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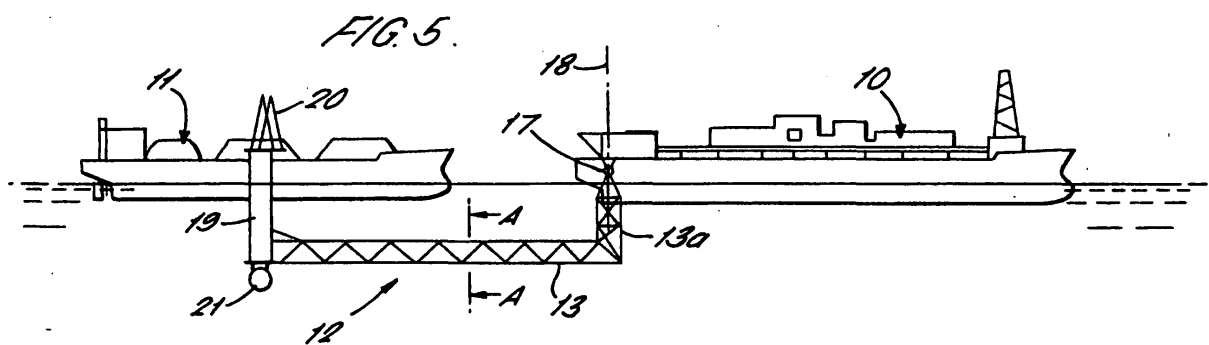
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(54) **Offshore fluid transfer system**

(57) Apparatus (12) for transferring fluid between floating vessels (10, 11) is described, comprising a submerged rigid transfer arm (13) carrying a fluid pipeline (16). The apparatus (12) is provided with thrusters (21) and positioning monitoring means (24). A control system (25) operates the thrusters (21) to move the arm

(13) if the position monitoring means (24) shows the arm (13) and the second vessel (11) is outside a given range, to restore the separation to within the range. The pipeline (16) is located in a tunnel (30) on the arm (13) which opens above the waterline at each end to allow personnel access therein for inspection and maintenance of the pipeline (16).





European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 05 00 8023

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 22 September 2005	Examiner van Rooij, M
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p>			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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