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(54) **Ventilated wall comprising support elements and cladding structure thereof**

(57) A support element (1) for cladding slabs (2) to be used on a wall (W) to be covered, comprises a metal section bar extending in a predetermined longitudinal direction (X-X), said section bar having a rear portion designed to be attached to the wall (W) to be covered and a front portion (1a) facing towards the cladding slabs (2) to be supported. Advantageously, said front portion (1a) of the section bar has a plurality of opposite crimping tabs (4) which are adapted to cooperatively engage corresponding portions of said cladding slabs (2) to ensure support of said cladding slabs (2) with respect to the wall (W) to be covered.

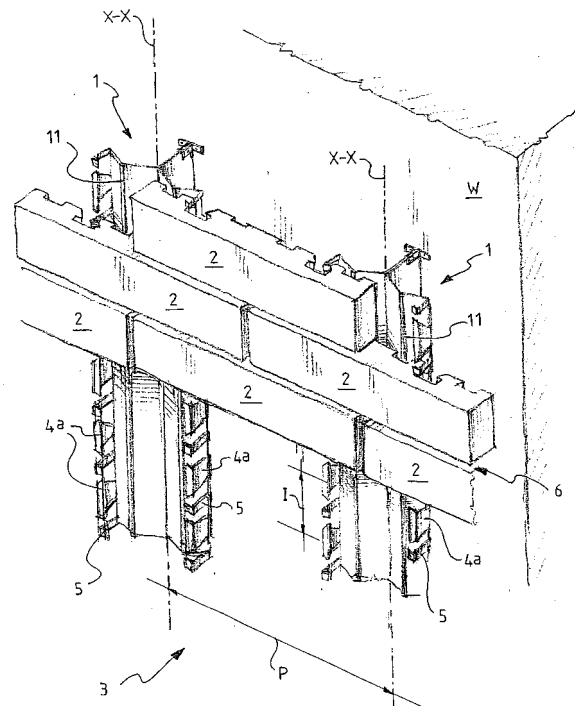


Fig. 1

EP 1 918 481 A3



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 07 02 0355

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
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Y	* column 2, line 33 - column 2, line 55; figures 1-4 *	18, 20-22, 24-31	
X	----- BE 561 466 A1 (DELOUVROY P) 20 May 1960 (1960-05-20)	1-8, 13-23, 32-38, 42,44	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
A	* figures 1-6 * * page 1, paragraph 1 * * page 3, paragraph 9 - page 4, paragraph 1 * * page 5, paragraph 3 *	1,15,32	
Y	----- EP 0 892 125 A2 (HEINZ STALL FA [DE]) 20 January 1999 (1999-01-20) * abstract; figures 1-6 *	18, 20-22, 24-31	E04F E04B
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	----- US 5 944 294 A (BAER THOMAS C [US]) 31 August 1999 (1999-08-31) * column 2, line 21 - column 3, line 2; figures 1-5 *		
----- -/--			
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 11 October 2011	Examiner Bastian, Almut
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

EPO FORM 1503 03.02 (P04C01)



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 07 02 0355

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	EP 0 933 492 A2 (CREATON AG [DE]) 4 August 1999 (1999-08-04) * paragraphs [0022], [0030], [0031], [0036]; figures 2,3,7 * -----	1,2, 6-10,32, 34,37, 41,42	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 11 October 2011	Examiner Bastian, Almut
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

EPO FORM 1503 03.02 (P04C01)



Application Number

EP 07 02 0355

CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing claims for which payment was due.

- Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):
- No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

- All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.
- Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:
- None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:
- The present supplementary European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims (Rule 164 (1) EPC).

**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B**

Application Number

EP 07 02 0355

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. claims: 1-8, 13-36, 43, 44

A cladding structure according to claim 32 with a support element according to claim 1 and a cladding slab according to claim 15, the fixation of the cladding elements by means of their anchoring portions and the crimping tabs to the support elements.

2. claims: 9-12, 41

A cladding structure according to claim 32 with a support element according to claim 1 and a cladding slab according to claim 15, the support elements comprising transverse stop means.

3. claims: 37-40, 42

A cladding structure according to claim 32 with a support element according to claim 1 and a cladding slab according to claim 15, the support elements having centering means.

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 07 02 0355

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

11-10-2011

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82