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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US99/15956 (22) International Filing Date: 14 July 1999 (14.07.99) (30) Priority Data: 09/118,270 17 July 1998 (17.07.98) US (71) Applicant: BROOKHAVEN SCIENCE ASSOCIATES [US/US]; 40 Brookhaven Avenue, Building 460, Upton, NY 11973 (US). (72) Inventors: VELIGDAN, James, T.; 6 Stephanie Lane, Manorville, NY 11949 (US). SLOBODIN, David; 2084 Xavier Court, Santa Clara, CA 95051 (US). (74) Agent: MCNICHOL, William, J., Jr.; Reed Smith Shaw & McClay LLP, 2500 One Liberty Place, Philadelphia, PA 19103-7301 (US).		(81) Designated States: AU, BR, CA, CN, IL, IN, JP, KP, KR, MX, NZ, RU, SG, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). Published <i>With international search report.</i>
(54) Title: SMALL INLET OPTICAL PANEL AND A METHOD OF MAKING A SMALL INLET OPTICAL PANEL (57) Abstract An optical panel having a small inlet, and a method of making a small inlet optical panel, are disclosed, which optical panel includes individually coating, stacking, and cutting a first plurality of stacked optical waveguides (16a) to form an outlet face body (32) with an outlet face (16), individually coating, stacking, and cutting a second plurality of stacked optical waveguides (12a) to form an inlet face body with an inlet face (12), and connecting an optical coupling element to the first and second plurality of waveguides such that the optical coupling element redirects light along a parallel axis of the inlet face to a parallel axis of the outlet face. In the preferred embodiment of the present invention, the inlet face (12) is disposed obliquely with and askew from the outlet face (16).		