Abstract: A method of contracting between two counterparties with a central counterparty for the exchange of payments based upon pairs of contracts. The payouts are based on the output of a pricing model in which the model output is calculated periodically, and the payments are exchanged periodically through transfers by the central counterparty. The period of calculation and payment occurs each business day. The model is driven by (i) an index indicating the price of a commodity; (ii) the volatility of the index; (iii) a nominal strike price; (iv) time to expiration; and (v) risk-free interest rate, and (vi) other variables.
Date of publication of the international search report:
11 September 2009
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
   IPC(8) - G06Q 40/00 (2008.01)
   USPC - 705/39
   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)
   IPC(8): G06Q 40/00 (2008.01)
   USPC: 705/39

   Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
   USPC: 705/1, 35, 40

   Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
   Electronic data base: USPTO WEST (PGPB, USPT, EPAB, JPAB); Google Scholar
   Search Terms Used: futures contract, collateral, third party, trading, contract

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category*</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>US 2005/0246197 A1 (Shepherd) 3 November 2005 (03.11.2005), entire document, especially Abstract, para [0021], [0146], [0147], [0188], [0219], [0220], [0223], [0231], [0258], [0259], [0300], [0396], [0514], [0613]</td>
<td>1-13</td>
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* Special categories of cited documents:
   "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
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Date of the actual completion of the international search: 23 January 2008 (23.01.2008)
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