases, and the voltage significantly drops to a level lower than the allowable operating voltage range of an electric circuit. As a result, for example, a malfunction of the interchangeable lens may occur.

[0061]

Accordingly, in this embodiment, in order to decrease the number of times terminals slide on other terminals, the terminals are held at different positions in the optical-axis direction, namely, on the two stages including the upper stage and the lower stage, and the contact pins on the camera side come into contact with the contact faces on the interchangeable lens side at different heights depending on whether the stage is the upper stage or the lower stage. With this structure, for each stage that holds the terminals, wearing out of the terminals can be reduced.

[0062]

Further, in this embodiment, for each mount, the number of terminals held on the upper stage is different from the number of terminals held on the lower stage.

Therefore, for example, when terminals of high importance among the plurality of terminals are disposed on the stage having a smaller number of terminals, wearing out of the important terminals can be reduced. Specifically, on each of the camera mount upper stage and the lens mount lower stage having a smaller number of terminals, the power-supply-system terminals (the VDD terminal, the VBAT terminal, and the PGND terminal), which are signal terminals in which an increase in the contact impedance is to be suppressed to the largest extent possible, are arranged. On each of the camera mount lower stage and the lens mount upper stage, there are arranged terminals that are used mainly in communication and are less likely to be affected by an increase in the impedance (than the power-supply-system terminals) are arranged. This structure enables stable power supply to the accessory and contributes to stable operations (for example, focus control) of the camera accessory."

"[0085]

As illustrated in FIGS. 5, in the mount portion 1 according to this embodiment, the MIF terminal 1005 is disposed furthest in the lens mount direction on the camera mount lower stage, and the MIF terminal 2005 is disposed furthest in the lens mount direction on the lens mount upper stage. With this structure, wearing out of the MIF terminals, which are terminals for detecting the state of mounting of the lens mount B on the camera mount A and which are important terminals serving as a trigger for starting and ending communication between the camera and the camera accessory, can be reduced."

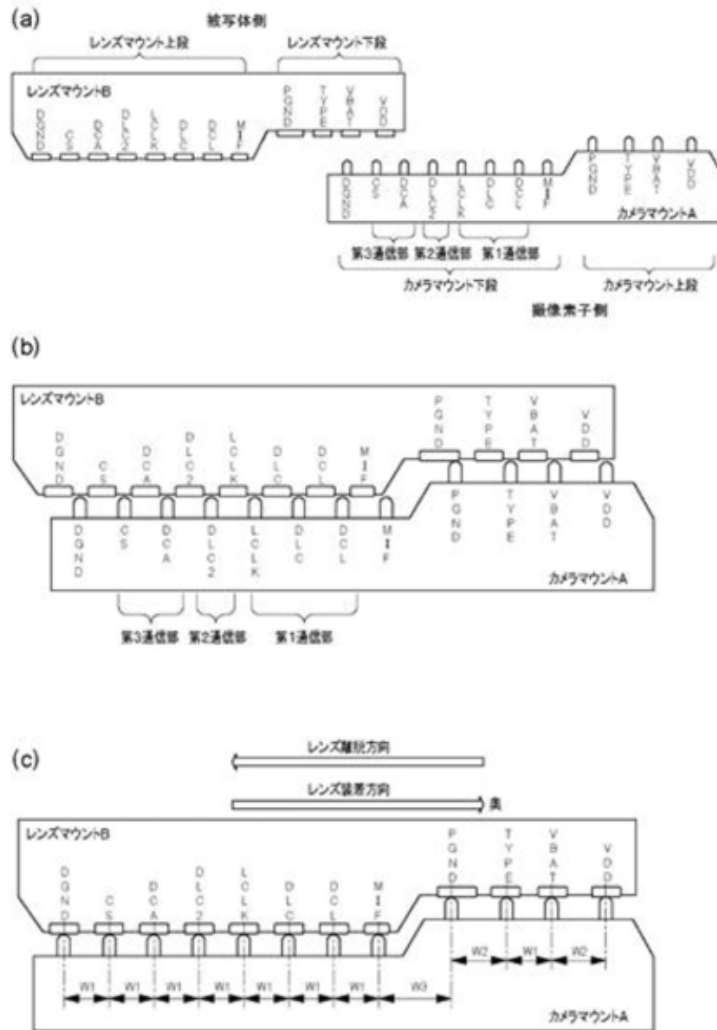
"[0258]

For the issues described above, in this embodiment, in the camera mount A and in the lens mount B, the MIF terminals 1005 and 2005 are disposed on the far side in the lens mount direction on the camera mount lower stage and on the lens mount upper stage respectively. That is, in this embodiment, the terminals are disposed at positions so that the MIF terminal 1005 of the camera mount A does not slide on any terminals other than the MIF terminal 2005 of the lens mount B when the lens mount is mounted on or dismantled from the camera mount. With this structure, erroneous detection of mounting of a camera accessory by the camera body 100 can be prevented. Further, with this structure, power is supplied from the camera body 100 to the camera accessory in a state where the corresponding power-supply-system terminals are connected to each other and the corresponding ground terminals are connected to each other with certainty. Therefore, in the camera body 100 and each camera accessory according to this

embodiment, the possibility of a malfunction or a failure in the camera body 100 and in the camera accessory can be reduced."

(2) Description of drawings

FIGS. 5 are as follows.



- | | |
|-----------|---------------------------|
| 被写体側 | object side |
| レンズマウント上段 | lens mount upper stage |
| レンズマウント下段 | lens mount lower stage |
| レンズマウントB | lens mount B |
| カメラマウントA | camera mount A |
| 第3通信部 | third communication unit |
| 第2通信部 | second communication unit |

第1通信部	first communication unit
カメラマウント下段	camera mount lower stage
カメラマウント上段	camera mount upper stage
撮像素子側	image sensor side
レンズ離脱方向	lens dismount direction
レンズ装着方向	lens mount direction
奥	back

2 Recitation of Claim 15 before correction and Claim 15 after correction according to Correction A

(1) The recitation of Claim 15 before correction is as follows as recited in Claim 15 of the scope of claims of the Patent.

"[Claim 15]

An accessory mountable on and dismountable from an image capturing apparatus including a first mount,

wherein a second mount is configured to allow coupling to the first mount of the mount apparatus, comprising:

a plurality of terminals disposed in a circumferential direction of the second mount and configured to be used in electrical connection to corresponding terminals disposed in the mount apparatus, and

a terminal holder configured to hold the plurality of terminals,

wherein, each of the plurality of terminals is electrically connectable to a plurality of terminals disposed in a circumferential direction of the first mount in the mount apparatus,

the terminal holder has a height level difference in a direction parallel to a center-axis of the second mount,

the plurality of terminals include a first terminal to be used to detect mounting of the accessory on the mount apparatus and a second terminal configured to receive communication power from the mount apparatus in a state where the accessory is mounted on the mount apparatus,

the terminal holder has at least a first stage, and a second stage which projects toward the mount apparatus further than the first stage in a state where the accessory is mounted on the mount apparatus, the first terminal is disposed on the first stage of the terminal holder and disposed nearer the second stage than the other terminals among a plurality of terminals, and

the second terminal is disposed on the second stage of the terminal holder."

(2) The recitation of the Claim 15 after correction is as follows.

"An accessory mountable on and dismountable from a mount apparatus including a first mount,

wherein a second mount is configured to allow coupling to the first mount of the mount apparatus, comprising:

a plurality of terminals disposed in a circumferential direction of the second mount and configured to be used in electrical connection to corresponding terminals disposed in the mount apparatus, and

a terminal holder configured to hold the plurality of terminals,

wherein, each of the plurality of terminals is electrically connectable to a plurality of terminals disposed in a circumferential direction of the first mount in the mount apparatus,

the terminal holder has a height level difference in a direction parallel to a center-axis of the second mount,

the plurality of terminals include a first terminal to be used to detect mounting of the accessory on the mount apparatus and a second terminal configured to receive communication power from the mount apparatus in a state where the accessory is mounted on the mount apparatus,

the terminal holder has at least a first stage and a second stage different from the first stage, wherein the first stage projects toward the mount apparatus further than the second stage in a state where the accessory is mounted on the mount apparatus, the first terminal is disposed on the first stage of the terminal holder and disposed nearer the second stage than the other terminals among a plurality of terminals, and

the second terminal is disposed on the second stage of the terminal holder."

3 Judgment on requirements for correction with respect to the Correction A

(1) Regarding the proviso to Article 126(1) of the Patent Act

The Demandant alleges in the written demand for trial that the purpose of the correction is "correction of errors or incorrect translations". First, the body examines whether the Correction A is aimed at correction of errors or not.

The "error" may be accepted when incorrectness of the description before the correction, and correctness of the description after the correction, are both obvious from the specification of the Patent, descriptions of the scope of the claims or drawings, or common general technical knowledge of a person skilled in the art, and when a person skilled in the art naturally notices the error and understands the correct meaning as

after the correction.

The body examines the following points in sequence: (i) whether or not a person skilled in the art who has found the specification of the Patent (hereinafter referred to as "the Specification"), the scope of claims (hereinafter referred to as "the Scope of claims") and drawings (hereinafter referred to as "the Drawings") notices some kind of error in the recitation of Claim 15 before correction; (ii) when notices the error in (i), whether or not the person skilled in the art finds that the incorrect recitation of Claim 15 before correction exists in "has ... a second stage which projects toward the mount apparatus further than the first stage in a state where the accessory is mounted on the mount apparatus"; (iii) when finds the incorrect recitation in (ii), whether or not the person skilled in the art recognizes the correct meaning of the incorrect recitation; (iv) whether or not the recognized correct meaning in (iii) is identical with the meaning of Claim 15 after correction.

A (i) Regarding recognition of the presence of error in Claim 15 before correction

The body examines whether or not a person skilled in the art who has found the Specification, the Scope of claims, and the Drawings notices some kind of error in the recitation of Claim 15 before correction.

(A)

The Specification includes the description as a problem, "in an image capturing apparatus and an accessory", "the terminals increasingly wear out from mounting and dismounting of the accessory on and from the image capturing apparatus due to an increase in the number of terminals", resulting in "a decrease in reliability in terms of electrical connections between the terminals" ([0006]). As means for solving the problem, the Specification describes the following technical matters: "in order to decrease the number of times terminals slide on other terminals, the terminals are held at different positions in the optical-axis direction, namely, on the two stages including the upper stage and the lower stage, and the contact pins on the camera side come into contact with the contact faces on the interchangeable lens side at different heights depending on whether the stage is the upper stage or the lower stage. With this structure, for each stage that holds the terminals, wearing out of the terminals can be reduced" ([0061]); and "in the camera mount A and in the lens mount B, the MIF terminals 1005 and 2005 are disposed on the far side in the lens mount direction on the camera mount lower stage and on the lens mount upper stage respectively. That is, in this embodiment, the terminals are disposed at positions so that the MIF terminal 1005 of the camera mount A does not slide on any terminals other than the MIF terminal

2005 of the lens mount B when the lens mount is mounted on or dismounted from the camera mount. With this structure, erroneous detection of mounting of a camera accessory by the camera body 100 can be prevented" ([0258]).

The description in the Specification, "the terminals are disposed at positions so that the MIF terminal 1005 of the camera mount A does not slide on any terminals other than the MIF terminal 2005 of the lens mount B", is acceptable in terms of solving the above problem. The description in the Specification is also consistent with the arrangement of the terminals in FIGS. 5 (especially, the MIF terminal of the camera mount A is located on the camera mount lower stage and disposed nearer the camera mount upper stage than the other terminals, and the terminals of the lens mount B are in consistency with the terminals of the camera mount A arranged as above, in other words, the MIF terminal of the lens mount B is located on the lens mount upper stage and disposed nearer the lens mount lower stage than the other terminals). Inconsistency between the arrangement of the terminals in FIGS. 5 and the arrangement of terminals to be understood from the description of the Specification is not recognized.

(B)

However, a person skilled in the art may recognize that the arrangement of the terminals recited in Claim 15 before correction is not consistent with the arrangement of the terminals in FIGS. 5, and as a result, also may recognize that Claim 15 before correction is not configured so that "the terminals are disposed at positions so that the MIF terminal 1005 of the camera mount A does not slide on any terminals other than the MIF terminal 2005 of the lens mount B", as follows.

a

Regarding the relation between the arrangement of the terminals recited in Claim 15 before correction and the Specification and FIGS. 5, the "second mount" which is considered to be equipped in the "accessory" in Claim 15 before correction, obviously corresponds to the "lens mount B" (not to the "camera mount A") in the Specification and FIGS. 5 in light of the meaning of "accessory". Therefore, the "first mount" equipped in the "mount apparatus" in Claim 15 before correction corresponds to the "camera mount A" in the Specification and FIGS. 5.

The "first terminal to be used to detect mounting of the accessory on the mount apparatus" recited in Claim 15 before correction is, according to the description in [0033] of the Specification, the "MIF terminal." As the "first terminal" recited in Claim 15 before correction is equipped in the "accessory", it corresponds to the "MIF terminal of the lens mount B" in the Specification and FIGS. 5.

The "second terminal configured to receive communication power from the

mount apparatus in a state where the accessory is mounted on the mount apparatus" recited in Claim 15 before correction is, according to the description in [0029] of the Specification, the "VDD terminal." As the "second terminal" recited in Claim 15 before correction is equipped in the "accessory", it corresponds to the "MIF terminal of the lens mount B" in the Specification and FIGS. 5.

The direction "toward the mount apparatus" in Claim 15 before correction, recited in "has ... a second stage which projects toward the mount apparatus further than the first stage in a state where the accessory is mounted on the mount apparatus", corresponds to the direction toward "image sensor side" in FIGS. 5.

b

Hereinafter, the "first stage" on which the "first terminal" (MIF terminal of the lens mount B) is disposed, recited in Claim 15 before correction, is referred to as "communication terminal stage." The "second stage" on which the "second terminal" (VDD terminal of the lens mount B) is disposed, is referred to as "power-supply terminal stage".

c

According to the recitation in Claim 15 before correction, "the terminal holder (Note by the body: equipped in the "second mount" (lens mount B)) has at least a first stage, and a second stage which projects toward the mount apparatus further than the first stage in a state where the accessory is mounted on the mount apparatus, the first terminal is disposed on the first stage of the terminal holder and disposed nearer the second stage than the other terminals among a plurality of terminals", in Claim 15 before correction it is recited that the lens mount B (second mount) has at least a communication terminal stage (first stage) and a power-supply terminal stage (second stage), and that the power-supply terminal stage (second stage) is a stage which projects toward an image sensor side further than the communication terminal stage (first stage). Furthermore, in Claim 15 before correction, it is recited that the MIF terminal of the lens mount B (first terminal) is disposed, on the communication terminal stage (first stage), nearer the power-supply terminal stage (second stage) than the other terminals.

d

Accordingly, in Claim 15 before correction, it is recited that, in the lens mount B, the power-supply terminal stage (second stage) on which the VDD terminal is disposed is a stage which projects toward an image sensor further than the communication terminal stage (first stage) on which the MIF terminal is disposed, and that the MIF terminal is disposed nearer the power supply terminal stage (second stage) than the other terminals. Comparing the arrangement recited in Claim 15 before correction and

the arrangement in FIGS. 5, they are identical in that the MIF terminal is disposed nearer the power-supply terminal stage than the other terminals. However, there is a difference as to whether the communication terminal stage or the power-supply terminal stage projects further; the power-supply terminal stage projects further in Claim 15 before correction, while the communication terminal stage projects further in FIGS. 5.

In FIGS. 5, the MIF terminal of the camera mount A is located on the camera mount lower stage and disposed nearer the camera mount upper stage than the other terminals, and the terminals of the lens mount B are in consistency with the terminals of the camera mount A arranged as above; in other words, the MIF terminal of the lens mount B is located on the lens mount upper stage and disposed nearer the lens mount lower stage than the other terminals. The arrangement of the terminals in FIGS. 5 is, as described in (A), considered to solve the problem that "a decrease in reliability in terms of electrical connections between the terminals" of the "MIF terminal of the camera mount A" resulting from the fact that "in an image capturing apparatus and an accessory, the terminals increasingly wear out from mounting and dismounting of the accessory on and from the image capturing apparatus due to an increase in the number of terminals". On the other hand, the above arrangement is not recited in Claim 15 before correction, and the invention recited in Claim 15 before correction cannot be considered to solve the problem.

As described above, a person skilled in the art may recognize that the arrangement of the terminals recited in Claim 15 before correction is inconsistent with the arrangement of the terminals in FIGS. 5, and also may recognize that Claim 15 before correction is not configured so that "the terminals are disposed at positions so that the MIF terminal 1005 of the camera mount A does not slide on any terminals other than the MIF terminal 2005 of the lens mount B".

(C)

In addition, inconsistency is not found between the arrangement of the terminals in FIGS. 5 and the arrangement of the terminals to be understood from the Specification as described in (A). Therefore, it can be said that only the recitation of Claim 15 before correction is inconsistent with other descriptions through the descriptions of the Specification, the Scope of claims, and the Drawings.

Thus, a person skilled in the art who has found the Specification may notice that some kind of error is included in the recitation of Claim 15 before correction.

B (ii) Regarding recognition of the incorrect recitation in Claim 15 before correction

As described in A, the body examines whether a person skilled in the art, who notices an error in Claim 15 before correction, finds that the incorrect recitation of Claim 15 before correction exists in "has ... a second stage which projects toward the mount apparatus further than the first stage in a state where the accessory is mounted on the mount apparatus".

As indicated in A (B) d, regarding the arrangement of the MIF terminal of the lens mount B, there is a difference between the recitation of Claim 15 before correction where the power-supply terminal stage (second stage) projects further, and the description of FIGS. 5 where the communication terminal stage (first stage) projects further. This means that an error is included in concerning recitation.

Therefore, it can be found that the incorrect recitation of Claim 15 before correction exists in "has ... a second stage which projects toward the mount apparatus further than the first stage in a state where the accessory is mounted on the mount apparatus".

C (iii) Regarding recognition of correct meaning in Claim 15 before correction

As the configuration of the "lens mount B" and the "camera mount A" shown in FIGS. 5 of the Drawings, in mounting or dismounting the "lens mount B", may prevent the "MIF terminal" of the "camera mount A" from sliding on any terminals other than "the MIF terminal" on the "communication terminal stage" (first stage) of the "lens mount B", it can be recognized that the correct recitation in Claim 15 before correction should be; the "first stage (communication terminal stage)" equipped with the "first terminal (MIF terminal)" projects toward the mount apparatus (image sensor side) further than the "second stage (power-supply terminal stage)".

D (iv) Comparison between the correct recitation in Claim 15 before correction and the recitation of Claim 15 after correction

Regarding the "first stage" and the "second stage", Claim 15 after correction recitates as follows: "the terminal holder has at least a first stage and a second stage different from the first stage, wherein the first stage projects toward the mount apparatus further than the second stage in a state where the accessory is mounted on the mount apparatus". This recitation is consistent with the correct meaning of Claim 15 before correction indicated in C that the "first stage (communication terminal stage)" projects toward the mount apparatus (image sensor side) further than the "second stage (power-supply terminal stage)".

E Summary

As described above, it is obvious from the descriptions of the specification of the Patent, the scope of claims or drawings, or common general technical knowledge of a person skilled in the art, that the recitation before the correction, "the terminal holder has at least a first stage, and a second stage which projects toward the mount apparatus further than the first stage in a state where the accessory is mounted on the mount apparatus", is an error, and that the recitation after the correction, "the terminal holder has at least a first stage and a second stage different from the first stage, wherein the first stage projects toward the mount apparatus further than the second stage in a state where the accessory is mounted on the mount apparatus", is correct. It can be said that a person skilled in the art naturally notices the error and understands the object as after the correction.

Therefore, the Correction A is aimed at correction of errors stipulated in item (ii) of the proviso to Article 126(1) of the Patent Act.

(2) Regarding Article 126(5) of the Patent Act

Regarding the correction of Claim 15, as examined in (1), Correction A is at least based on FIGS. 5 of the Drawings and descriptions about FIGS. 5 of the Specification. Since the descriptions of the Specification and the Drawings relating to Claim 15 have not been corrected from the specification and drawings originally attached to the application, it can be said that the Correction A is within the scope of the matters described in the specification or drawings originally attached to the application.

Regarding Claims 16 to 28, which are recited with reference to the recitation of Claim 15 and the correction to Claim 15 also applies, Correction A is also within the scope of the matters described in the specification or drawings originally attached to the application.

Therefore, Correction A, which has been made within the scope of matters described in the specification, the scope of claims, or drawings originally attached to the application, falls under the provisions of Article 126(5) of the Patent Act.

(3) Regarding Article 126(6) of the Patent Act

As indicated in (1), the Correction A is aimed at correction of errors, and a person skilled in the art who finds the specification and drawings of the Patent may understand the meaning of the Invention 15 before correction as the meaning of the Invention 15 after correction.

Thus, the Correction A regarding Claim 15 does not substantially enlarge the

scope of claims or substantially alter the scope of claims.

Regarding Claims 16 to 28, which are recited with reference to the recitation of Claim 15 and the correction to Claim 15 also applies, it is obvious that the correction of Claims 16 to 28 does not substantially enlarge the scope of claims or substantially alter the scope of claims.

Therefore, Correction A falls under the provisions of Article 126(6) of the Patent Act.

(4) Regarding Article 126(7) of the Patent Act

As indicated in (3), a person skilled in the art who finds the specification and drawings of the Patent may understand the meaning of the Invention 15 before correction as the meaning of the Invention 15 after correction. Since the Invention 15 before correction has been granted a patent, no reason is found why the Invention 15 after correction, having the same meaning as the Invention 15 before Correction, cannot be granted a patent independently at the time of filing of the patent application. Thus, Correction A falls under the provisions of Article 126(7) of the Patent Act.

No. 4 Closing

As described above, Correction A is aimed at matters stipulated in item (ii) of the proviso to Article 126(1) of the Patent Act, and falls under the provisions of Article 126(5), (6), and (7) of the Patent Act.

Therefore, the trial decision shall be made as described in the conclusion.

August 20, 2020

Chief administrative judge: SEGAWA, Katsuhisa
Administrative judge: TANAKA, Hidenao
Administrative judge: YAMAMURA, Hiroshi