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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **IKM CLEANDRILL AS** [NO/NO]; Trollhaugmyra 15, Straume, N-5353 Straume (NO).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **HASLER, Thomas** [GB/NO]; c/o IKM Cleandrill AS, Trollhaugmyra 15, N-5353 Straume (NO). **HUFHAMMER, Harald** [NO/NO]; c/o IKM Cleandrill AS, Trollhaugmyra 15, N-5353 Straume (NO).

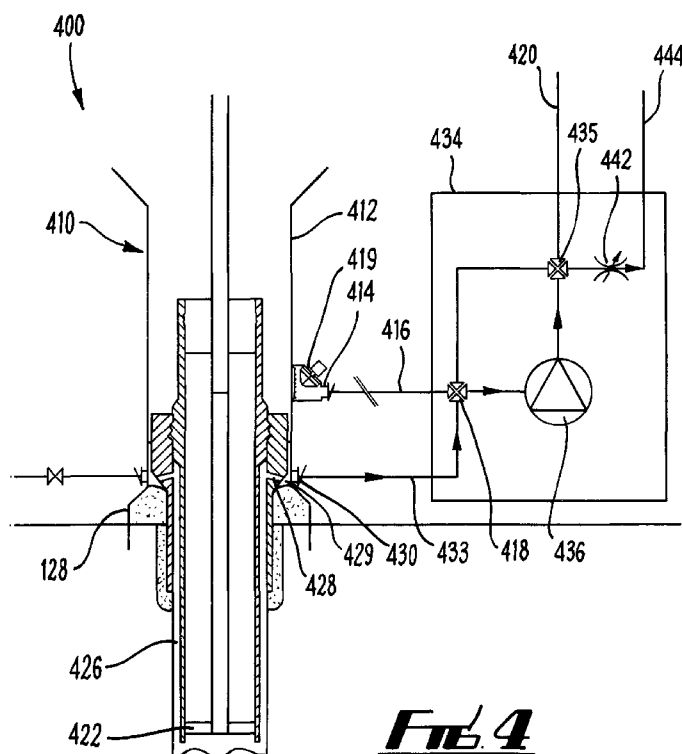
(74) Agent: **LINCOLN IP**; 9 Victoria Street, Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire AB10 1XB (GB).

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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SUBSEA WELLBORE CONSTRUCTION METHOD AND APPARATUS



(57) Abstract: A method and system for constructing a subsea well in a subterranean formation is described. A tubular in a subsea well defines a main wellbore, and a fluid circulation path from the main wellbore to an outlet is formed via the wellbore annulus between the tubular and the subterranean formation. A cement slurry flows from the main wellbore along the wellbore annulus towards the outlet, causing fluid to be displaced from the annulus through the outlet. A controllable subsea choke in fluid communication with the fluid circulation path generates a backpressure in the fluid circulation path using the controllable subsea choke. In a preferred embodiment, the controllable subsea choke is part of a subsea pressure regulation system which also comprises a subsea pump.

**Published:****(88) Date of publication of the international search report:**

9 January 2014

- *with international search report (Art. 21(3))*
- *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments (Rule 48.2(h))*

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/GB2012/050828

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. E21B33/14 E21B43/10 E21B21/08
ADD.

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 practicable, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, TULSA

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 2011/036144 A1 (STATOIL ASA [NO]; KAASA GLENN-OLE [NO]; FJALESTAD KJETIL [NO]) 31 March 2011 (2011-03-31) cited in the application page 14, line 13 - line 24 figure 1	1-19
X	US 2011/061872 A1 (MIX KURT EDWARD [US] ET AL) 17 March 2011 (2011-03-17) paragraph [0060] figure 1	13-19



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"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

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

13 August 2013

Date of mailing of the international search report

25/11/2013

Name and mailing address of the ISA/

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Schouten, Adri

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/GB2012/050828

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☒ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

"see additional sheet(s)"

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-19

Method and system of constructing a subsea well.

2. claim: 20

A method of performing an operation in a subsea well,
comprising: running a tubular into or removing a tubular
from the wellbore.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/GB2012/050828

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 2011036144 A1	31-03-2011	AU 2010299944 A1	05-04-2012
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