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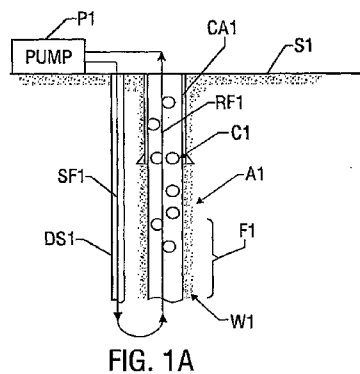
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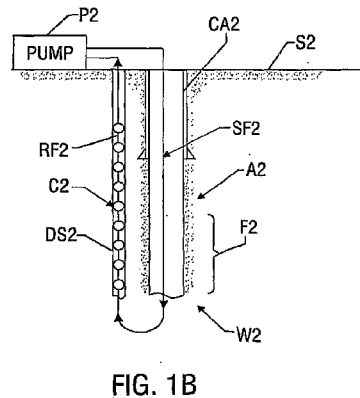
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: REVERSE CIRCULATION PRESSURE CONTROL METHOD AND SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: A system for reverse circulation in a wellbore include equipment for supplying drilling fluid into the wellbore bit via at least an annulus of the wellbore and returning the drilling fluid to a surface location via at least a bore of a wellbore tubular. The system also includes devices for controlling the annulus pressure associated with this reverse circulation. In one embodiment, an active pressure differential device increases the pressure wellbore annulus to at least partially offset a circulating pressure loss. In other embodiments, the system includes devices for decreasing the pressure in the annulus of the wellbore. For offshore application, annulus pressure is decreased to accommodate the pore and fracture pressures of a subsea formation. In still other embodiments, annulus pressure is decreased to cause an underbalanced condition in the well.



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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 INV. E21B21/08 E21B7/00

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)
 E21B

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

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2006/060385 A1 (AMAUDRIC DU CHAFFAUT BENOIT [FR] ET AL) 23 March 2006 (2006-03-23) the whole document	1-5,7,9, 10, 12-16,19
Y	-----	6,18,20
X	US 2005/061546 A1 (HANNEGAN DON M [US] HANNEGAN DON [US]) 24 March 2005 (2005-03-24) paragraphs [0057], [0058] figures 14,15 claims 1,4	1-5,7,8, 10,11,17
Y	-----	6,18,20
X	US 4 223 747 A (MARAIS LIONEL R) 23 September 1980 (1980-09-23) abstract	1-5,7, 10,20

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Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

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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.
X	US 4 368 787 A (MESSENGER JOSEPH U) 18 January 1983 (1983-01-18) abstract figure 1	1,12
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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