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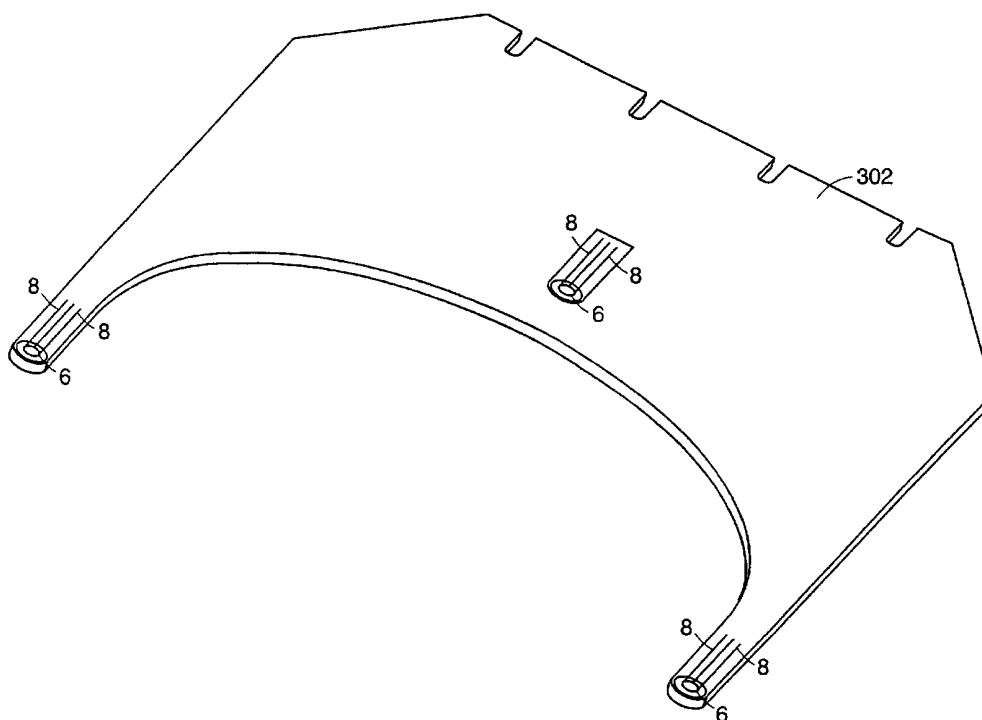
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: ROBOTIC END EFFECTOR PROVIDED WITH WAFER SUPPORTING PADS ELASTICALLY MOUNTED



(57) Abstract: Disclosed are robotic end effectors (2) used for handling thin media such as semiconductor wafers during processing, including methods and apparatus for replaceably retaining a plurality of standoff pads (6) in the end effectors (2). The end effectors (2) are provided with pad retention areas (4) formed by elastic beams (8).

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)
EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 322 079 A (OHTANI MASAMI ET AL) 21 June 1994 (1994-06-21) column 7, line 21 - line 29 column 7, line 54 - line 65; figure 8	20
A	---	21-23
A	US 5 718 574 A (SHIMAZU TOMOHISA) 17 February 1998 (1998-02-17) abstract; figures 1,5 column 4, line 3 - line 25 column 6, line 28 - line 47	1,7,14, 15,17
E	DE 100 03 639 A (STEAG RTP SYSTEMS GMBH) 9 August 2001 (2001-08-09) figures 4,9 column 5, line 26 - line 36 column 6, line 34 - line 54 ---	1,7, 10-15, 17,19-26
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Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex.

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- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
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- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
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- * & * document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search 18 January 2002	Date of mailing of the international search report 25/01/2002
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Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer Lumineau, S
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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 99 60184 A (APPLIED MATERIALS INC) 25 November 1999 (1999-11-25) page 9, paragraph 3; figures 3,4 -----	1-3,14

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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