

## I. Facts and submissions

- 1 European patent 3 251 706 having the title "REDUCED PRESSURE TREATMENT SYSTEM HAVING BLOCKAGE CLEARING AND DUAL-ZONE PRESSURE PROTECTION CAPABILITIES " is based upon European patent application No.17 179 449.8 filed on 19-09-2007. It claims priority from US845993 filed on 19.09.2006, and US849138 filed on 02.10.2006. It was filed as a divisional application in the sense of Article 76 EPC of the earlier European patent application No.07 838 561.4.

The mention of the grant of the patent has been published in the European Patent Bulletin of 26-02-2020. Proprietor of the patent is  
3M Innovative Properties Company  
3M Center  
P.O.Box 33427  
St. Paul, MN 55133-3427  
US.

- 2 Notice of opposition has been filed by  
Smith and Nephew, Inc.  
1450 Brooks Road  
Memphis, TN 38116  
US  
on 26-11-2020.

Opponent requests revocation of the patent in its entirety based on Articles 100(a),(b),(c).

Article 100(a) was substantiated with the following separate grounds:

- 1) Article 53(c) EPC
- 2) Novelty claim 1: D1
- 3) Inventive step claim 1:  
D1 + common general knowledge or D2  
D3,D4,D5,D6 + common general knowledge

As an auxiliary measure, oral proceedings were requested.

D4 and D5 refer to intermediate documents. However, the priority of the patent in suit was not considered valid by the opponent. D4a referred to a family member of D4 in English.

- 3 The following evidence has been submitted within the opposition period: