Patents Act 1977 **Opinion Number** **01/26**

OPINION UNDER SECTION 74A

Patent	GB 2585266 B
Proprietor(s)	Oakmed Ltd
Exclusive Licensee	
Requester	Salts Healthcare Ltd
Observer(s)	
Date Opinion issued	30 April 2026

The request

1. The Comptroller has received a request from Salts Heathcare Limited (the requester) to issue an opinion on the validity of GB 2585266 B (the patent).

2. The patent has a filing date of 24 March 2020 and a claim to an earlier priority date of 29 March 2019. The patent was granted on 17 August 2021 and it remains in force.

3. No observations were received and consequently there were no observations in reply.

4. A European patent EP 3801655 B1 was granted which claims priority from the same priority application. The European patent was revoked in opposition proceedings before the European Patent Office which held that the claims of the European patent lacked novelty and that the patent contained added subject matter.

5. The request questions the validity of the patent based on a lack of novelty in view of the disclosures of US 2007/0020319 A1 (O1 - published 25 January 2007), and a lack of inventive step based on WO 2017/158340 A1 (D1 - published 21 September 2017).

6. Additional prior art documents to support the requester's arguments are referred to as follows:

D2:	WO2005/021058 A2	published 10 March 2005
D3:	WO2008/063434 A2	published 29 May 2008
D4:	EP2062601 A1	published 27 May 2009
O2:	US 2007/0212314 A1	published 13 September 2007

O3:	WO 02/07791 A2	published 31 January 2002
O4:	US 2005/0175578 A1	published 11 August 2005
O5:	US 2009/0306571 A1	published 10 December 2009
O6:	US 2010/0280429 A1	published 04 November 2010
O7:	EP 2335747 A1	published 22 June 2011
O7':	Machine translation of O7 in English	

7. The numbering mirrors that used in the opposition proceedings.

8. All the documents were published prior to the priority date of the patent.

Preliminary matters

9. D1 was cited as background art during pre-grant processing of the application. For opinion requests, the Office may refuse to consider documents already considered unless there is a *new question*. Additional evidence has been provided in the request regarding the skilled person's common general knowledge. The request argues that the patent lacks an inventive step based on D1 and this common general knowledge. I consider that this poses a *new question* and D1 can be considered as part of the opinion.

10. There is also a question regarding whether I should issue the opinion in view of a decision in opposition proceedings to revoke the equivalent European patent. Firstly, I do consider that I am bound by that decision as it relates to a different albeit very similar patent. Although the independent claims are substantially identical, there are differences in the remaining claims. Secondly, if I were to refuse the opinion it would potentially frustrate operation of Section 73(1A) which allows the comptroller to revoke a patent if an opinion finds it clearly invalid. I note also that the opposition proceedings were not contested by the proprietor and there was no oral hearing. I therefore consider it appropriate to issue the requested opinion.

The patent

11. The patent relates to an adhesive composition for adhering articles to the skin. In particular, it describes an adhesive for securing an ostomy appliance to the peristomal skin region of an ostomate.

12. Typically, collection bags for ostomates having a colostomy, ileostomy or urostomy are secured by an adhesive disc to the abdomen of the user such that they surround the stoma. It may be necessary to remove the collection bag for emptying several times daily. Such frequent removal causes irritation and can damage the skin. In order to reduce the frequency of removing the collection bag from the skin, two piece systems are known which comprise a base layer or wafer attached to the skin and a coupling part attached to the collection bag. The coupling part mates with cooperating regions of the base layer to attach the collection bag to the user. The collection bag may then be removed without having to remove the adhesive connection to the skin.

13. Regardless of whether a one or two piece system is used, a suitable compromise is

required for the adhesive between the strength and security of the adhesion, and the ease of release when the disc or base layer needs to be changed. The patent specifies an adhesive composition which is stated to provide improved security of adhesion and release characteristics.

14. In particular, the invention is based on a foamed silicone polymer network.

Claim construction

15. As a first step in determining validity I must correctly construe the claims. This means interpreting them in the light of the description and drawings as instructed by Section 125(1). In doing so I must interpret the claims in context through the eyes of the person skilled in the art. Ultimately the question is what the person skilled in the art would have understood the patentee to be using the language of the claims to mean. This approach has been confirmed in the decisions of the High Court in *Mylan v Yeda*[1] and the Court of Appeal in *Actavis v ICOS*[2].

16. There are two independent claims. Claim 1 is directed to an adhesive component comprising the foamed silicone polymer network adhesive. Claim 14 is directed to a method for manufacturing an adhesive component including the steps for creating the foamed silicone polymer network adhesive.

17. Claim 1 reads:

> *1. A skin compatible component attachable to mammalian skin comprising:*
>
> *a silicone polymer network derived from the addition curing of a first part including a vinyl functionalised siloxane polymer and a second part including a silicon hydride containing crosslinker, in the presence of a metal catalyst; and*
>
> *a superabsorbent particulate distributed within the polymer network configured to absorb moisture from the skin;*
>
> *wherein the silicone polymer network comprises a foamed structure.*

18. Claim 14 reads:

> *14. A method of manufacturing a skin compatible component attachable to mammalian skin comprising:*
>
> *mixing a first part including a vinyl functionalized siloxane polymer with a second part including a silicon hydride containing crosslinker to form a mix;*
>
> *incorporating within the mix a superabsorbent particulate;*
> *incorporating within the mix at least one foaming agent;*

[1] *Generics UK Ltd (t/a Mylan) v Yeda Research and Dev. Co. Ltd & Anor* [2017] EWHC 2629 (Pat)
[2] *Actavis Group & Ors v ICOS Corp & Eli Lilly & Co.* [2017] EWCA Civ 1671

curing the mix via a metal catalyst;

wherein the resulting addition cured silicone polymer network is a foam and the superabsorbent particulate is distributed within the foam.

19. Although the claims refer to a component, it is clear that this need be nothing more than an adhesive composition. In particular, claim 11, which is directed to an ostomy coupling, requires "*a skin compatible component as claimed in any preceding claim attached to a second surface of the support layer.*" As such the component itself does not include the support layer, i.e. wafer or base layer.

20. Claim 1 is defined in part as a product by process (addition curing). This process is governed by the nature of the materials. Two-part silicone adhesives containing a platinum catalyst will undergo addition curing. No issues are considered to arise as a consequence of this definition.

21. There are not considered to be any other issues relating to claim construction.

22. The full set of claims are provided as an appendix.

Prior art – O1 US 2007/0020319 A1

23. O1 discloses a skin-friendly silicone based adhesive.

24. Example 2 of O1 (paragraph [0060]) discloses an adhesive composition for an ostomy device with reference to Example 1 as follows:

EXAMPLE 1 Preparation of Adhesive

[0058] 100 parts of BIO-PSA 74300 were dissolved in 40 parts of n-hexane under stirring at room temperature for 20 minutes. 50 parts of silicone 7-9800 (component A and B in a one to one ratio) were added and the mixture was stirred for another 5 minutes, 20 parts of CMC were then added. The mixture was stirred for 3 minutes. From the mixture a 500 microns film was coated on a polyurethane film having 350 microns in thickness. After the n-hexane has evaporated, strips of 10 cm in length and 2 cm in width were cut and peel force test at 180 deg. was performed and an average peel force of 2.5 N was measured. Test of water uptake was also performed and an absorption of 800 gsm. (gram per square meter) after 24 hours was determined.

[0059] The adhesive was applied on to human skin and showed no cell stripping after removal, compared to a conventional adhesive.

EXAMPLE 2 An Ostomy Device

[0060] Same as Example 1, except that CMC was replaced by 20 parts of Norsocryl XFS. n-hexane was replaced by 40 parts of HMDS (hexamethylene disiloxane). A peel force of 1.8 N was determined according to the method described in Example 1, and a water uptake of 3400 gsm. after 24 hours was measured. The adhesive was used for attaching an

ostomy device directly to the skin. After removing of the device no traces of skin irritation or cell stripping was noticed.

25. The following trade names are referred to:

    BIO-PSA 74300 - hydrophilic silicone resin from Dow Corning [0055]

    Norsocryl XFS – cross-linked polyacrylate super absorbing particles from Atofina [0051], [0057]. I consider it implicit that this is for absorbing moisture.

    Silicone 7-9800 – two part hydrophobic silicone resin with a component A comprising a catalyst (Pt [0061]) and component B comprising a cross-linking agent [0056].

26. Further evidence of the composition of silicone 7-9800 is provided in O2. It is described as follows (Table 1 footnote):

    ******7-9800*** *is the reaction product of a dimethylvinylsiloxy terminated dimethyl siloxane, trimethylsiloxy terminated dimethyl, methyl hydrogen siloxane and a hydrogen terminated dimethyl siloxane in the presence of a platinum catalyst.*

27. O1 teaches a number of embodiments of skin compatible adhesives. Those that include silicone 7-9800 comprise a silicone polymer network derived from the addition curing of a first part including a vinyl functionalised siloxane polymer and a second part including a silicon hydride containing crosslinker. The embodiment of example 2 also includes Norsocryl, and therefore also comprises a superabsorbent particulate configured to absorb moisture from the skin.

28. Paragraphs [0046] and [0047] of O1 disclose that the adhesive may be in the form of a foam. The nature of the foam is specified as follows:

    [0046] In a further embodiment of the invention the adhesive may be in the form of a foam.

    [0047] The foam may be obtained by promptly releasing the pressure of pressurized cured silicone adhesive while it is still hot. Pressurization and nitrogen, and carbon dioxide may also be used to control the structure of the foam. Other blowing agents well known in the art may also be used in order to control the foaming time as well as the foam structure.

29. The requester submits that *"O1 discloses the silicone polymer network comprises a foamed structure" (paragraph 5.21),* and that *"the subject matter of claim 1 is therefore found in O1".*

30. I consider that the disclosure of paragraphs [0046] and [0047] applies to all the embodiments of O1 including example 2. I.e. the silicone adhesive of example 2 can comprise a silicone polymer network having a foamed structure. Such a formulation is considered to fall within the scope of claim 1 and claim 1 is therefore anticipated by O1.

31. This conclusion is consistent with the decision reached by the opposition division of the European Patent Office regarding claim 1 of the equivalent European patent EP 3801655. Claim 1 of the EP equivalent is substantially identical to claim 1 of the patent.

32. Claim 14 is a method claim largely analogous to claim 1 although it specifically requires a step of incorporating a foaming agent into the adhesive mix. Claim 18 of the patent (which is dependant on claim 14) specifies a number of foaming agents for incorporation including carbon dioxide. As carbon dioxide is referred to in paragraph [0047] of O1 I consider that the step of incorporating a foaming agent is disclosed.

33. Example 2 of O1 (when read in conjunction with example 1) also discloses stirring components A and B of silicone 7-9800 with Norsocryl XFS. Silicone 7-9800 will undergo addition curing.

34. I consider that the method of preparation of example 2 including the step of foaming using carbon dioxide falls within the scope of claim 14 and this claim is also anticipated by O1.

35. Claim 2 requires that the superabsorbent particulate has an average particle size less than 150µm. Although there is no disclosure of the particle size in O1, O3 discloses that Norsocryl XFS has a *"particle size distribution range from 1-67 micronmeter".* This will necessarily result in an average particle size less than 150um and I consider claim 2 is anticipated.

36. Claim 4 specifies a list of chemicals the superabsorbent particle may be formed from. The list includes sodium polyacrylate. O1 identifies Norsocryl XFS as a cross-linked polyacrylate, but provides no further information. O3 specifies that *"Norsocryl is a cross-linked copolymers of acrylic acid and sodium acrylate*". O4 describes Norsocryl XFS as *"fine sodium polyacrylate".* Accordingly, claim 4 is also anticipated.

37. Claim 5 requires the further inclusion of an organosilicone resin and a cohesive strengthening agent. Silicone 7-9800 includes an organosilicone resin in the form of trimethylsiloxy terminated dimethyl methyl hydrogen siloxane (in addition to the vinyl functionalised siloxane polymer required by claim 1). O1 describes the use of reinforcing fillers including magnesium oxide. Reinforcing fillers are considered to act as cohesive strengthening agents. In any event, the patent suggests the use of non-polymeric metal oxides, which would include magnesium oxide, as cohesive strengthening agents. Claim 5 also therefore lacks novelty.

38. Claim 6 is dependant on claim 5 and further specifies that the organosilicone is an MQ resin, and the cohesive strengthening agent includes non-polymeric metal oxides (amongst others). The requester has based their argument on the nature of the MQ resin on a passage from the patent (page 9, line 27 to page 10, line 1). However, I think this is a misunderstanding of the passage and MQ resins are a subset of the $R_nSiX_mO_y$ formula resins, and the $R_nSiX_mO_y$ resins are not necessarily MQ resins. The requester has not persuaded me that silicone 7-9800 includes an MQ resin and I do not consider that claim 6 is anticipated.

39. Claim 7 requires the presence of a blowing agent, whilst claim 8, which is dependant

of claim 7 lists possible blowing agents including carbon dioxide. As discussed above in relation to claim 14, O1 specifies the use of carbon dioxide and these claims lack novelty.

40. Claim 15 is dependant on claim 14 and specifies inclusion of a cohesive strengthening agent and an MQ resin. As discussed above I am not persuaded there is an MQ resin and I do not consider that this claim is anticipated.

41. Claim 16 is dependant on claim 15. As I consider that claim 15 is novel then claim 16 is also novel.

42. As discussed in relation to claim 14, and claims 7 and 8 above, O1 discloses use of carbon dioxide for forming the foam, and this disclosure anticipate its use as a foaming agent in claim 18.

43. In summary, I agree with the requester that claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 14 and 18 are not novel.

44. I do not agree with the requester in relation to claims 6, 15 and 16, and I consider that these claims are novel.

45. No argument was submitted regarding any lack of novelty of claims 3, 9 to 13, 17, or 19 to 23.

Prior art – D1 WO 2017/158340 A1

46. Although I have found the patent to lack novelty based on O1, I shall consider the requester's argument regarding lack of inventive step based on D1 in view of the additional dependant claims covered by this argument.

47. D1 describes a skin compatible adhesive used for coupling an ostomy appliance to skin.

48. D1 has the same inventors as the patent, and, at least for the application stage, had the same applicant company.

49. The disclosure of D1 is very similar to the disclosure of the patent, except that there is no mention of foam.

50. As an example of the similarities, it will be noted that, aside from the addition of foaming agent in the patent, the specific formulation set out in Table 1 of D1 is substantially the same as the specific formulation of the patent.

Component	Concentration %w/w	Purpose	Supplier
Silicone Silpuran® 2122 part A	33.60	Part A silicone + catalyst	Wacker Chemie
Silicone Silpuran® 2122 part B	35.40	Part B silicone cross-linker	Wacker Chemie
Aquakeep™ Sodium Polyacrylate	25.00	Moisture control, moisture transmission through silicone adhesive network	Sumitomo Seika Chemicals Co., Ltd
MQ Silanol Resin	5.00	Tackifier	Milliken™ SiVance LLC
Aerosil™ (Fumed silica)	1.00	Cohesive strengthener	Evonik Industries AG

Table 1 – starting materials of liquid phase non-cured mix example 1

Component	Concentration %w/w	Purpose	Supplier
Silicone Silpuran® 2122 part A	31-35	Part A silicone + catalyst	Wacker Chemie
Silicone Silpuran® 2122 part B	33-37	Part B silicone cross-linker	Wacker Chemie
Aquakeep™ Sodium Polyacrylate	23-27	Moisture control, moisture transmission through silicone adhesive network	Sumitomo Seika Chemicals Co., Ltd
MQ Silanol Resin	3-7	Tackifier	Milliken™ SiVance LLC
Aerosil™ (Fumed silica)	0.5-1.5	Cohesive strengthener	Evonik Industries AG
Foaming agent	0.5-25	Foaming or blowing silicone matrix	-

Table 1 – starting materials of liquid phase non-cured mix

51. More particularly, claim 1 of the patent and claim 1 of D1 are very similar. Claim 1 of D1 reads:

> *1. A skin compatible component attachable to mammalian skin comprising:*
>
> *a silicone polymer network derived from the addition curing of a first part including a vinyl functionalised siloxane polymer and a second part including a silicon hydride containing crosslinker, in the presence of a metal catalyst; and*
>
> *a superabsorbent particulate distributed within the polymer network configured to absorb moisture from the skin;*
>
> *wherein the superabsorbent particulate has an average particle size less than 150 μm.*

52. It will be noted that the only difference is that a size of the superabsorbent particles in specified rather than any requirement for a foamed structure.

53. The requester has identified the skilled person as being a team of people skilled in the manufacture of ostomy devices. However, I consider the skilled person to be a chemist specialising in formulating skin compatible adhesives for dressings, ostomy devices, etc.

54. The requester argues that foamed adhesives and foaming agents are conventional in the art and would therefore form part of the skilled person's common general knowledge. As evidence of this they refer to the following prior art:

D2	*WO2005/021058 A2*	*See page 8, lines 2 to 15*
D3	*WO2008/063434 A2*	*See paragraph [11]*
D4	*EP2062601 A1*	*See paragraph [0028]*
O1	*US 2007/0020319 A1*	*See paragraphs [0046], [0047]*
O2	*US 2007/0212314 A1*	*See paragraph [0070]*
O5	*US 2009/0306571 A1*	*See paragraphs [0069], [0072], [0074]*
O6	*US 2010/0280429 A1*	*See paragraph [0096]*
O7	*EP 2335747 A1*	*See paragraph [0025]*

55. These documents are relevant as follows:

D2 – PCT application from which O1 is derived. The subject matter is the same, and the passage relating to foams is the same. This document merely repeats the evidence of O1, and I will disregard it.

D3 - relates to a super-absorbent silicone foam dressing which incorporates hydrophilic particles to provide absorbency. It is specified for use *"in an absorbent article such as a wound dressing, hygiene product, prosthetic device or orthopaedic device."* Curing of the silicone foam is controlled such that a skin adhering layer which is less crosslinked is created.

D4 - describes a water absorbing silicone foam. The foam is described as being useful *"for fields requiring a water absorbing property, such as medical use, such as a wound dressing material, a foot care pad, a catheter fixing sheet, a bleeding stop pad, and a care pad…"* The foam is designed not to adhere to a wound/skin. E.g. paragraph [0092] states *"when the foam of the present invention is directly adhered to the skin … the foam of the present invention can also be united with a binder, a self-adhesive film, a bandage, etc."* See also Table 2 and paragraph [0125]. Given that the foam is not designed to be adhesive, this document is not considered relevant to the skilled person's common general knowledge.

O1 - as discussed in more detail above, this document relates to a water absorbent silicone adhesive for dressings and ostomy appliances. In relation to a foam, it discloses that the adhesive may be in the form of a foam and it briefly describes a method of forming the adhesive as a foam.

O2 - describes a silicone containing adhesive which can be used for medical applications including dressings and ostomy appliances. There is a single statement specifying that the adhesive *"can be in the form of a tacky gel (fillerless elastomer), a reinforced elastomer with a tacky surface, a foam or*

cellular structure or resin."

O5 - is another example of a silicone adhesive for medical use, including dressings and ostomy appliances, which incorporates a hydrophilic water absorbent agent. The document also discusses forming the adhesive as a foam along with several brief methods for achieving this.

O6 – discusses a moisture absorbing pressure sensitive adhesive specifically for use with ostomy appliances. There is one paragraph which suggests that the adhesive may be formed as a foam, and a further two paragraphs which describe methods for forming it as a foam.

O7 – describes an open-cell silicone foam for use as a negative pressure wound therapy dressing. However, the foam is not designed to be adhesive. Paragraph [0025] states *"A further advantage of the open-cell foam … is that sticking and/or growing together of the wound base with the wound dressing can be largely avoided, even over a period of 3 days or more."* This document is not therefore considered relevant to the skilled person's common general knowledge.

56. I am not persuaded by this evidence that forming silicone adhesives as a foam is part of the skilled person's common general knowledge. I note in particular that some of the prior art refers only to silicone foams and not to adhesive silicone foams. Accordingly, I do not consider that the skilled person would find it obvious to form the adhesive of D1 as a foam and claim 1 of the patent is not obvious on this basis.

57. The requester also suggests that claim 1 lacks an inventive step based on a *mosaic* of D1 with any of D2, D3, D4, O1, O2, O5, O6 or O7, on the basis that they are all in the same technical field. Whilst this may be generally true, I do not consider that this alone is sufficient basis for mosaicking any of these documents together.

58. As set out by Laddie J in *Pfizer Ltd's Patent*[3] (paragraph 66):

> *"When any piece of prior art is considered for the purposes of an obviousness attack, the question asked is "what would the skilled addressee think and do on the basis of the disclosure?" He will consider the disclosure in the light of the common general knowledge and it may be that in some cases he will also think it obvious to supplement the disclosure by consulting other readily accessible publicly available information. This will be particularly likely where the pleaded prior art encourages him to do so because it expressly cross-refers to other material. However, I do not think it is limited to cases where there is an express cross-reference. For example if a piece of prior art directs the skilled worker to use a member of a class of ingredients for a particular purpose and it would be obvious to him where and how to find details of members of that class, then he will do so and that act of pulling in other information is itself an obvious consequence of the disclosure in the prior art."*

59. In the absence of any more specific argument about how/why the disclosure of D1

[3] *Pfizer Ltd's Patent [2001] FSR 16*

would be combined with any of the other documents, I am not persuaded that the skilled person would do so. Accordingly, I am not persuaded that claim 1 lacks an inventive step on this basis also.

60. Given that I consider that the requester's argument regarding a lack of inventiveness of claim 1 is not made out, it similarly follows that I am not persuaded that claim 14 lacks an inventive step either.

61. Additionally, none of the dependant claims lack an inventive step based on D1.

Opinion

62. Based on the arguments and evidence submitted, it is my opinion that claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 14 and 18 are anticipated by O1.

63. The patent is therefore invalid.

64. Additionally, based on the arguments and evidence provided, it is my opinion that the claims are novel and inventive in relation to D1.

Application for review

65. Under section 74B and rule 98, the proprietor may, within three months of the date of issue of this opinion, apply to the comptroller for a review of the opinion.

Matthew Jefferson
Examiner

NOTE

This opinion is not based on the outcome of fully litigated proceedings. Rather, it is based on whatever material the persons requesting the opinion and filing observations have chosen to put before the Office.

APPENDIX

Claims

1. *A skin compatible component attachable to mammalian skin comprising: a silicone polymer network derived from the addition curing of a first part including a vinyl functionalised siloxane polymer and a second part including a silicon hydride containing crosslinker, in the presence of a metal catalyst; and*

   a superabsorbent particulate distributed within the polymer network configured to absorb moisture from the skin;

   wherein the silicone polymer network comprises a foamed structure.

2. *The component as claimed in claim 1 wherein the superabsorbent particulate has an average particle size less than 150 μm or an average particle size in the range 10 to 40 μm, 15 to 35 μm or 20 to 30 μm.*

3. *The component as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the superabsorbent particulate is distributed within the polymer network at a concentration in the range 5 to 45 wt%, 10 to 40 wt%, 15 to 35 wt% or 20 to 30 wt%.*

4. *The component as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the superabsorbent particulate comprises any one or a combination of the set of:*
   - *a naturally occurring hydrocolloid;*
   - *a semi-synthetic hydrocolloid;*
   - *a synthetic hydrocolloid;*
   - *a polysaccharide;*
   - *a cellulose;*
   - *hydroxyethylcellulose;*
   - *carboxymethylcellulose;*
   - *hydroxypropylcellulose;*
   - *carboxymethyl β-glucan;*
   - *cross-linked sodium carboxymethyl cellulose;*
   - *sodium carboxymethyl cellulose;*
   - *methycellulose; or*
   - *sodium polyacrylate.*

5. *The component as claimed in any preceding claim wherein an organosilicone resin and a cohesive strengthening agent is included in the first or second part prior to addition curing.*

6. *The component as claimed in claim 5 wherein the organosilicone resin is an MQ resin and the cohesive strengthening agent comprises any one or a combination of the set of: fumed silica, fumed alumina, colloidal silica, nanoclays, silicates, silane treated organic polymers, polymeric metal oxides, and non-polymeric metal oxides.*

7. *The component as claimed in any preceding claim comprising a foaming agent.*

8. *The component as claimed in claim 7 wherein the foaming agent comprises any one or a combination of the following set of:*
   water;
   a bicarbonate ion;
   sodium bicarbonate;
   a bicarbonate salt;
   a metal bicarbonate;
   azodicarbonamide;
   isocyanate;
   pentane;
   isopentane;
   cyclopentane;
   a fluorocarbon;
   a hydrofluorocarbon;
   a chlorinated fluorocarbon;
   a hydrocarbon;
   carbon dioxide; or
   an organic acid and an organic base.

9. *The component as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6 further comprising a reaction product, reactants or derivatives of an organic acid and an organic base.*

10. *The component as claimed in claim 7 wherein the foaming agent comprises an organic acid being any one or a combination of:*
    a carboxylic acid
    a sulfonic acid,
    lactic acid,
    acetic acid,
    foaming acid,
    citric acid,
    tartaric acid,
    L-tartaric acid,
    oxalic acid
    uric acid,
    a compound comprising a thiol group, an enol group or a phenol group; and/or wherein the foaming agent comprises an organic base being any one or a combination of:
    anolcoxide,
    an amidines,
    an amine,
    a phosphine,
    a sulphate,
    ammonia,
    perodene,
    acetone.

11. *An ostomy coupling comprising:*

    a moisture and gas permeable support layer;

    an ostomy appliance or ostomy appliance connection provided at a first surface of the support layer; and

    a skin compatible component as claimed in any preceding claim attached to a second surface of the support layer.

12. *The coupling as claimed in claim 11 wherein the support layer comprises any one or a combination of the set of:*
    - *a polyurethane;*
    - *a breathable silicone layer;*
    - *a polyethylene block amide polymer;*
    - *a polytetrafluoroethylene polymer;*
    - *an acrylic latex polymer; or*
    - *a polyolefin based layer.*

13. *The coupling as claimed in claims 11 or 12 wherein:.*
    - *the ostomy appliance comprises a bag or pouch attached to the support layer directly or via an intermediate layer; or*
    - *the ostomy appliance connection comprises a first part of a bag or pouch connection assembly in which a second part of the connection assembly is mounted at a bag or pouch, the first part and the second part capable of releasable mating to detachably secure the bag or pouch to the coupling.*

14. *A method of manufacturing a skin compatible component attachable to mammalian skin comprising:*

    mixing a first part including a vinyl functionalized siloxane polymer with a second part including a silicon hydride containing crosslinker to form a mix;

    incorporating within the mix a superabsorbent particulate;
    incorporating within the mix at least one foaming agent;
    curing the mix via a metal catalyst;

    wherein the resulting addition cured silicone polymer network is a foam and the superabsorbent particulate is distributed within the foam.

15. *The method as claimed in claim 14 wherein the first or second part further comprises a cohesive strengthening agent and an MQ resin.*

16. *The method as claimed in claim 15 wherein the cohesive strengthening agent comprises any one or a combination of the set of: fumed silica, fumed alumina, colloidal silica, nanoclays, silicates, silane treated organic polymers, polymeric metal oxides, and non-polymeric metal oxides.*

17. *The method as claimed in any one of claims 14 to 16 wherein the superabsorbent particulate is included within the mix at 5 to 45 wt%, 15 to 35 wt% or 20 to 30 wt%.*

18. *The method as claimed in any one of claims 14 to 17 wherein the foaming agent comprises any one or a combination of the following set of:*
    water;
    a bicarbonate ion;
    a bicarbonate salt;
    a metal bicarbonate;
    azodicarbonamide;
    isocyanate;
    pentane;
    isopentane;
    cyclopentane;
    a fluorocarbon;
    a hydrofluorocarbon;
    a chlorinated fluorocarbon;
    a hydrocarbon;
    carbon dioxide; or
    an acrylic acid and an organic base.

19. *The method as claimed in any one of claims 14 to 18 further comprising a reaction product, reactants or derivatives of an organic acid and an organic base.*

20. *The method as claimed in any one of claims 14 to 19 wherein the foaming agent comprises an organic acid being any one or a combination of:*
    a carboxylic acid,
    a sulfonic acid,
    lactic acid,
    acetic acid,
    foaming acid,
    citric acid,
    tartarc acid,
    L-tartaric acid,
    oxalic acid
    uric acid,
    a compound comprising a thiol group, an enol group or a phenol group;

and/or wherein the foaming agent comprises an organic base being any one or a combination of:
    anolcoxide,
    an amidines,
    an amine,
    a phosphine,
    a sulphate,
    ammonia,
    perodene,
    acetone.

21. *The method as claimed in any one of claims 14 to 20 wherein the foaming agent is included within mix at 1 to 30 wt%.*

22. *The method as claimed in any one of claims 14 to 17 comprising sodium bicarbonate included within the mix in the range 5 to 10 wt% or 10 to 15 wt%.*

23. *The method as claimed in any one of claims 14 to 17 comprising water included within the mix at 0.5 to 10 wt%, 0.5 to 5 wt% or 2 to 10 wt%.*