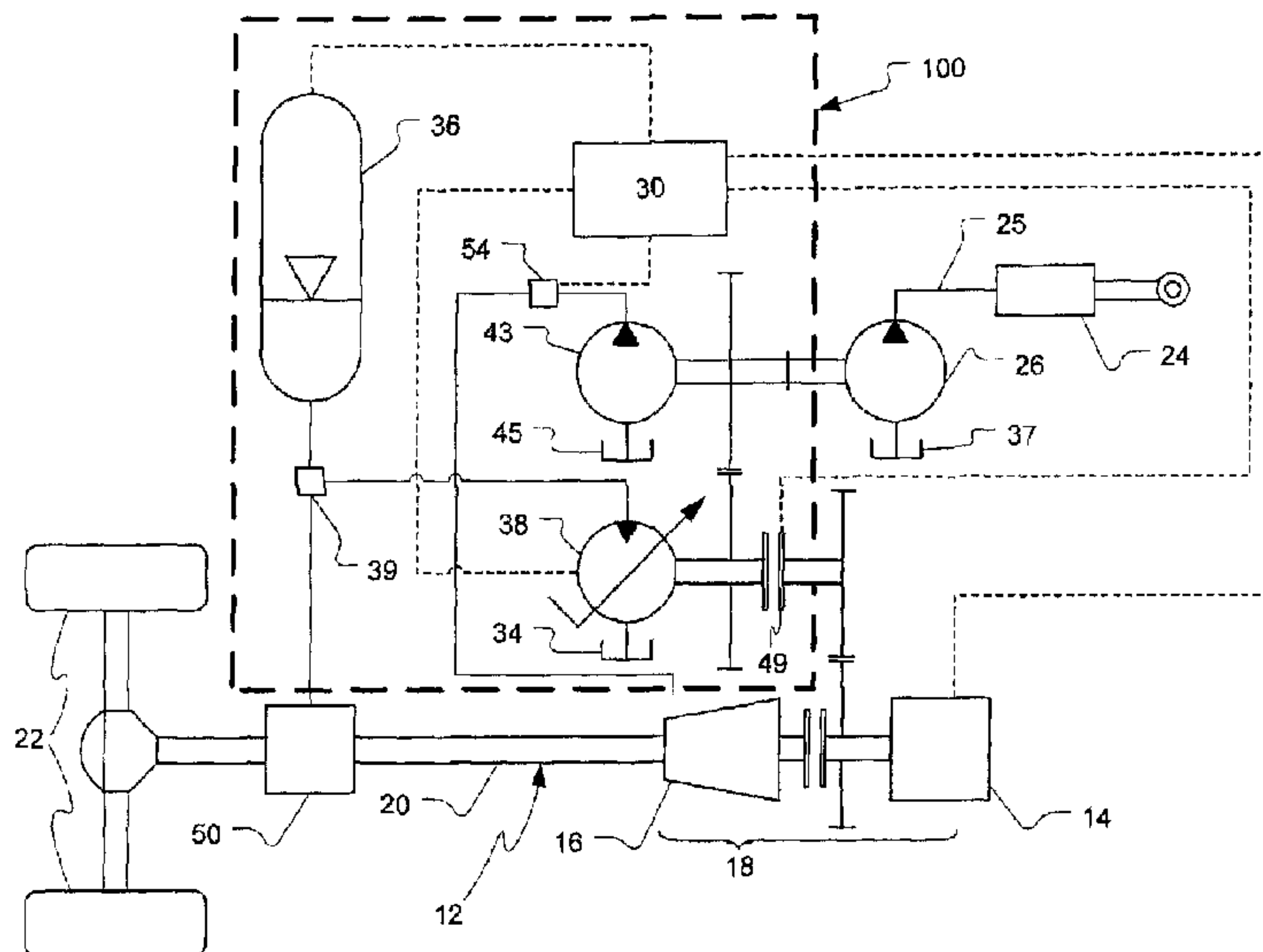




(86) Date de dépôt PCT/PCT Filing Date: 2013/01/11
(87) Date publication PCT/PCT Publication Date: 2013/07/18
(45) Date de délivrance/Issue Date: 2019/06/11
(85) Entrée phase nationale/National Entry: 2014/07/02
(86) N° demande PCT/PCT Application No.: CA 2013/000025
(87) N° publication PCT/PCT Publication No.: 2013/104063
(30) Priorité/Priority: 2012/01/11 (US61/585,422)

(51) Cl.Int./Int.Cl. *B60K 6/12* (2006.01),
B60K 6/28 (2007.10), *F15B 1/033* (2006.01)
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(54) Titre : SYSTEME ECONOMISEUR DE CARBURANT QUI FACILITE LE REDEMARRAGE DU VEHICULE LORSQUE
LE MOTEUR EST ARRETE
(54) Title: FUEL SAVING SYSTEM THAT FACILITATES VEHICLE RE-STARTS WITH THE ENGINE OFF



(57) **Abrégé/Abstract:**

A fuel saving system for a vehicle powered by an internal combustion engine and having a hydraulically activated automatic transmission. The system includes a hydraulic pump able to supply pressurized transmission fluid to the automatic transmission, an energy storage device, and at least one motor powered by the energy storage device including a motor that is mechanically connected to the hydraulic pump and a motor that is coupled to the engine. The system also includes a controller that is responsive to one or more operating conditions to turn off the engine when the vehicle is stopped and to use the motor that is mechanically connected to the hydraulic pump so as to activate the pump to supply sufficient power to the transmission to maintain engagement of the transmission in a driving gear. The controller is also responsive to one or more operating conditions to activate the motor that is coupled to the engine so as to restart the engine with the transmission engaged in a driving gear.

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau(10) International Publication Number
WO 2013/104063 A1(43) International Publication Date
18 July 2013 (18.07.2013)

(51) International Patent Classification:

B60K 6/12 (2006.01) **F15B 1/033** (2006.01)
B60K 6/28 (2007.10)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/CA2013/000025

(22) International Filing Date:

11 January 2013 (11.01.2013)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

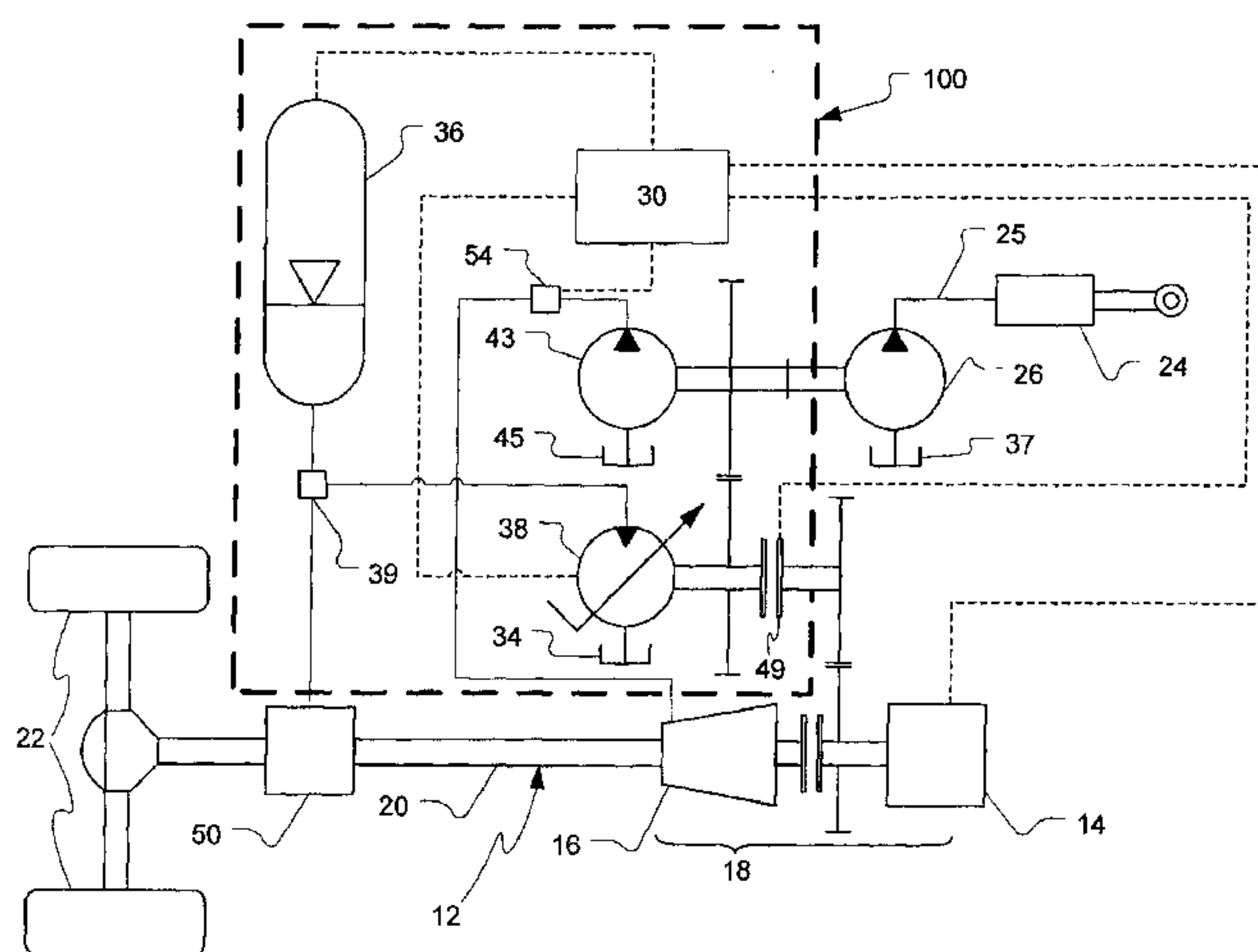
English

(30) Priority Data:

61/585,422 11 January 2012 (11.01.2012) US

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40th Floor, 40 King Street West, Scotia Plaza, Toronto,
Ontario M5H 3Y2 (CA).(81) **Designated States** (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,
AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY,
BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM,
DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT,
HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP,
KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD,
ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI,
NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU,
RW, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ,
TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA,
ZM, ZW.(84) **Designated States** (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH,
GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ,
UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ,
TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK,
EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV,
MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM,
TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW,
ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).**Published:**

- with international search report (Art. 21(3))
- with amended claims (Art. 19(1))

(54) **Title:** FUEL SAVING SYSTEM THAT FACILITATES VEHICLE RE-STARTS WITH THE ENGINE OFF**Fig.1**(57) **Abstract:** A fuel saving system for a vehicle powered by an internal combustion engine and having a hydraulically activated automatic transmission. The system includes a hydraulic pump able to supply pressurized transmission fluid to the automatic transmission, an energy storage device, and at least one motor powered by the energy storage device including a motor that is mechanically connected to the hydraulic pump and a motor that is coupled to the engine. The system also includes a controller that is responsive to one or more operating conditions to turn off the engine when the vehicle is stopped and to use the motor that is mechanically connected to the hydraulic pump so as to activate the pump to supply sufficient power to the transmission to maintain engagement of the transmission in a driving gear. The controller is also responsive to one or more operating conditions to activate the motor that is coupled to the engine so as to restart the engine with the transmission engaged in a driving gear.

TITLE: FUEL SAVING SYSTEM THAT FACILITATES VEHICLE RE-STARTS WITH
THE ENGINE OFF

TECHNICAL FIELD

5 [0001] The present subject matter relates to vehicles powered by an internal combustion engine, and more particularly to systems for improving fuel economy on such vehicles.

BACKGROUND

10 [0002] Most vehicles powered by an internal combustion engine waste a considerable amount of fuel during periods when the vehicle is stopped and the engine is idling. For vehicles like refuse trucks, the idling engine is frequently used to drive auxiliary hydraulic systems when the vehicle is stopped, namely the hydraulic arm that picks up curb-side trash bins, and the hydraulic compactor that compresses the trash in the truck. However, the power required to perform this work is relatively low and a
15 significant portion of the fuel consumed while the engine is idling is mainly used to overcome internal friction in the engine, which results in a very low fuel efficiency during the typical duty cycle of a refuse truck.

[0003] Even though the auxiliary hydraulic system may not be required for each stop, or the auxiliary hydraulic system could be powered independently of the engine, it
20 would not be an acceptable option to turn off the engine of a typical OEM refuse truck each time the truck was stopped at a collection point. For one thing, the starting motor of such trucks would undoubtedly suffer premature wear if used to restart the engine as many as one thousand times per day or more, which is the normal duty cycle for a refuse truck.

25 [0004] Moreover, many refuse trucks are equipped with an automatic transmission having a hydraulic shifting mechanism. The hydraulic pressure in the transmission is supplied by a pump that is integrated within the transmission but driven by the internal combustion engine. When the internal combustion engine is turned off, the transmission pump stops supplying pressure to the transmission and as a result, the
30 transmission automatically shifts from drive into neutral. When the internal combustion engine is restarted, a period of time is needed to rebuild hydraulic pressure in the transmission, which delays the ability to shift the transmission into drive. Such a delay

would be frustrating to the operator of the truck; the delay could also be potentially dangerous as there would be a risk that the truck could roll back if it were stopped on an upward slope.

[0005] The power steering system of typical vehicles also does not work when the engine is turned off as the power steering fluid pump is as well driven by the internal combustion engine.

SUMMARY

[0006] The following summary is intended to introduce the reader to the more detailed description that follows, and not to define or limit the claimed subject matter.

[0007] The claimed subject matter provides the advantages of presenting a relatively simple architecture making it both easily retrofitted to existing vehicles such as refuse trucks, or installed on new vehicles as original equipment.

[0008] According to one aspect of the present disclosure, a fuel saving system is provided for a vehicle powered by an internal combustion engine and having a hydraulically activated automatic transmission. The system includes a hydraulic pump able to supply pressurized transmission fluid to the automatic transmission, an energy storage device, and at least one motor powered by the energy storage device including a motor that is mechanically connected to the hydraulic pump and a motor that is coupled to the engine. The system also includes a controller that is responsive to one or more operating conditions to turn off the engine when the vehicle is stopped and to use the motor that is mechanically connected to the hydraulic pump so as to activate the pump to supply sufficient power to the transmission to maintain engagement of the transmission in a driving gear. The controller is also responsive to one or more operating conditions to activate the motor that is coupled to the engine so as to re-start the engine with the transmission engaged in a driving gear.

[0009] In some examples, the system has a single motor that is mechanically connected to the hydraulic pump able to supply pressurized transmission fluid to the automatic transmission and also disengageably coupled to the engine.

[0010] In other examples, the system has a first motor that is coupled to the engine, and a second motor that is mechanically connected to the hydraulic pump able to supply pressurized transmission fluid to the automatic transmission and to the pump for the auxiliary hydraulic system.

[0011] In some examples, the energy storage device is an electric energy storage device such as a battery or a capacitor; the at least one motor may be an electric motor/generator powered by the electric storage device. In other examples, the energy storage device is a hydraulic accumulator and the at least one motor is a hydraulic motor powered by the hydraulic accumulator; the hydraulic accumulator may be charged by a braking energy recovery system.

[0012] In certain embodiments, where the system is used on a vehicle that includes an auxiliary hydraulic system, a pump powered by the at least one motor supplies pressurized hydraulic fluid to the auxiliary hydraulic system when the engine is off and the at least one motor is on.

[0013] In some embodiments, where the vehicle includes one or more accessory systems, the energy storage device provides power to the accessory systems when the engine is off.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[0014] In order that the claimed subject matter may be more fully understood, reference will be made to the accompanying drawings, in which:

[0015] Figure 1 is a schematic view of a fuel saving system in accordance with a first embodiment of the present subject matter;

[0016] Figure 2 is a schematic view of a fuel saving system in accordance with a first embodiment of the present subject matter representing the normal mode operation;

[0017] Figure 3 is a schematic view of a fuel saving system in accordance with a first embodiment of the present subject matter representing the regenerative braking mode operation;

[0018] Figure 4 is a schematic view of a fuel saving system in accordance with a first embodiment of the present subject matter representing the engine shutdown mode operation;

[0019] Figure 5 is a schematic view of a fuel saving system in accordance with a first embodiment of the present subject matter representing the restarting mode operation;

[0020] Figure 6 is a schematic view of a fuel saving system in accordance with a second embodiment of the present subject matter;

[0021] Figure 7 is a schematic view of a fuel saving system in accordance with a second embodiment of the present subject matter representing the normal mode operation;

[0022] Figure 8 is a schematic view of a fuel saving system in accordance with a second embodiment of the present subject matter representing the regenerative braking mode operation;

[0023] Figure 9 is a schematic view of a fuel saving system in accordance with a second embodiment of the present subject matter representing the shutdown mode operation;

[0024] Figure 10 is a schematic view of a fuel saving system in accordance with a second embodiment of the present subject matter representing the restarting mode operation;

[0025] Figure 11 is a schematic view of a fuel saving system in accordance with a third embodiment of the present subject matter;

[0026] Figure 12 is a schematic view of a fuel saving system in accordance with a third embodiment of the present subject matter representing the normal mode operation;

[0027] Figure 13 is a schematic view of a fuel saving system in accordance with a third embodiment of the present subject matter representing the regenerative braking mode operation;

[0028] Figure 14 is a schematic view of a fuel saving system in accordance with a third embodiment of the present subject matter representing the shutdown mode operation;

[0029] Figure 15 is a schematic view of a fuel saving system in accordance with a third embodiment of the present subject matter representing the restarting mode operation;

DESCRIPTION OF VARIOUS EMBODIMENTS

[0030] In the following description, specific details are set out to provide examples of the claimed subject matter. However, the embodiments described below are not intended to define or limit the claimed subject matter. It will be apparent to those

skilled in the art that many variations of the specific embodiments may be possible within the scope of the claimed subject matter.

[0031] A first embodiment is shown in Fig. 1 which schematically depicts a fuel saving system **100** installed on a powertrain **12** of a vehicle. The components of the powertrain **12** are an internal combustion engine **14** and a transmission **16**, together forming an engine-transmission assembly **18**, and a driveshaft **20** connecting a wheel set **22** to the transmission **16**. The powertrain **12** is equipped with a braking energy recovery system **50**. An auxiliary hydraulic system **24** is connected through a hydraulic connection line **25** to an auxiliary hydraulic pump **26**, which can either be driven by the internal combustion engine **14** or by a variable displacement hydraulic motor **38**. An auxiliary system **24** is often provided on vehicles such as refuse trucks or cement truck, to which the fuel saving system may be installed. Such auxiliary system **24** may be any hydraulically powered piece of equipment, such as garbage compactor, hydraulic arm to lift a garbage can, rotary cement mixer or other hydraulically powered equipment.

[0032] The fuel saving system **100** uses a clutch **49** that is adapted to selectively engage or disengage the variable displacement hydraulic motor **38**, the auxiliary hydraulic pump **26** and a fixed displacement hydraulic pump **43** to the internal combustion engine **14**. A controller **30** controls the engagement of the clutch **49**. The controller **30** may be an electric, electronic, hydraulic or pneumatic circuit.

[0033] The variable displacement hydraulic motor **38** is hydraulically connected to an energy storage device, which according to the first embodiment is a hydraulic accumulator **36**. The hydraulic flow between both is regulated by the valve **39**. The accumulator **36** is used to store the hydraulic fluid under pressure. The pressure is created inside the accumulator **36** by a pressurized gas on an opposed side of a piston or membrane from the hydraulic fluid. The variable displacement hydraulic motor **38** is operative to use, through pressurized hydraulic fluid, the energy received from the accumulator **36** and transform it into a rotational movement. Hence, the variable displacement hydraulic motor **38** is adapted to be mechanically connected to drive a mechanical device by this rotational movement, using the energy stored in the hydraulic accumulator **36** in the form of pressurized hydraulic fluid.

[0034] The energy stored in the accumulator **36** is provided by the braking energy recovery system **50**. In the braking energy recovery system **50**, there is a variable

displacement pump which is driven by the wheel set **22**, a resistance is created when the controller increases the displacement of the variable displacement pump. This opposes the rolling movement of the wheel set **22**, thereby assisting its braking. The larger the flow rate of hydraulic fluid pumped by the variable displacement pump, the
5 larger the assistance to the braking of the wheel set **22**.

[0035] The controller **30** matches the braking demand by carefully combining the braking effort from a foundation braking system of the vehicle with the braking assistance provided by the braking energy recovery system as it stores energy. Advantageously, the variable displacement pump is sized according to the maximum
10 braking torque it has to apply on the wheel set. The controller **30** may then modulate the displacement of the variable displacement pump so as to maximize the level of braking assistance to the braking system, without neither exceeding the braking demand nor the capacity of the hydraulic accumulator **36**. The controller **30** takes into account the capacity of the hydraulic accumulator **36** and may therefore decrease the level of
15 braking assistance in accordance with the storage availability of the hydraulic accumulator **36**. The detection of the braking demand may be achieved in many different ways: electrically, electronically, hydraulically or pneumatically, at any convenient location on the braking system.

[0036] The fixed displacement hydraulic pump **43** can pump hydraulic fluid from a
20 reservoir **45** to provide hydraulic pressure to the transmission **16**. This pump is mechanically engaged to the variable displacement hydraulic motor **38**. The hydraulic connection between the fixed displacement hydraulic pump **43** and the transmission **16** is regulated by a valve **54** in order to maintain the appropriate pressure in the transmission **16**. The controller **30** modulates the variable displacement hydraulic motor
25 **38** through the valve **39** to meet the pressure requirement of the transmission **16**.

[0037] The auxiliary hydraulic pump **26** is mechanically connected to the variable displacement hydraulic motor **38**. The auxiliary hydraulic pump **26** may pump hydraulic fluid from a reservoir **37** to provide hydraulic pressure to the auxiliary system **24**. Both are connected through a hydraulic collection line **25**.

30 [0038] The four different operating modes of the fuel saving system will now be explained in more detail. Fig. 2 schematically depicts the normal mode of the fuel saving system **100**. When the engine **14** is idling and drives the wheel set **22** through the

powertrain **12**, the clutch **49** is engaged, and can connect the variable displacement hydraulic motor **38** to the driving portion of the powertrain. In this mode, the variable displacement hydraulic motor **38** provides no torque. Therefore, the auxiliary hydraulic pump **26** is driven by the internal combustion engine **14** in order to feed the auxiliary hydraulic system **24**. The fixed displacement hydraulic pump **43** turns but the generated oil flow is vented to the transmission hydraulic reservoir **45** by valve **54**.

[0039] Fig. 3 schematically depicts the regenerative braking mode of the fuel saving system **100**. When the vehicle is moving and the driver presses the brake pedal, the braking energy recovery system **50** is activated to generate the required braking torque to the wheel set **22** until the vehicle is stopped. Then, the recovered energy is stored in the hydraulic accumulator **36** in the form of pressurized fluid. The controller **30** opens the valve **39** to connect the hydraulic accumulator **36** with the braking energy recovery system **50** and modulates the quantity of energy that can be stored in the accumulator **36**. If the accumulator **36** reaches its maximum capacity, the controller **30** deactivates the energy recovery system **50**. In the regenerative braking mode, the clutch **49** is engaged, and connects the variable displacement hydraulic motor **38** to the driving portion of the powertrain. In this mode, the variable displacement hydraulic motor **38** provides no torque. Therefore, the auxiliary hydraulic pump **26** is driven by the internal combustion engine **14**, in order to feed the auxiliary hydraulic system **24**. The fixed displacement hydraulic pump **43** turns but the generated oil flow is vented to the transmission hydraulic reservoir **45** by valve **54**.

[0040] Fig. 4 schematically depicts the engine shutdown mode of the fuel saving system **100**. When the vehicle is stopped, the internal combustion engine **14** is turned off. The controller **30** detects an operating condition associated with the engine shutdown mode. For example, the operating condition may be the speed of the vehicle indicating that the vehicle has slowed down or stopped. Other operating conditions may also be detected, such as the amount of energy remaining in the hydraulic accumulator **36**. The controller **30** responds to the detected operating condition by communicating with the electronic controlling unit of the engine **14** to send the instruction to shut down the engine **14**. The internal combustion engine **14** may be turned off completely only when the power demand from the auxiliary system can be met entirely by the variable displacement hydraulic motor **38**, that is to say, if the controller **30** evaluates that there is enough energy stored in the hydraulic accumulator **36**. The clutch **49** is disengaged

from the driving portion of the powertrain **12** when the internal combustion engine **14** is turned off. The variable displacement hydraulic motor **38**, which drives the auxiliary hydraulic pump **26**, is now driven by the energy contained in the hydraulic accumulator **36**. Then, during the time when the internal combustion engine **14** is turned off, the
5 variable displacement hydraulic motor **38** is modulated to maintain the required hydraulic power to the auxiliary hydraulic system **24**.

[0041] One problem caused by turning off and then restarting the internal combustion engine **14** is that when the internal combustion engine is turned off, no power from the engine **14** is provided to the transmission **16**. Consequently, if the
10 transmission **16** is of the automatic type, there will be a lack of hydraulic pressure and the transmission cannot be maintained in a driving gear (for example first gear). Instead the transmission will fall into a "neutral gear". After restarting the internal combustion engine, the hydraulic pressure in the transmission would have to be built up before there would be sufficient energy for the transmission to change from neutral to a driving
15 gear. The time required for the hydraulic pressure to build up and shift to the driving gear is typically several seconds. Consequently an operator of the vehicle will feel a lag between restarting the vehicle and when the vehicle actually starts accelerating after its transmission has selected a driving gear. In a typical operation where the operator starts the vehicle using an electrical ignition system while the vehicle is completely
20 stationary, this lag is acceptable. However, in a situation where the operator is used to the internal combustion engine **14** idling when the vehicle is stopped, and further expects the vehicle to immediately accelerate following the operator's command (for example stepping on the gas pedal), this lag may be frustrating or even dangerous. For example, in a situation where the vehicle is on an uphill incline, having a lag between
25 the time when an operator gives a command to accelerate and the actual time the vehicle starts accelerating can cause the vehicle to roll backwards down the incline for several seconds before being able to stop and accelerate forward.

[0042] To prevent the transmission **16** from falling out of a driving gear into a neutral gear with the present system **100**, hydraulic pressure is provided by the fixed
30 displacement hydraulic pump **43** through a hydraulic circuit to the transmission **16** when the engine **14** is turned off. The fixed displacement hydraulic pump **43** is powered by the variable displacement hydraulic motor **38** and provides pressure to the transmission **16** to maintain it in a driving gear. After starting the internal combustion engine **14** using the

variable displacement hydraulic motor **38**, the transmission **16** will thus still be in a driving gear and no lag will be felt by the vehicle operator when a command to accelerate the vehicle is given. It will be appreciated that the level of power needed to maintain the transmission in gear is substantially lower than the power needed to idle the internal combustion engine **14** for even a short period of time. Therefore turning off the internal combustion engine **14** and using the hydraulic energy stored in the hydraulic accumulator **36** to engage the fixed displacement hydraulic pump **43** to maintain the transmission in a driving gear provides a significant saving in fuel consumption.

[0043] Fig. 5 schematically depicts the restarting mode of the fuel saving system **100**. A consequence of turning off the internal combustion engine **14** is that when an operator needs to resume motion of the vehicle on which the fuel saving system is installed, the internal combustion engine **14** must be restarted. Typically in a vehicle having an internal combustion engine, the engine is started using an electrical ignition system. In situations where a vehicle will often start and stop, frequent restarting of the internal combustion engine is required. It will be appreciated that such frequent restarting would rapidly drain the battery containing the electrical energy powering the electrical ignition system. This problem would be especially prevalent when the internal combustion engine is no longer idling to recharge the battery.

[0044] The solution of the present system **100** is to have the variable displacement hydraulic motor **38**, which is mechanically connected to the powertrain of the engine **14**, drive the engine in order to restart it. The controller **30** detects an operating condition associated with the restarting mode. The operating condition may be a signal from the vehicle operator, such as, the position of the accelerator pedal, wherein the accelerator pedal being stepped on by the operator indicates that the engine **14** should be restarted. Other operating conditions may be detected, for example a low amount of energy remaining in the hydraulic accumulator **39**. The controller **30** responds to the detected operating condition by causing clutch **49** to engage the variable displacement hydraulic motor **38** with the internal combustion engine **14**. Torque provided by the variable displacement hydraulic motor **38** to the engine **14** causes the engine to "restart". The internal combustion engine **14** is considered to be "restarted" when it has reached its idling speed.

[0045] Furthermore, if the controller **30** determines that the level of energy stored in the hydraulic accumulator **36** is sufficient, the controller **30** may be programmed to

assist the internal combustion engine **14** by driving it with the variable displacement hydraulic motor **38**. Whether the internal combustion engine **14** is accelerating, at a steady speed, or turning idle at the time of this assistance from variable displacement hydraulic motor **38**, the result is a decrease in fuel consumption.

5 [0046] Furthermore, to avoid having accessory systems (systems in the vehicle other than the auxiliary hydraulic system **24** or the drivetrain **12**) such as power steering, alternator, or air conditioning, to not work when the engine is turned off, it is possible to power these accessory systems using energy stored in the energy storage device. It is possible to mechanically connect these accessory systems to the variable
10 displacement hydraulic motor **38** in the same manner as for the auxiliary hydraulic pump **26** and the fixed displacement hydraulic pump **43**. Then, if the engine **14** is not running and is just about to restart, the variable displacement hydraulic motor **38**, powered by the accumulator **36**, will drive these accessory systems.

[0047] For all the modes of operation previously described, the fixed
15 displacement hydraulic pump **43** and the auxiliary pump **26** are constantly powered. The controller **30** further monitors if the clutch **49** has to be engaged or not. If the engine **14** is running, the clutch **49** will be engaged by the controller **30**; the fixed displacement hydraulic pump **43** and the auxiliary pump **26** will be powered by the engine **14**. If the engine **14** is not running, the clutch **49** will be disengaged by the controller **30**; the fixed
20 displacement hydraulic pump **43** and the auxiliary pump **26** will be powered by the variable displacement hydraulic motor **38**. If the controller **30** receives the signal to re-launch the vehicle, the clutch **49** will be engaged and the engine **14** will be restarted by the variable displacement hydraulic motor **38**.

[0048] Turning to Fig. 6, it will be seen that the second embodiment of the fuel
25 saving system **101** is similar to the first embodiment already described except that the variable displacement hydraulic motor **38** is replaced with an electrical motor-generator **52** and the energy storage device is an electrical storage device **51** instead of a hydraulic accumulator. The electrical storage device **51** can be charged by an external source of electrical power through an electrical connection and/or by an electrical
30 braking energy recovery system **55**. The electrical storage device **51** can be a battery pack as well as a super-capacitor.

[0049] The electrical storage device **51** can provide its stored energy through an electrical connection to the electrical motor-generator **52**. An electrical drive **53** manages the energy flow between the electrical storage device **51** and the motor-generator **52**. The same operating modes as for the first embodiment apply for the
5 second embodiment.

[0050] Fig. 7 schematically depicts the normal mode of operation, similar to the one described in respect of Fig. 2 for the first embodiment, but the variable displacement hydraulic motor **38** is replaced by the motor-generator **52** and the hydraulic accumulator **36** is replaced by an electrical storage device **51**.

10 [0051] Fig. 8 schematically depicts the regenerative braking mode, similar in operation to the one shown in Fig. 3 for the first embodiment, but the variable displacement hydraulic motor **38** is replaced by a motor-generator **52** and the hydraulic accumulator **36** is replaced by an electrical storage device **51**.

[0052] Fig. 9 schematically depicts the engine shutdown mode of operation,
15 similar to what is described, in respect of Fig.4 for the first embodiment, but the variable displacement hydraulic motor **38** is replaced by a motor-generator **52** and the hydraulic accumulator **36** is replaced by an electrical storage device **51**.

[0053] Fig. 10 schematically depicts the engine restarting mode similar to what is described in Fig. 5 for the first embodiment but the variable displacement hydraulic
20 motor **38** is now replaced by a motor-generator **52** and the hydraulic accumulator **36** is now replaced by an electrical storage device **51**.

[0054] Furthermore, to avoid having accessory systems (systems in the vehicle other than the auxiliary hydraulic system **24** or the drivetrain **12**) such as power steering, alternator, or air conditioning, to not work when the engine is turned off, it is
25 possible to power these accessory systems using energy stored in the energy storage device. It is possible to mechanically connect these accessory systems to the motor-generator **52**. Then, if the engine **14** is not running and is just about to restart, the motor-generator **52**, powered by the electric storage device **51**, will drive these accessory systems.

30 [0055] Fig. 11 schematically depicts an alternative fuel saving system **102** which is installed on the powertrain **12** of a vehicle. The components of the powertrain **12** shown in Fig. 11 are an internal combustion engine **14** and a transmission **16**, together

forming an engine-transmission assembly **18**, and a driveshaft **20** connecting a wheel set **22** to the transmission **16**. The wheel set **22** is equipped with a braking energy recovery system **50**. Auxiliary system **24** is connected through a hydraulic connection line **25** to the auxiliary hydraulic pump **26**, which can be driven either by the internal combustion engine **14** or by a variable displacement hydraulic motor **38**. Since the auxiliary hydraulic pump **26** is always mechanically connected with the internal combustion engine **14**, an unloading valve **46** is placed on the hydraulic connection line **25** between the auxiliary hydraulic pump **26** and the auxiliary system **24**. This unloading valve **46** is used to divert the hydraulic fluid to the reservoir **37** when the fixed displacement pump **47** is active.

[0056] The fuel saving system **102** uses a variable displacement hydraulic motor **38** that is mechanically connected to the auxiliary hydraulic pump **26** and to the internal combustion engine **14**. The variable displacement hydraulic motor **38** is also hydraulically connected to the hydraulic accumulator **36**. The hydraulic accumulator **36** is used to store hydraulic fluid under pressure. The pressure is created inside the hydraulic accumulator **36** by a pressurized gas on an opposed side of a piston or membrane from the hydraulic fluid. The variable displacement hydraulic motor **38** is operative to use, through the pressurized hydraulic fluid, the energy received from the hydraulic accumulator **36** and transform it into a rotational movement. Hence, the variable displacement hydraulic motor **38** is adapted to be mechanically connected to drive a mechanical device by this rotational movement, using the energy stored in the hydraulic accumulator **36** in the form of pressurized hydraulic fluid. The variable displacement hydraulic motor **38** may be connected to the internal combustion engine **14** through the PTO or directly on the crankshaft or the flywheel of the internal combustion engine **14**. The variable displacement hydraulic motor **38** may be connected to the internal combustion engine **14** by a clutch to allow disengaging the motor **38** when not required. Moreover, the auxiliary hydraulic pump **26** may be connected to the PTO, directly on the crankshaft or the flywheel of the internal combustion engine **14**, or to any other convenient location. The auxiliary hydraulic pump **26**, which may be a fixed or a variable displacement pump, may be directly driven by the variable displacement hydraulic motor **38**.

[0057] The energy stored in the accumulator **36** is provided by a braking energy recovery system **50**. In the braking energy recovery system **50**, there is a variable

displacement pump which is driven by the wheel set **22**, a resistance is created when the controller **30** increases the displacement of the variable displacement pump. This opposes the rolling movement of the wheel set **22**, thereby assisting its braking. The larger the flow rate of hydraulic fluid pumped by the variable displacement pump, the
5 larger the assistance to the braking of the wheel set **22**.

[0058] The controller **30** matches the braking demand by carefully combining the braking effort from the "foundation" braking system of the vehicle with the braking assistance provided by the braking energy recovery system **50** as it stores energy. Advantageously, the variable displacement pump is sized according to the maximum
10 braking torque it has to apply on the wheel set **22**. The controller **30** may then modulate the displacement of the variable displacement pump so as to maximize the level of braking assistance to the braking system, without exceeding either the braking demand or the capacity of the accumulator **36**. The controller **30** takes into account the capacity of the accumulator **36** and may therefore decrease the level of braking assistance in
15 accordance with the storage availability of the accumulator **36**. The detection of the braking demand may be achieved in many different ways: electrically, electronically, hydraulically or pneumatically, at any convenient location on the braking system.

[0059] A second hydraulic variable displacement motor **41** is hydraulically connected to the accumulator **36**. The motor **41** is operative to use, through pressurized
20 hydraulic fluid, the energy received from the accumulator **36** and transform it into a rotational movement. This motor **41** is not directly connected in any way to the internal combustion engine **14**.

[0060] A fixed displacement hydraulic pump **43** is mechanically connected to the second hydraulic variable displacement motor **41**. The fixed displacement hydraulic
25 pump **43** can pump hydraulic fluid from a reservoir **45** to provide hydraulic pressure to the transmission **16** of the vehicle through a hydraulic connection. The second motor **41** is adapted to drive the fixed displacement hydraulic pump **43**, which in turn provides hydraulic pressure to the transmission **16**. A second auxiliary hydraulic pump **47** is also mechanically connected to the second hydraulic variable displacement motor **41**. The
30 second auxiliary pump **47** is further hydraulically connected to the auxiliary system **24** through a hydraulic circuit. The second motor **41** is adapted to drive this second auxiliary pump **47**, which in turn provides hydraulic pressure to the auxiliary system **24** to power it.

[0061] The second motor **41** is sized according to the maximum torque required to drive the fixed displacement hydraulic pump **43** and second auxiliary pump **47** that are respectively powering the transmission **16** and the auxiliary system **24**.

[0062] Both the first and second auxiliary hydraulic pumps **26** and **47** can pump
5 hydraulic fluid from an auxiliary reservoir **37** to provide hydraulic pressure to the auxiliary system **24**.

[0063] The fixed displacement hydraulic pump **43** pumps hydraulic fluid from a transmission fluid reservoir **45**.

[0064] Since both the second auxiliary hydraulic pump **47** and the auxiliary
10 hydraulic pump **26** are connected to the auxiliary system **24**, either of them, may provide hydraulic power to the auxiliary system **24**.

[0065] Fig. 12 schematically depicts the normal operating mode of the fuel saving system **102**. The auxiliary hydraulic pump **26** is driven by the internal combustion engine **14** in order to feed the auxiliary hydraulic system **24**. At that point the variable
15 displacement hydraulic motor **41** does not turn and therefore, the two fixed displacement hydraulic pumps **43** and **47** are not turning either.

[0066] Fig. 13 schematically depicts the regenerative braking mode of the fuel saving system **102**. In this mode, when the controller **30** detects that the vehicle is moving and the driver presses the brake pedal, the braking energy recovery system **50**
20 is activated to generate the required braking torque to the wheel set **22** until the vehicle is stopped. The recovered energy is stored in the hydraulic accumulator **36** in the form of pressurized fluid. The auxiliary hydraulic pump **26** is driven by the internal combustion engine **14** in order to feed the auxiliary hydraulic system **24**. At that point the variable displacement hydraulic motor **41** does not turn and therefore, the two fixed
25 displacement hydraulic pumps **43** and **47** are not turning either.

[0067] Fig.14 schematically depicts the engine turned off mode of the fuel saving system **102**. In this mode, when the vehicle is stopped, the internal combustion engine **14** is shut down if the controller **30** senses that there is enough energy stored in the hydraulic accumulator **36**. When the internal combustion engine **14** is turned off, its
30 rotational revolution goes from idling speed to zero. Because the auxiliary hydraulic pump **26** is mechanically connected to the internal combustion engine **14**, the auxiliary hydraulic system **24** is no longer fed by auxiliary hydraulic pump **26** when the internal

combustion engine **14** is turned off. Then simultaneously, the rotational speed of the variable displacement hydraulic motor **41** is inversely increased to drive the two fixed displacement hydraulic pumps **43** and **47**. During the time where the internal combustion engine **14** is turned off, the variable displacement hydraulic motor **41**, which
5 is powered by the hydraulic accumulator **36**, is modulated to maintain the required hydraulic power to the auxiliary hydraulic system **24**. Also, to prevent the transmission **16** from falling out of a driving gear into a neutral gear, appropriate hydraulic pressure is constantly provided by the fixed displacement hydraulic pump **43** through a hydraulic circuit to the transmission **16** when the engine **14** is turned off. The fixed displacement
10 hydraulic pump **43** is powered by the variable displacement motor **41** and provides only sufficient pressure to the transmission **16** to maintain it in a driving gear.

[0068] Fig. 15 schematically depicts the engine restarting mode. In this mode, when the controller **30** detects that the driver of the vehicle releases the brake pedal and presses the accelerator pedal, or when the energy level in the hydraulic
15 accumulator **36** is too low, the internal combustion engine **14** is restarted. The variable displacement hydraulic motor **38** is powered by the hydraulic accumulator **36** in order to provide a starting torque to the internal combustion engine **14**. As the internal combustion engine **14** is being restarted, the auxiliary hydraulic pump **26** starts to supply hydraulic power to the auxiliary hydraulic system **24**. Simultaneously, the
20 rotational speed of the variable displacement hydraulic motor **41** is inversely reduced to zero. The internal combustion engine **14** is considered to be restarted when it has reached its idling speed. Once the internal combustion engine **14** is restarted, the variable displacement hydraulic motor **38** can continuously provide torque to the internal combustion engine **14** as long as there is some energy left in the hydraulic accumulator
25 **36** in order to reduce the load on the internal combustion engine **14**.

[0069] The controller **30** monitors the rotational speed of the motors **38** and **41** to determine the level of pressurized hydraulic fluid required to drive the auxiliary system **24**. For example, an increased power demand from the auxiliary system **24** will cause a slowdown in the rotational speeds of motors **38** or **41** when either of these motors is
30 driving the auxiliary system **24**. The controller **30** responds to this slowdown by increasing the flow of pressurized hydraulic fluid to either motor. The controller **30** can also determine that the auxiliary system **24** has ceased demand for power by detecting an increase in the rotational speeds of either motors **38** or **41**.

[0070] It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that although the above alternative embodiments have been described in some detail many modifications may be practiced without departing from the claimed subject matter.

WE CLAIM:

1. A fuel saving system for a vehicle powered by an internal combustion engine and equipped with a hydraulically activated automatic transmission, the fuel saving system comprising:

a transmission fluid pump able to supply pressurized transmission fluid to the automatic transmission;

an energy storage device;

at least one motor powered by the energy storage device,

the at least one motor including a motor that is mechanically connected to the transmission fluid pump and a motor that is coupled to the engine;

a controller responsive to one or more operating conditions to turn off the engine when the vehicle is stopped and to use the motor that is mechanically connected to the transmission fluid pump so as to activate the transmission fluid pump to supply sufficient power to the transmission to maintain engagement of the transmission in a driving gear,

the controller also being responsive to one or more operating conditions to activate the motor that is coupled to the engine so as to restart the engine with the transmission engaged in a driving gear;

wherein the motor that is mechanically connected to the transmission fluid pump is further mechanically connected to a pump for an auxiliary hydraulic system of the vehicle; and

wherein the controller is responsive to one or more operating conditions to turn off the engine when the vehicle is stopped, and to use the motor that is mechanically connected to the transmission fluid pump and to the pump for the auxiliary hydraulic system to further activate the pump for the auxiliary hydraulic system to supply pressurized hydraulic fluid to the auxiliary hydraulic system.

2. The fuel saving system of claim 1, wherein the at least one motor comprises a single motor that is disengageably coupled to the engine, and that is also mechanically connected to the transmission fluid pump and to the pump for the auxiliary hydraulic system.
3. The fuel saving system of claim 1, wherein the at least one motor comprises a first motor that is coupled to the engine, and a second motor that is mechanically connected to the transmission fluid pump and to the pump for the auxiliary hydraulic system.
4. The fuel saving system of claim 1, wherein the energy storage device is a battery or a capacitor and the at least one motor is an electric motor/generator powered by the battery or capacitor.
5. The fuel saving system of claim 2, wherein the energy storage device is a battery or a capacitor and the at least one motor is an electric motor/generator powered by the battery or capacitor.
6. The fuel saving system of claim 3, wherein the energy storage device is a battery or a capacitor and the at least one motor is an electric motor/generator powered by the battery or capacitor.
7. The fuel saving system of claim 1, wherein the energy storage device is a hydraulic accumulator and the at least one motor is a hydraulic motor powered by the hydraulic accumulator.
8. The fuel saving system of claim 2, wherein the energy storage device is a hydraulic accumulator and the at least one motor is a hydraulic motor powered by the hydraulic accumulator.
9. The fuel saving system of claim 3, wherein the energy storage device is a hydraulic accumulator and the at least one motor is a hydraulic motor powered by the hydraulic accumulator.

10. The fuel saving system of claim 2, wherein the pump for the auxiliary hydraulic system is disengageably coupled to the engine and is activated by the engine to supply pressurized hydraulic fluid to the auxiliary hydraulic system when the engine is running.
11. The fuel saving system of claim 3, further comprising an independent pump for the auxiliary hydraulic system coupled to the engine and activated by the engine to supply pressurized hydraulic fluid to the auxiliary hydraulic system when the engine is running.
12. The fuel saving system of claim 2, wherein the transmission fluid pump is external to the automatic transmission.
13. The fuel saving system of claim 3, wherein the transmission fluid pump is external to the automatic transmission.
14. The fuel saving system of claim 1, wherein the vehicle includes one or more accessory systems and wherein the energy storage device provides power to the one or more accessory systems when the engine is off and the at least one motor is on.
15. The fuel saving system of claim 1, wherein activating the motor that is coupled to the engine so as to restart the engine with the transmission engaged in a driving gear also sets the vehicle in motion.
16. The fuel saving system of claim 1, wherein the one or more operating conditions comprise an indication of speed of the vehicle, the controller responding to the indication to turn off the engine.
17. The fuel saving system of claim 1, wherein the operating conditions further comprises an amount of energy stored in the energy storage device, the controller evaluating whether to turn off the engine based on the amount of energy stored.
18. The fuel saving system of claim 1, wherein the operating conditions comprises a vehicle operator signal, the controller responding to the operator signal to restart the engine.

19. The fuel saving system of claim 7, wherein the hydraulic accumulator is charged by a braking energy recovery system.

20. The fuel saving system of claim 1, wherein the hydraulically activated automatic transmission of the vehicle includes an integrated pump driven by the internal combustion engine, the integrated pump ceasing to supply pressure to the automatic transmission when the internal combustion engine is turned off.

21. The fuel saving system of claim 1, wherein the energy storage device includes an electric energy storage device.

22. The fuel saving system of claim 1, wherein the energy storage device includes a hydraulic accumulator.

23. A fuel saving system for a vehicle powered by an internal combustion engine and equipped with a hydraulically activated automatic transmission, the fuel saving system comprising:

- a transmission fluid pump able to supply pressurized transmission fluid to the automatic transmission;

- an energy storage device;

- at least one motor powered by the energy storage device,

- the at least one motor including a motor that is mechanically connected to the transmission fluid pump and a motor that is coupled to the engine;

- a controller responsive to one or more operating conditions to turn off the engine when the vehicle is stopped and to use the motor that is mechanically connected to the transmission fluid pump so as to activate the transmission fluid pump to supply sufficient power to the transmission to maintain engagement of the transmission in a driving gear,

- the controller also being responsive to one or more operating conditions to activate the motor that is coupled to the engine so as to restart the engine with the transmission engaged in a driving gear;

wherein the energy storage device is a battery or a capacitor and the at least one motor is an electric motor/generator powered by the battery or capacitor;
and

wherein the battery is a rechargeable battery.

24. A fuel saving system for a vehicle powered by an internal combustion engine and equipped with a hydraulically activated automatic transmission, the fuel saving system comprising:

a transmission fluid pump able to supply pressurized transmission fluid to the automatic transmission;

an energy storage device;

at least one motor powered by the energy storage device,

the at least one motor including a motor that is mechanically connected to the transmission fluid pump and a motor that is connected to the internal combustion engine through one of a PTO, a crankshaft and a flywheel and operable to selectively provide a starting torque to the internal combustion engine;

a controller responsive to one or more operating conditions to turn off the engine when the vehicle is stopped and to use the motor that is mechanically connected to the transmission fluid pump so as to activate the transmission fluid pump to supply sufficient power to the transmission to maintain engagement of the transmission in a driving gear,

the controller also being responsive to one or more operating conditions to activate the motor that is connected to the engine so as to restart the engine with the transmission engaged in the driving gear.

25. The fuel saving system of claim 24, wherein the hydraulically activated automatic transmission of the vehicle includes an integrated pump driven by the internal

combustion engine, the integrated pump ceasing to supply pressure to the automatic transmission when the internal combustion engine is turned off.

26. The fuel saving system of claims 24 or 25, wherein the energy storage device includes an electric energy storage device.

27. The fuel saving system of any one of claims 24 to 26, wherein the energy storage device includes a hydraulic accumulator.

28. The fuel saving system of any one of claims 24 to 27:

wherein the motor that is mechanically connected to the transmission fluid pump is further mechanically connected to a pump for an auxiliary hydraulic system of the vehicle; and

wherein the controller is responsive to one or more operating conditions to turn off the engine when the vehicle is stopped, and to use the motor that is mechanically connected to the transmission fluid pump and to the pump for the auxiliary hydraulic system to further activate the pump for the auxiliary hydraulic system to supply pressurized hydraulic fluid to the auxiliary hydraulic system.

29. The fuel saving system of any one of claims 24 to 28, wherein the at least one motor comprises a single motor that is disengageably coupled to the engine, and that is also mechanically connected to the transmission fluid pump.

30. The fuel saving system of any one of claims 24 to 28, wherein the at least one motor comprises a first motor that is coupled to the engine, and a second motor that is mechanically connected to the transmission fluid pump.

31. The fuel saving system of any one of claims 24 to 30, wherein the energy storage device includes a battery or a capacitor and the at least one motor is an electric motor/generator powered by the battery or capacitor.

32. The fuel saving system of any one of claims 24 to 30, wherein the energy storage device includes a hydraulic accumulator and the at least one motor is a hydraulic motor powered by the hydraulic accumulator.
33. The fuel saving system of claim 31, wherein the battery or capacitor is rechargeable and wherein the motor/generator charges the battery or capacitor.
34. The fuel saving system of claim 32, wherein the hydraulic accumulator is charged by a braking energy recovery system.
35. The fuel saving system of claim 32, wherein the hydraulic accumulator is charged by the motor that is connected to the engine.
36. The fuel saving system of claim 28, wherein the pump for the auxiliary hydraulic system is disengageably coupled to the engine and is activated by the engine to supply pressurized hydraulic fluid to the auxiliary hydraulic system when the engine is running.
37. The fuel saving system of claim 28, further comprising an independent pump for the auxiliary hydraulic system coupled to the engine and activated by the engine to supply pressurized hydraulic fluid to the auxiliary hydraulic system when the engine is running.
38. The fuel saving system of any one of claims 24 to 37, wherein the transmission fluid pump is external to the automatic transmission.
39. The fuel saving system of any one of claims 24 to 38, wherein the vehicle includes one or more accessory systems and wherein the energy storage device provides power to the one or more accessory systems when the engine is off and the at least one motor is on.
40. The fuel saving system of any one of claims 24 to 39, wherein activating the motor that is coupled to the engine so as to restart the engine with the transmission engaged in a driving gear also sets the vehicle in motion.

41. The fuel saving system of any one of claims 24 to 40, wherein the one or more operating conditions comprise an indication of speed of the vehicle, the controller responding to the indication to turn off the engine.

42. The fuel saving system of any one of claims 24 to 41, wherein the one or more operating conditions comprises an amount of energy stored in the energy storage device, the controller evaluating whether to turn off the engine based on the amount of energy stored.

43. The fuel saving system of any one of claims 24 to 42, wherein the operating conditions comprises a vehicle operator signal, the controller responding to the operator signal to restart the engine.

44. The fuel saving system of any one of claims 24 to 43, wherein the motor that is mechanically connected to the transmission fluid pump is powered by an electric energy storage device; and

wherein the motor coupled to the engine is powered by a hydraulic accumulator.

45. The fuel saving system of claim 30, further comprising a first auxiliary hydraulic pump of an auxiliary hydraulic system, the first auxiliary hydraulic pump being connected to the engine.

46. The fuel saving system of claim 45, wherein the first auxiliary hydraulic pump is selectively driven by the internal combustion engine to supply pressurized hydraulic fluid to the auxiliary hydraulic system when the engine is running.

47. The fuel saving system of claim 45, wherein the second motor is further mechanically connected to a second auxiliary hydraulic pump for supplying pressurized hydraulic fluid to the auxiliary hydraulic system; and

wherein the controller is responsive to one or more operating conditions to turn off the engine when the vehicle is stopped, and to use the motor that is mechanically connected to the transmission fluid pump to further activate the pump for

the auxiliary hydraulic system to supply pressurized hydraulic fluid to the auxiliary hydraulic system.

48. The fuel saving system of claim 45, further comprising a third motor connected to a second auxiliary hydraulic pump for supplying pressurized hydraulic fluid to the auxiliary hydraulic system.

49. The fuel saving system of claim 45, further comprising an unloading valve for diverting hydraulic fluid from the first auxiliary hydraulic pump.

50. The fuel saving system of claim 24, wherein the energy storage device is an electric energy storage device and the at least one motor is an electric motor/generator powered by the electric energy storage device.

51. The fuel saving system of claim 24, wherein the energy storage device is a hydraulic accumulator and the at least one motor is a hydraulic motor powered by the hydraulic accumulator.

52. The fuel saving system of claim 30, wherein the energy storage device includes an electric energy storage device and the second motor that is mechanically connected to the transmission fluid pump is an electric motor/generator powered by the electric energy storage device; and

wherein the energy storage device includes a hydraulic accumulator and the first motor that is connected to the engine is a hydraulic motor powered by the hydraulic accumulator.

53. The fuel saving system of claim 1, wherein the energy storage device includes a rechargeable electrical energy storage device, and wherein the motor connected to the engine is an electric motor/generator operable to recharge the electrical energy storage device.

54. A fuel saving system for a vehicle powered by an internal combustion engine and equipped with a hydraulically activated automatic transmission, the fuel saving system comprising:

a transmission fluid pump able to supply pressurized transmission fluid to the automatic transmission;

an energy storage device having an electric energy storage device and a hydraulic accumulator;

a first motor powered by the hydraulic accumulator and coupled to the engine and operable to selectively provide a starting torque to the internal combustion engine;

a second electric motor/generator powered by the electric energy storage device and mechanically connected to the transmission fluid pump; and

a controller responsive to one or more operating conditions to turn off the engine when the vehicle is stopped and to use the motor that is mechanically connected to the transmission fluid pump so as to activate the transmission fluid pump to supply sufficient power to the transmission to maintain engagement of the transmission in a driving gear,

the controller also being responsive to one or more operating conditions to activate the motor that is coupled to the engine so as to restart the engine with the transmission engaged in a driving gear.

55. A fuel saving system for a vehicle powered by an internal combustion engine and equipped with a hydraulically activated automatic transmission, the fuel saving system comprising:

a transmission fluid pump able to supply pressurized transmission fluid to the automatic transmission;

an energy storage device having a rechargeable electrical energy storage device;

at least one motor powered by the energy storage device,

the at least one motor including a motor that is mechanically connected to the transmission fluid pump and an electric motor/generator that is coupled to the engine and operable to selectively provide a starting torque to the internal combustion engine and to recharge the electrical energy storage device; and

a controller responsive to one or more operating conditions to turn off the engine when the vehicle is stopped and to use the motor that is mechanically connected

to the transmission fluid pump so as to activate the transmission fluid pump to supply sufficient power to the transmission to maintain engagement of the transmission in a driving gear,

the controller also being responsive to one or more operating conditions to activate the motor that is coupled to the engine so as to restart the engine with the transmission engaged in a driving gear.

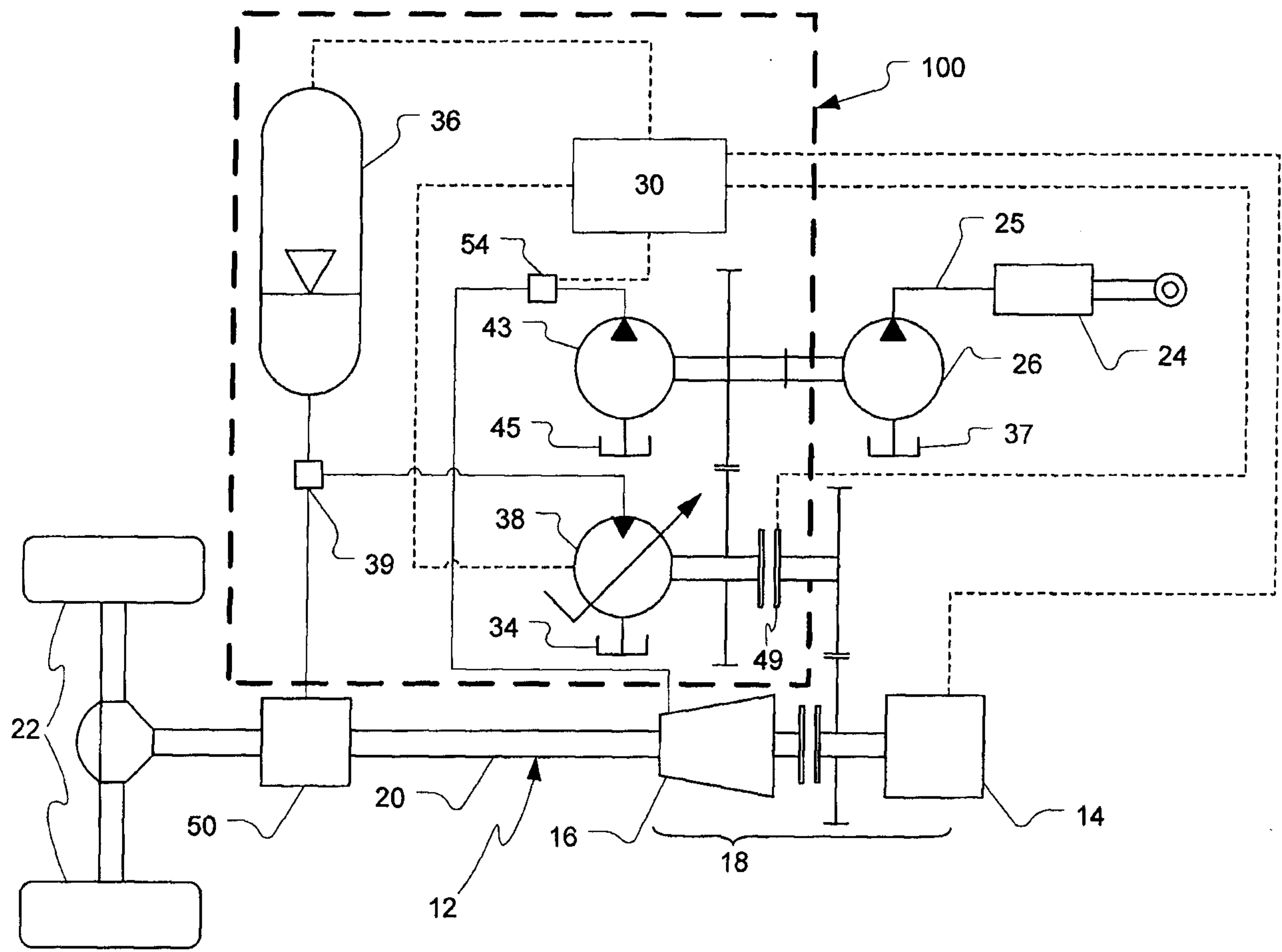


Fig.1

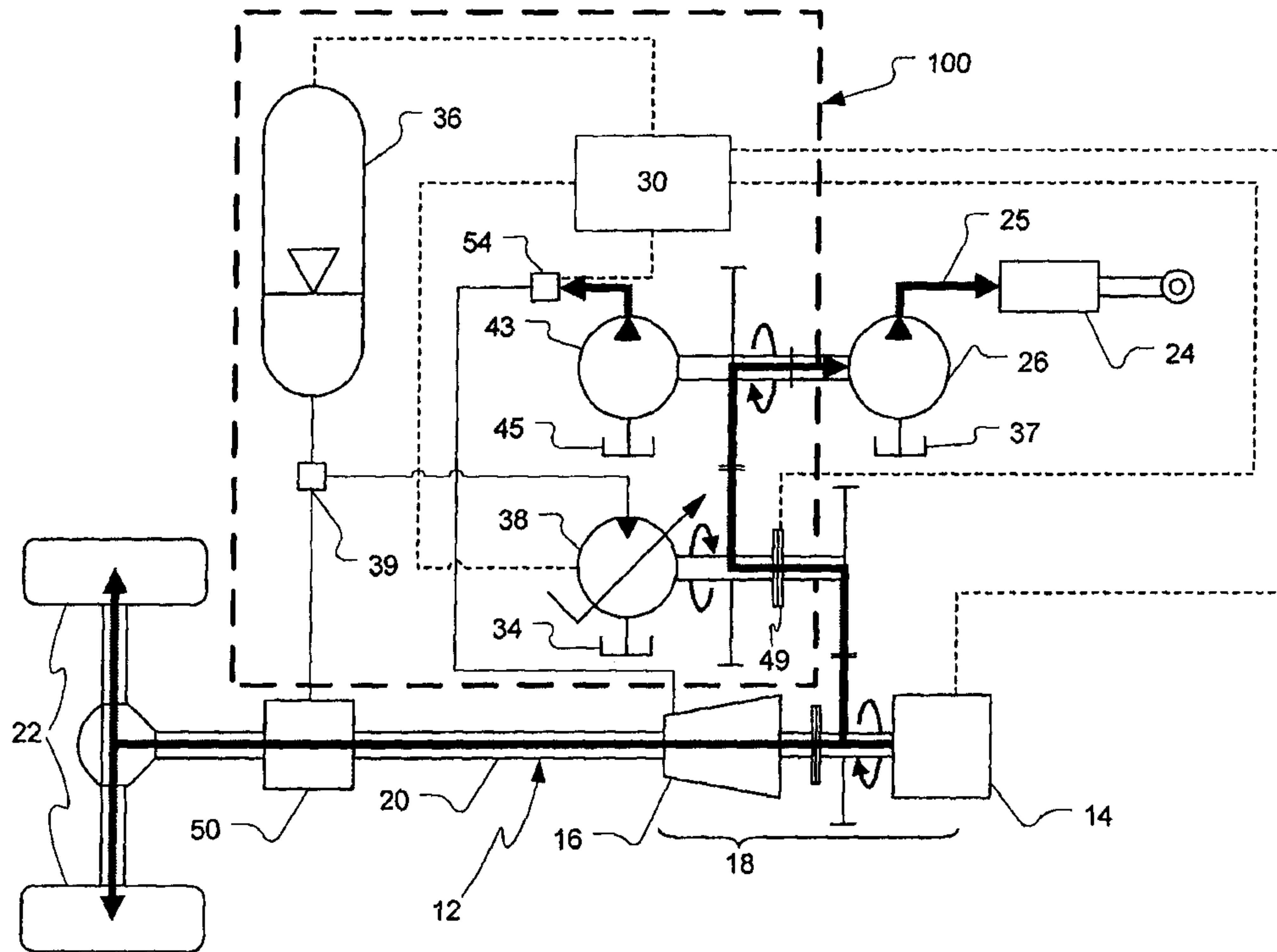


Fig. 2

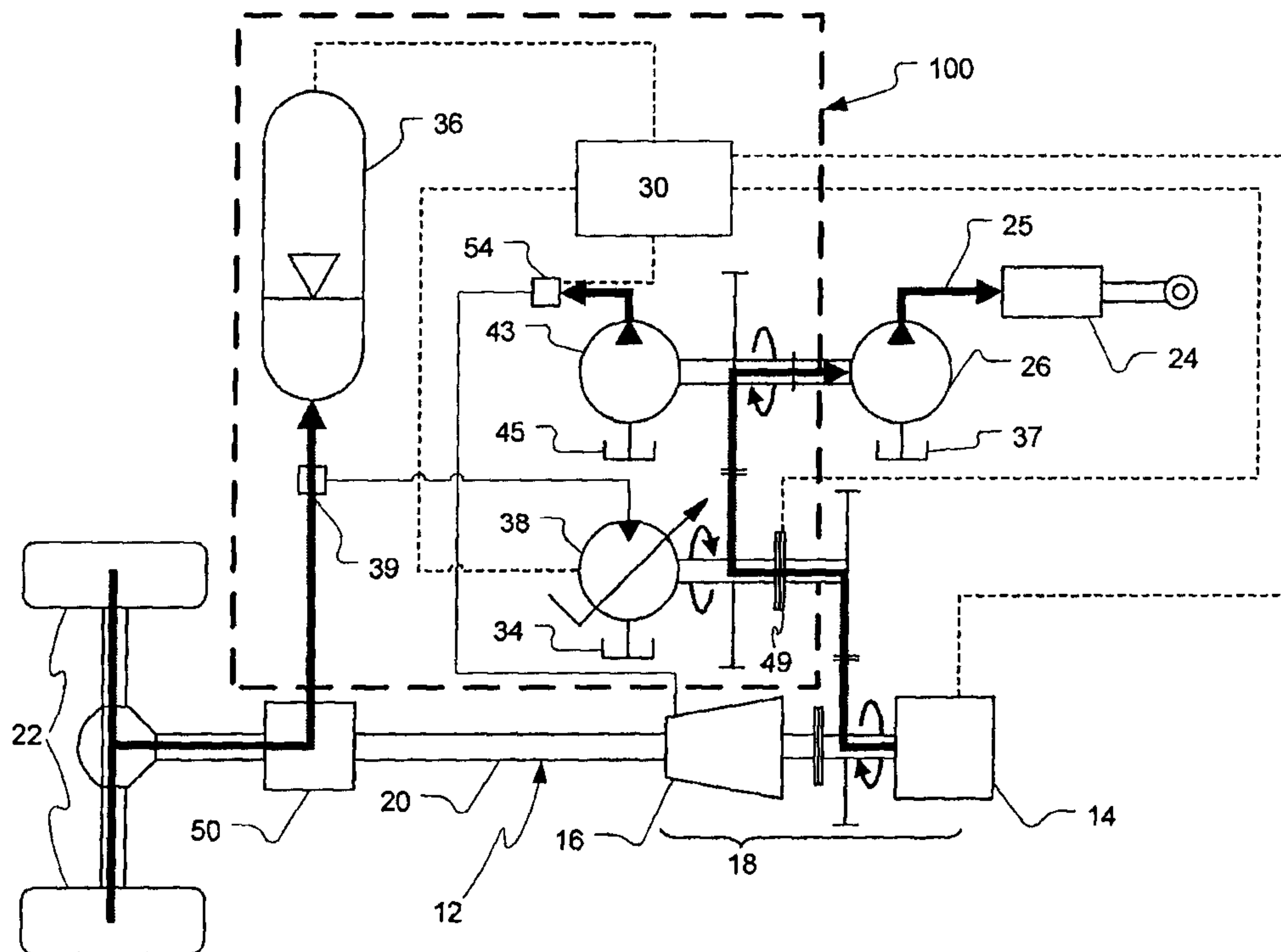


Fig. 3

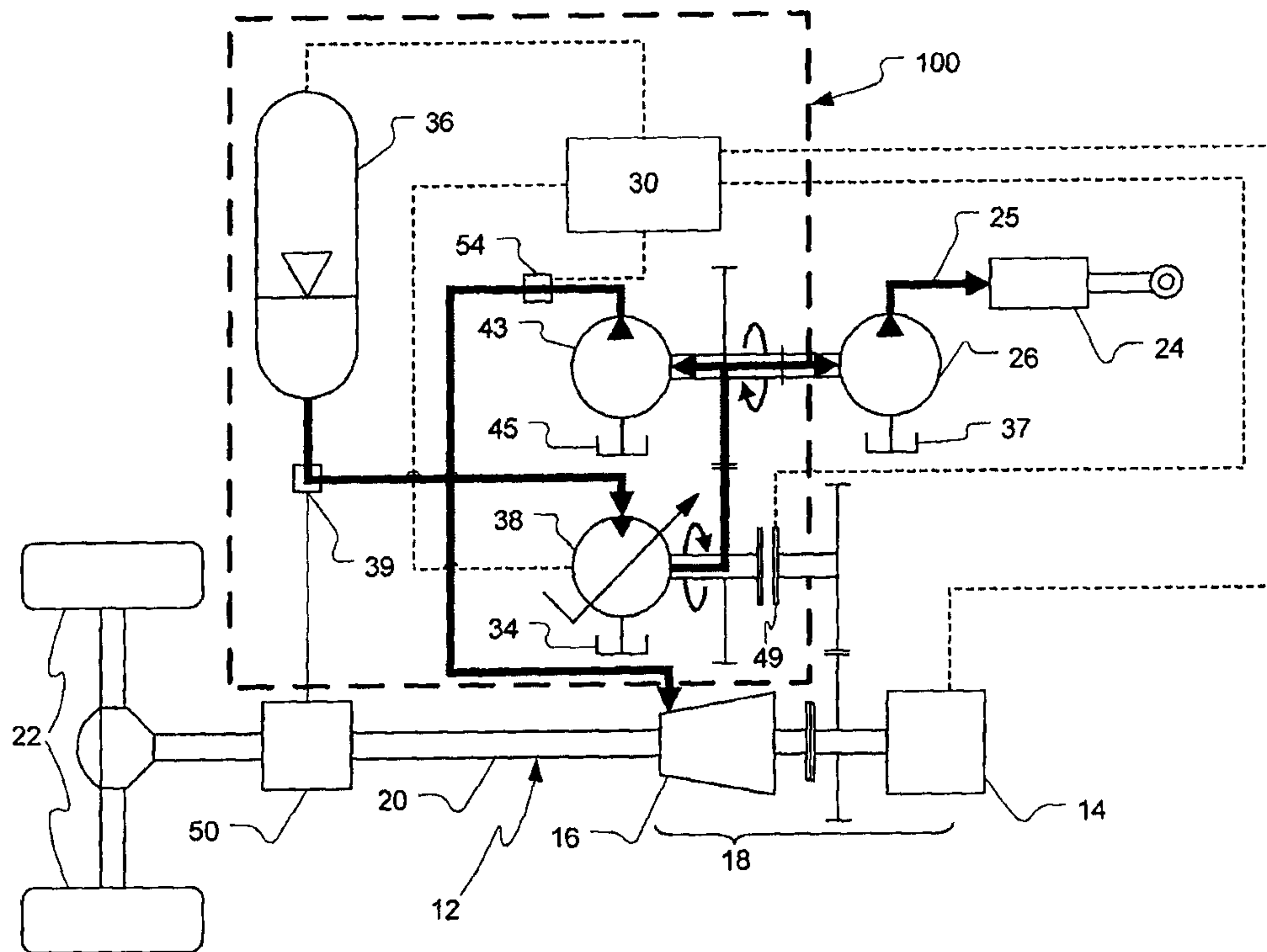


Fig. 4

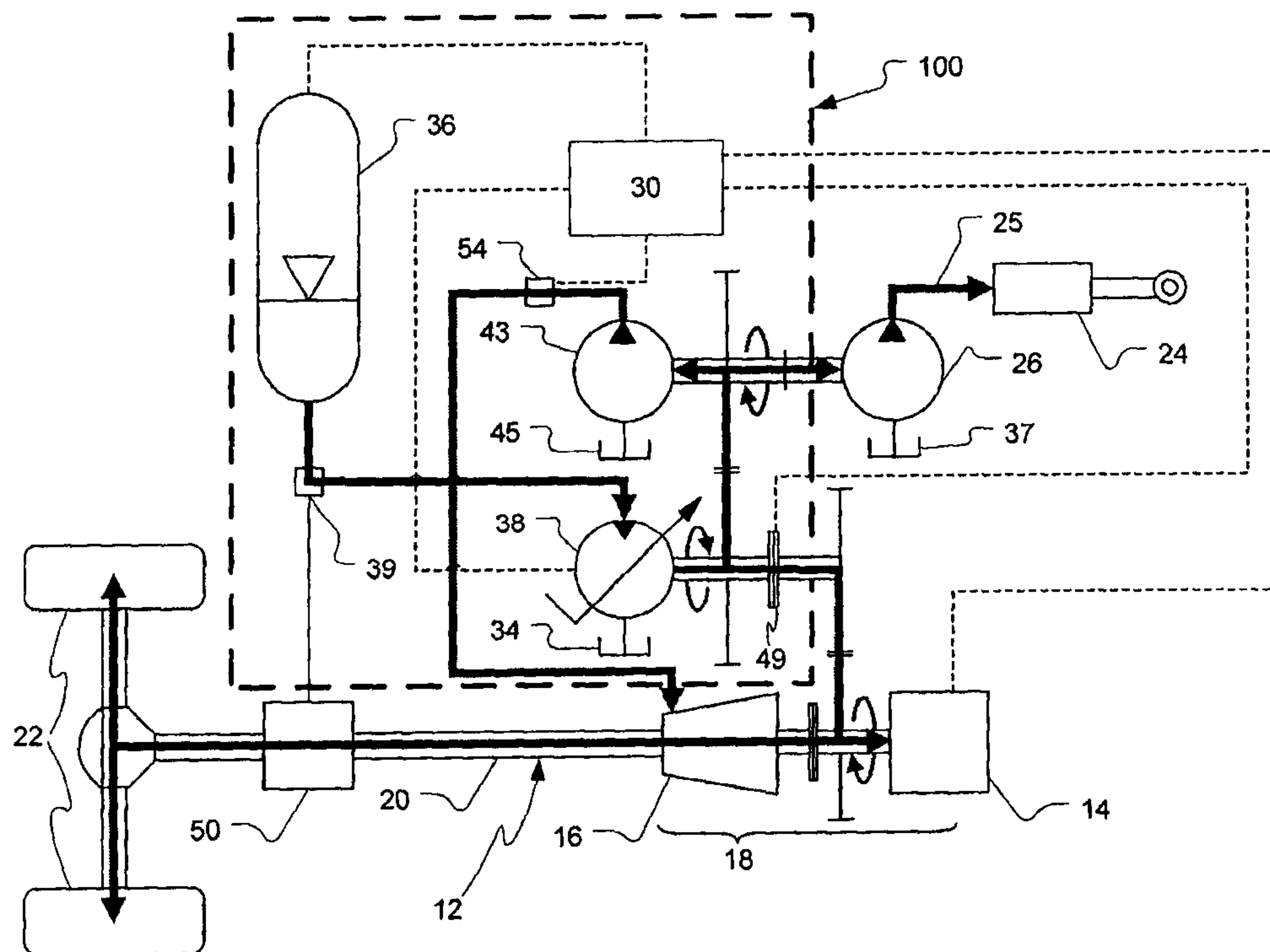


Fig. 5

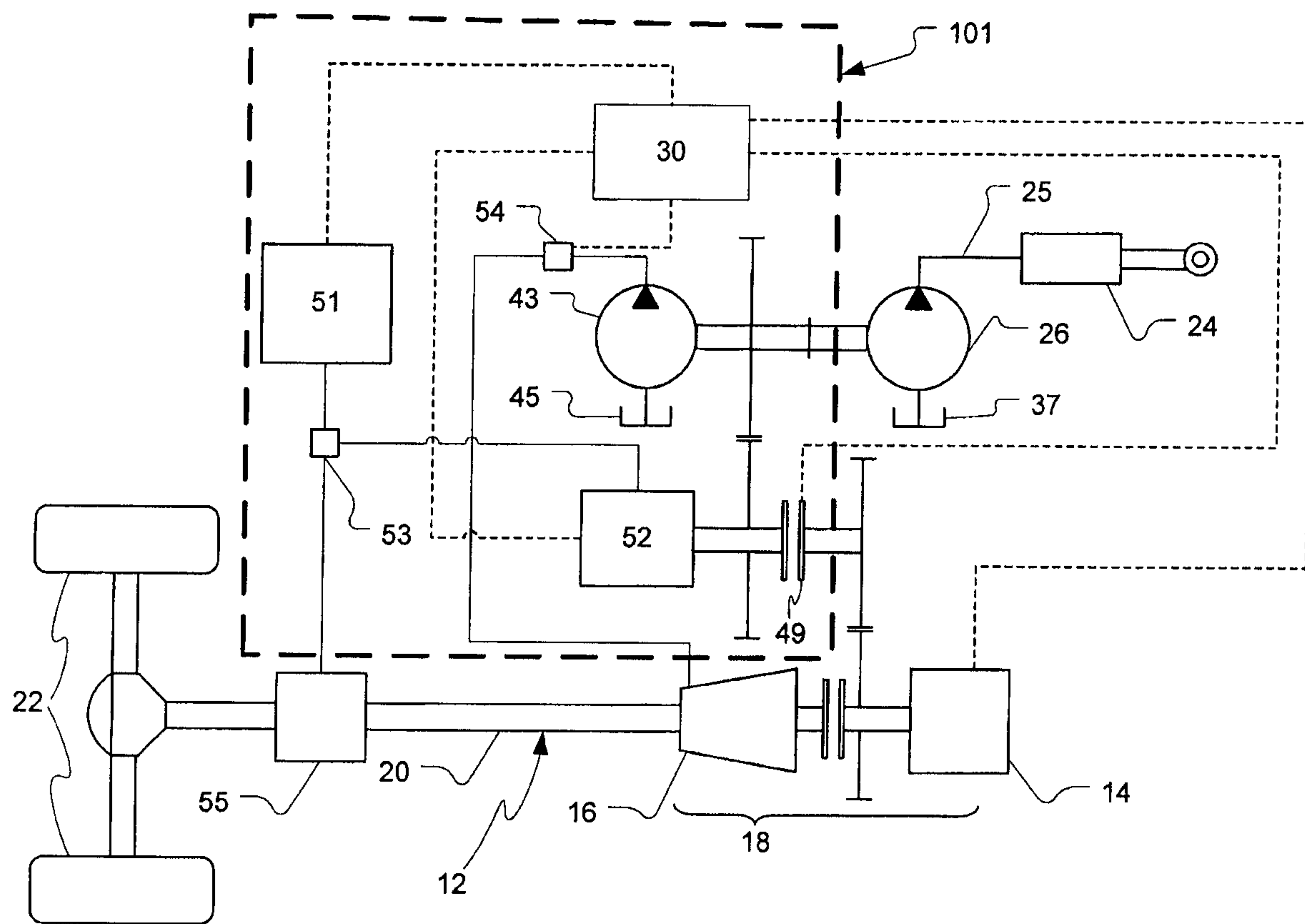


Fig. 6

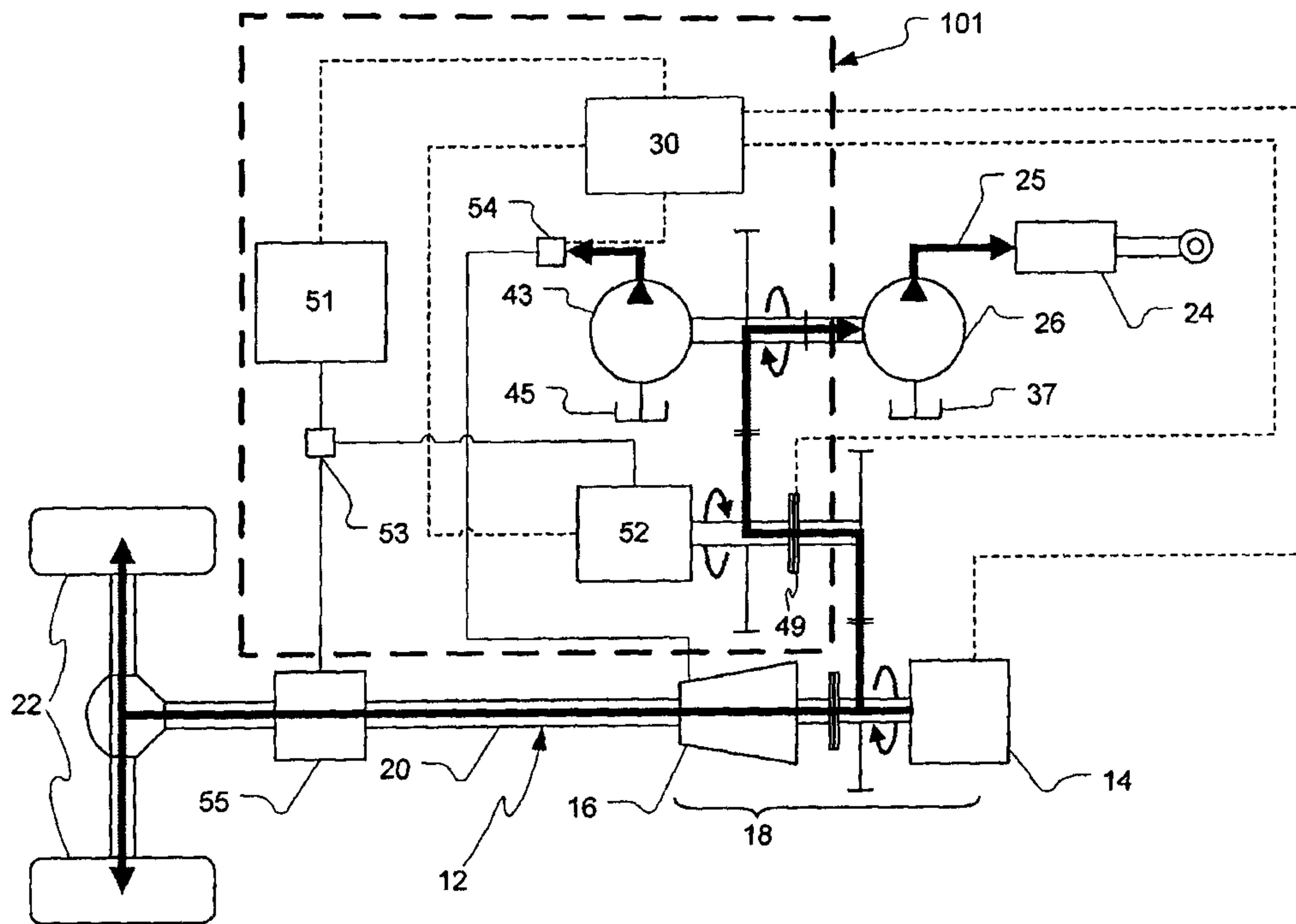


Fig. 7

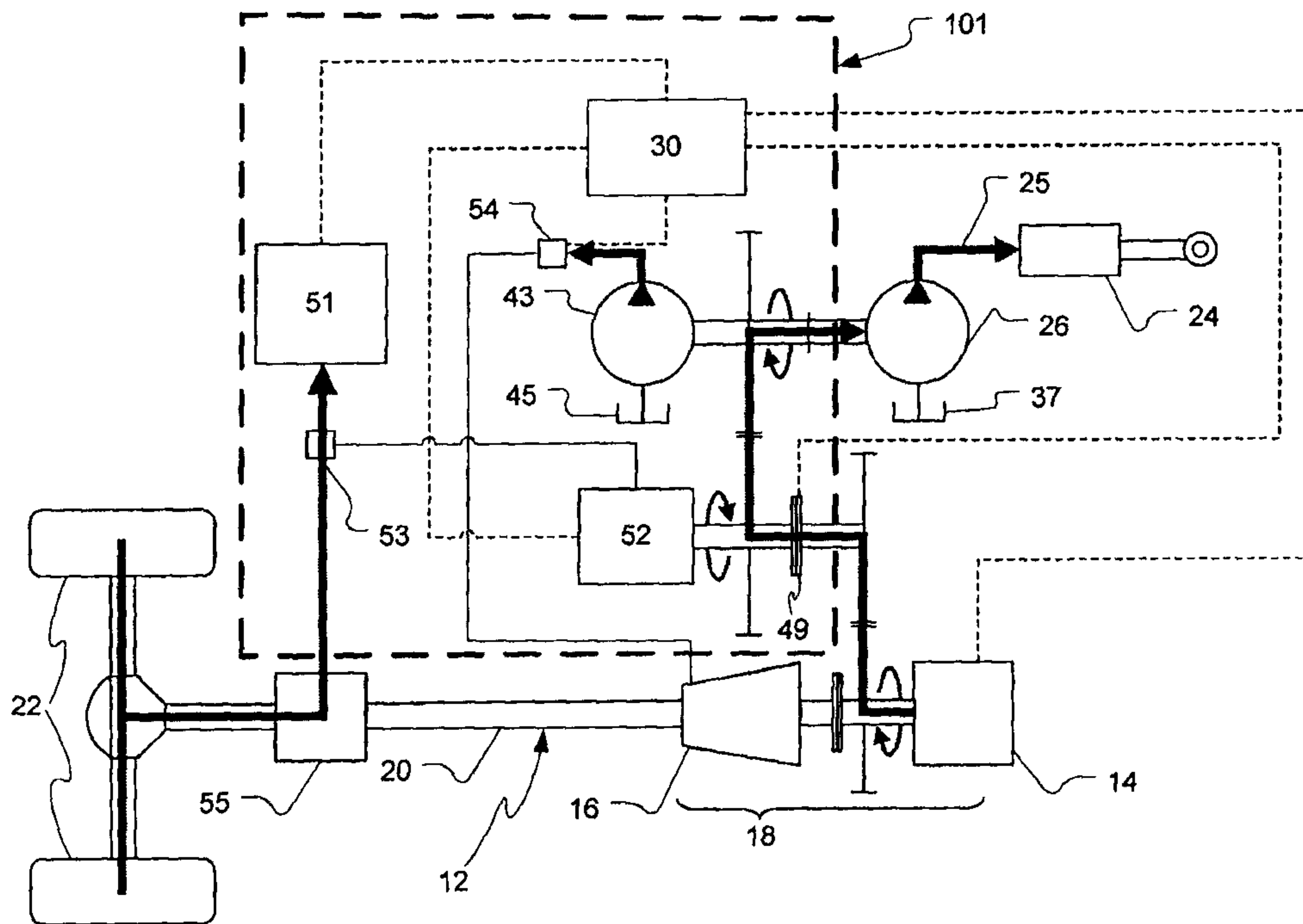


Fig. 8

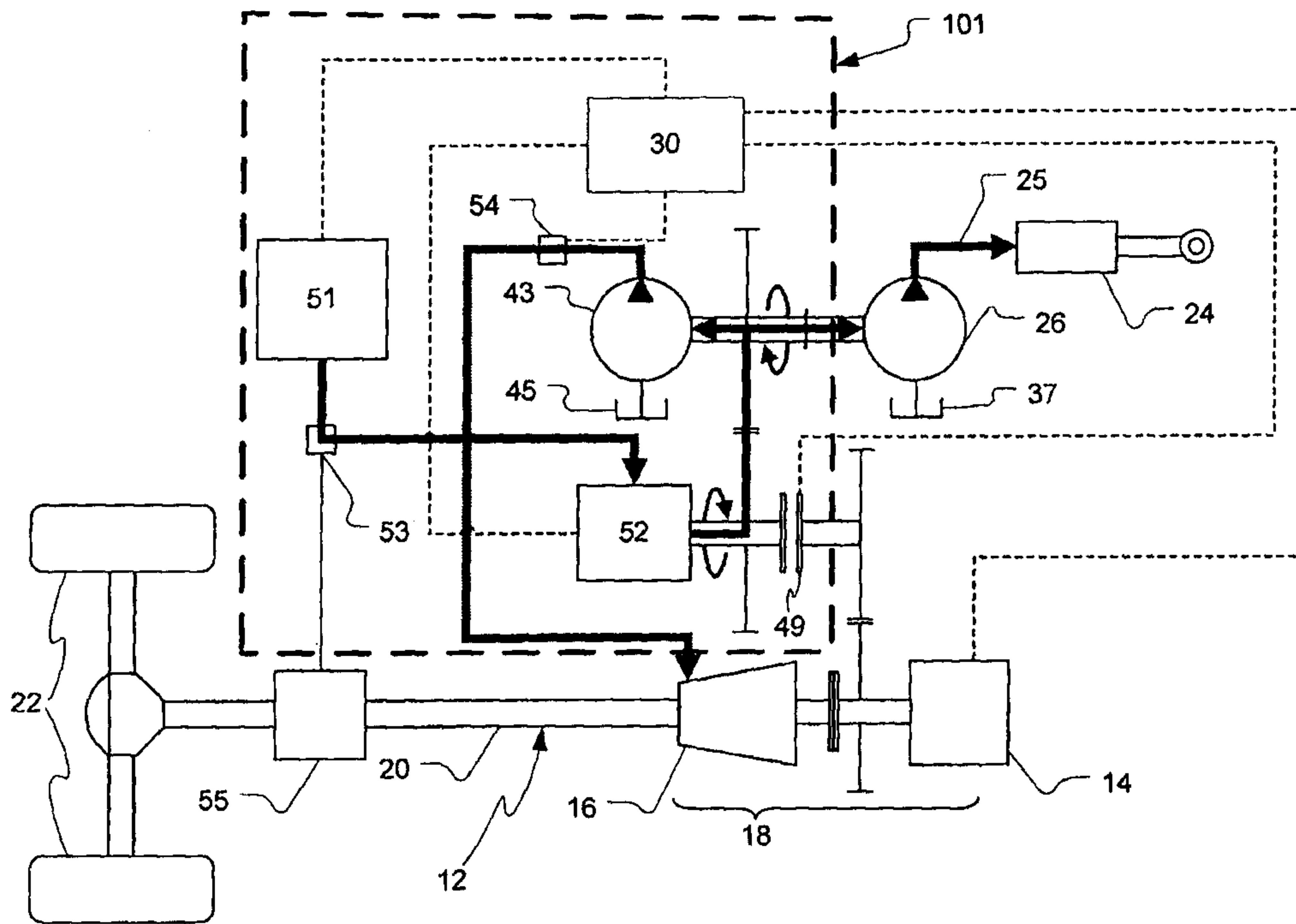


Fig. 9

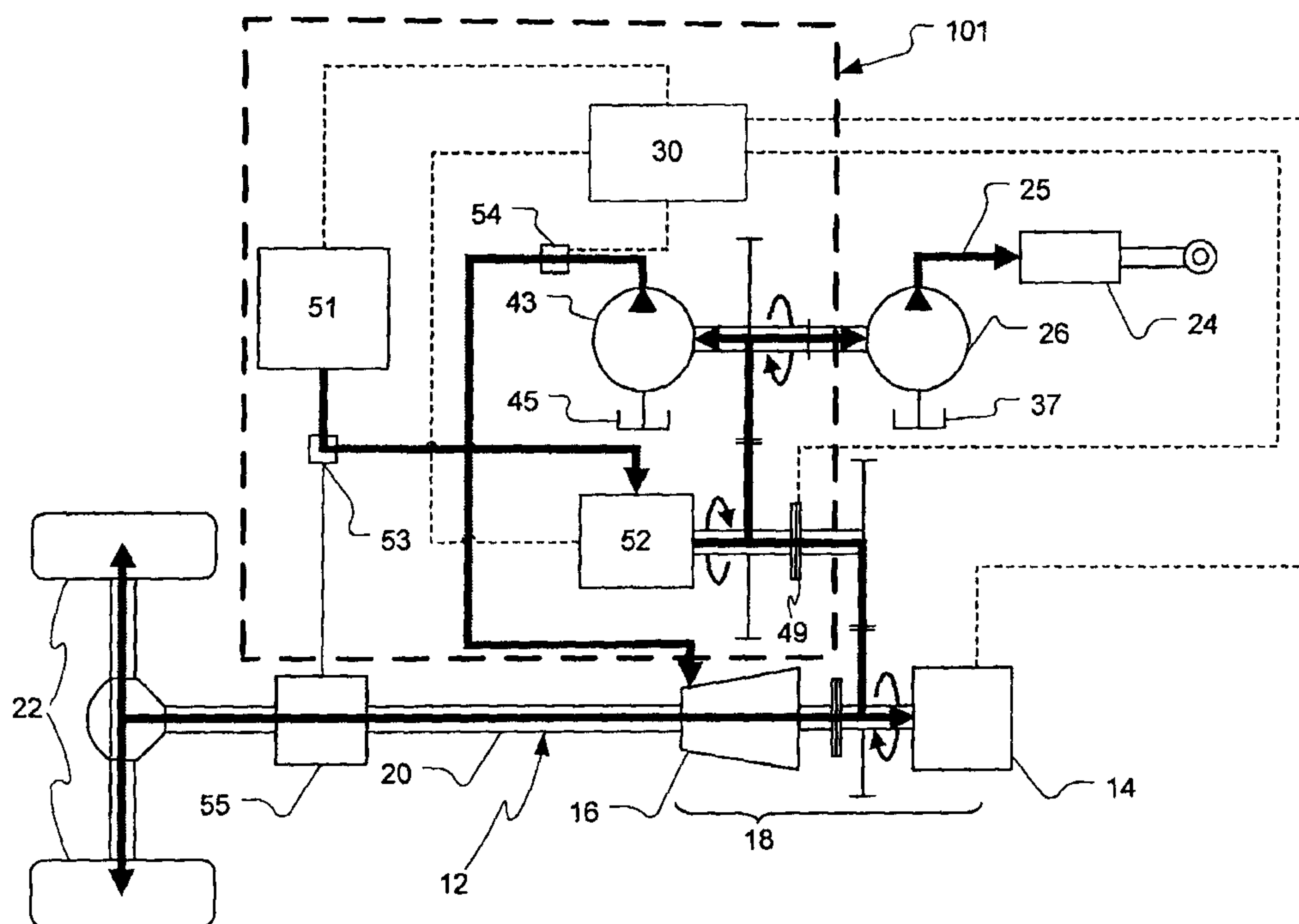


Fig. 10

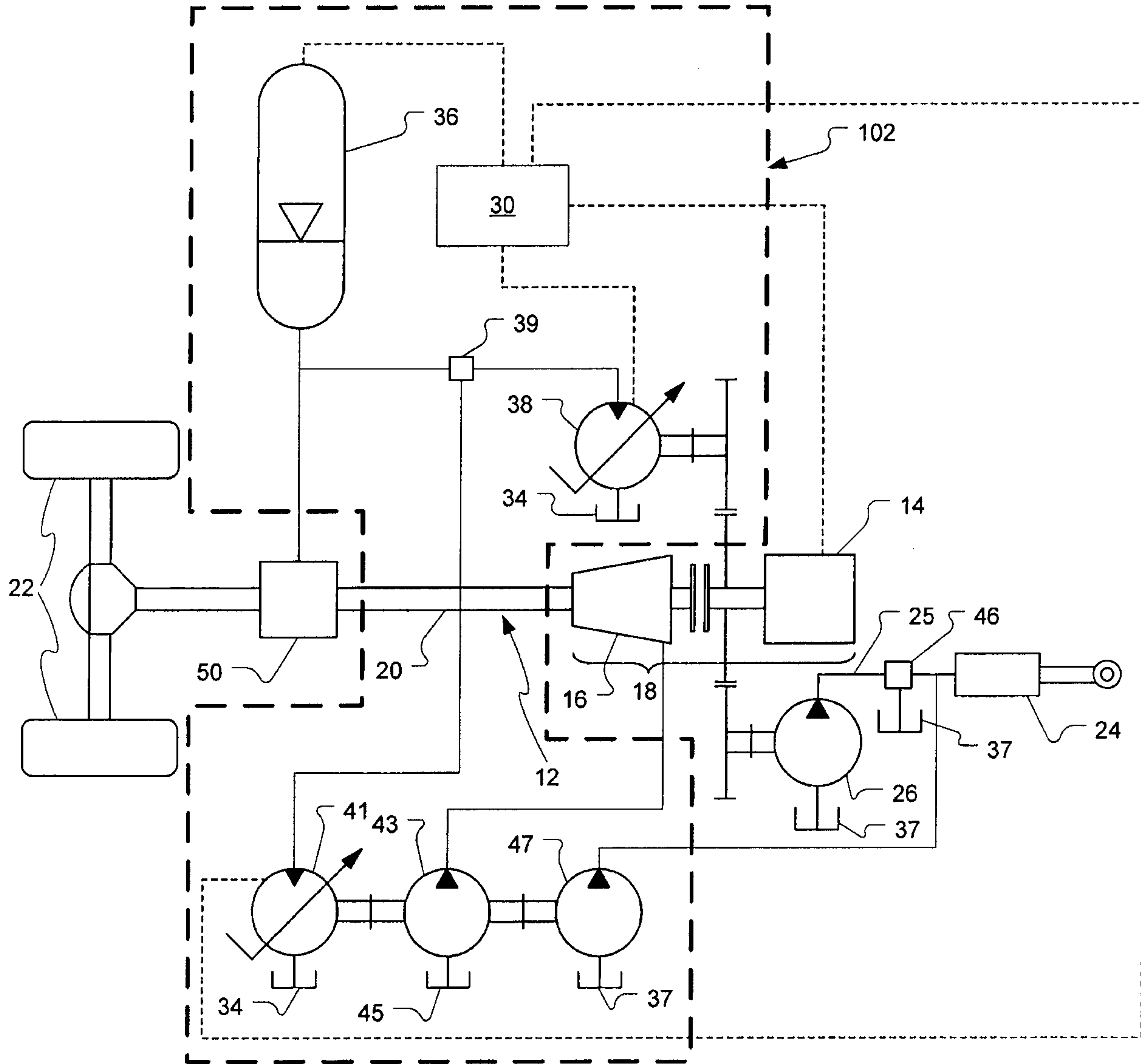


Fig. 11

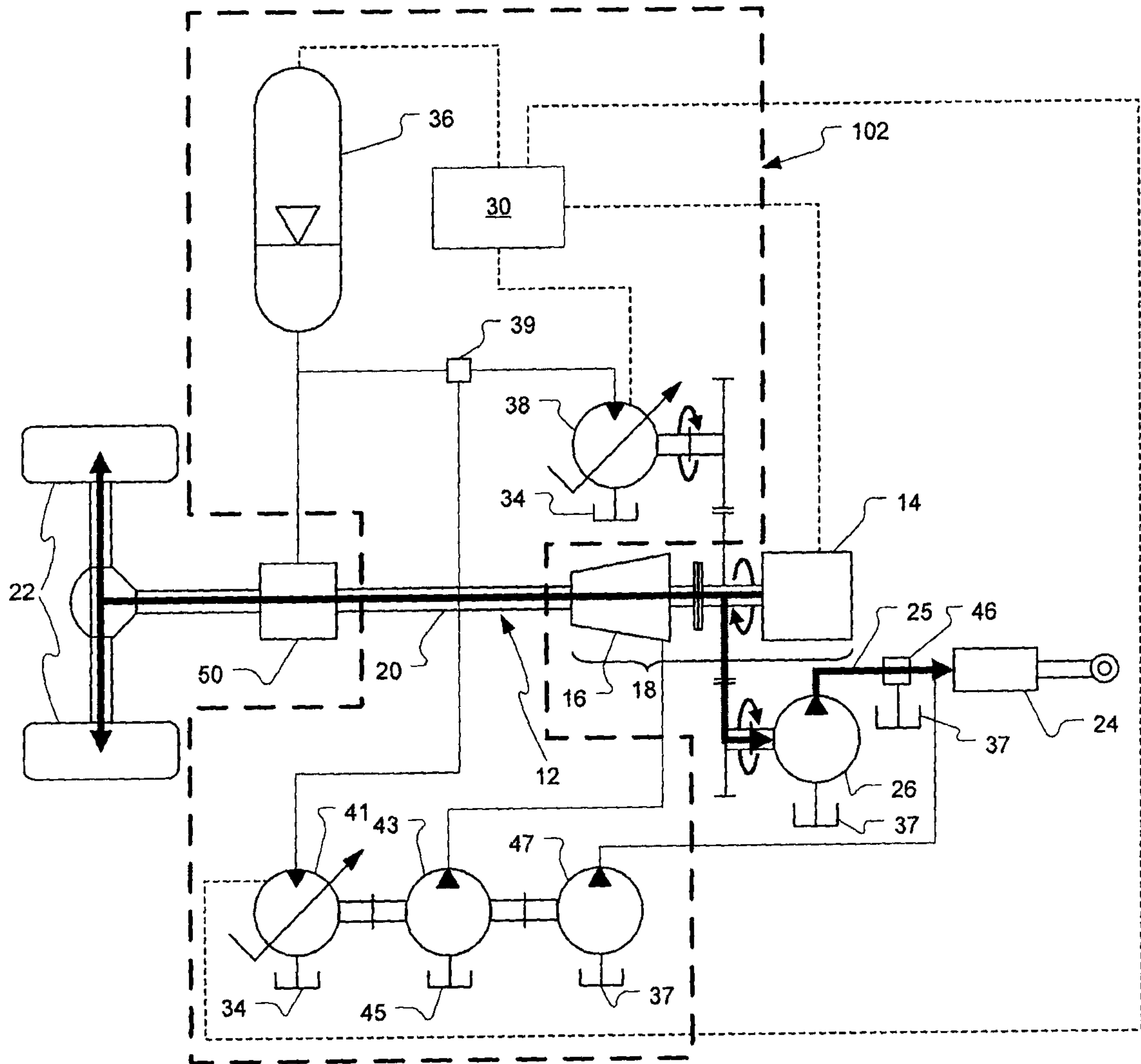


Fig. 12

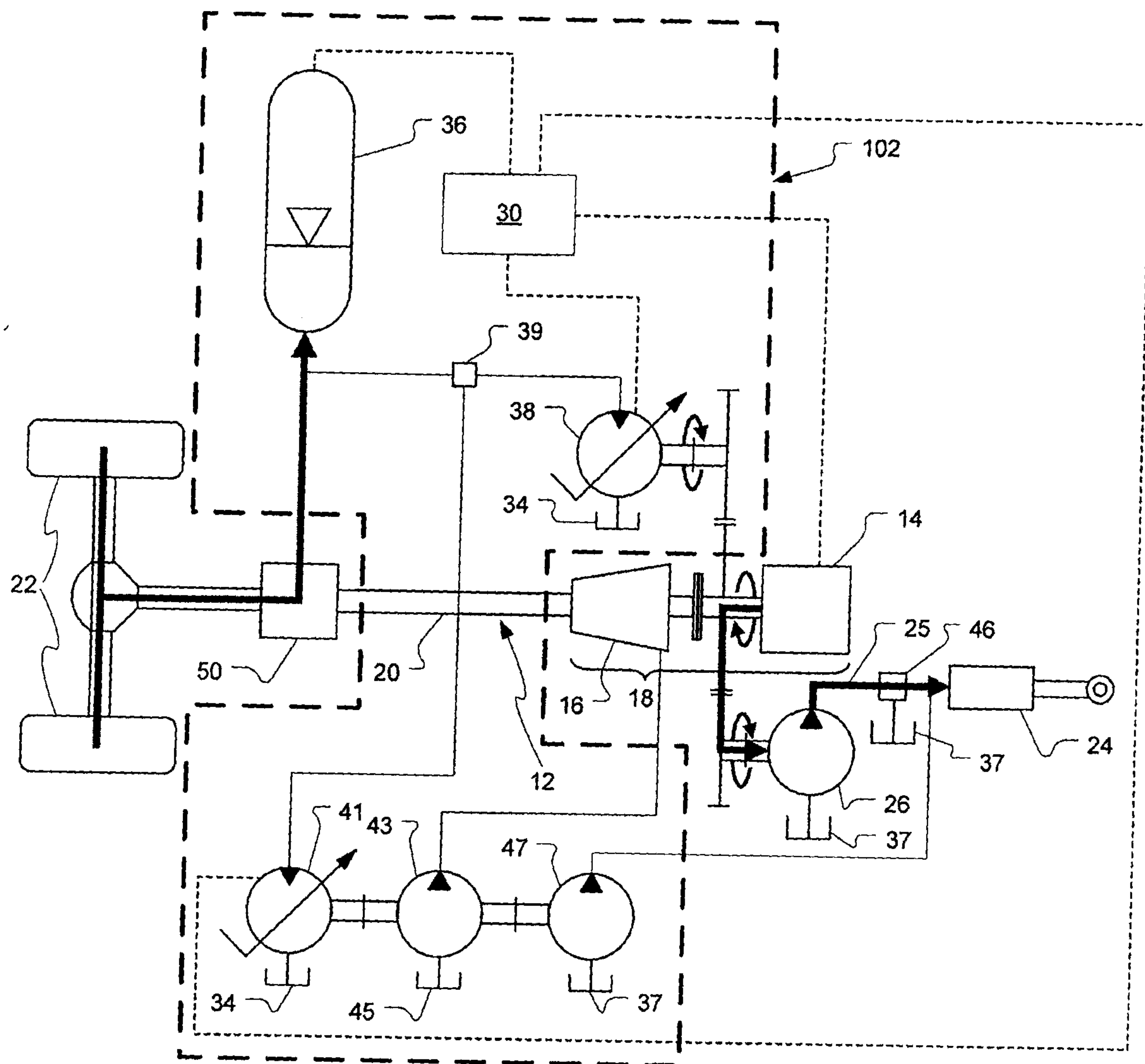


Fig. 13

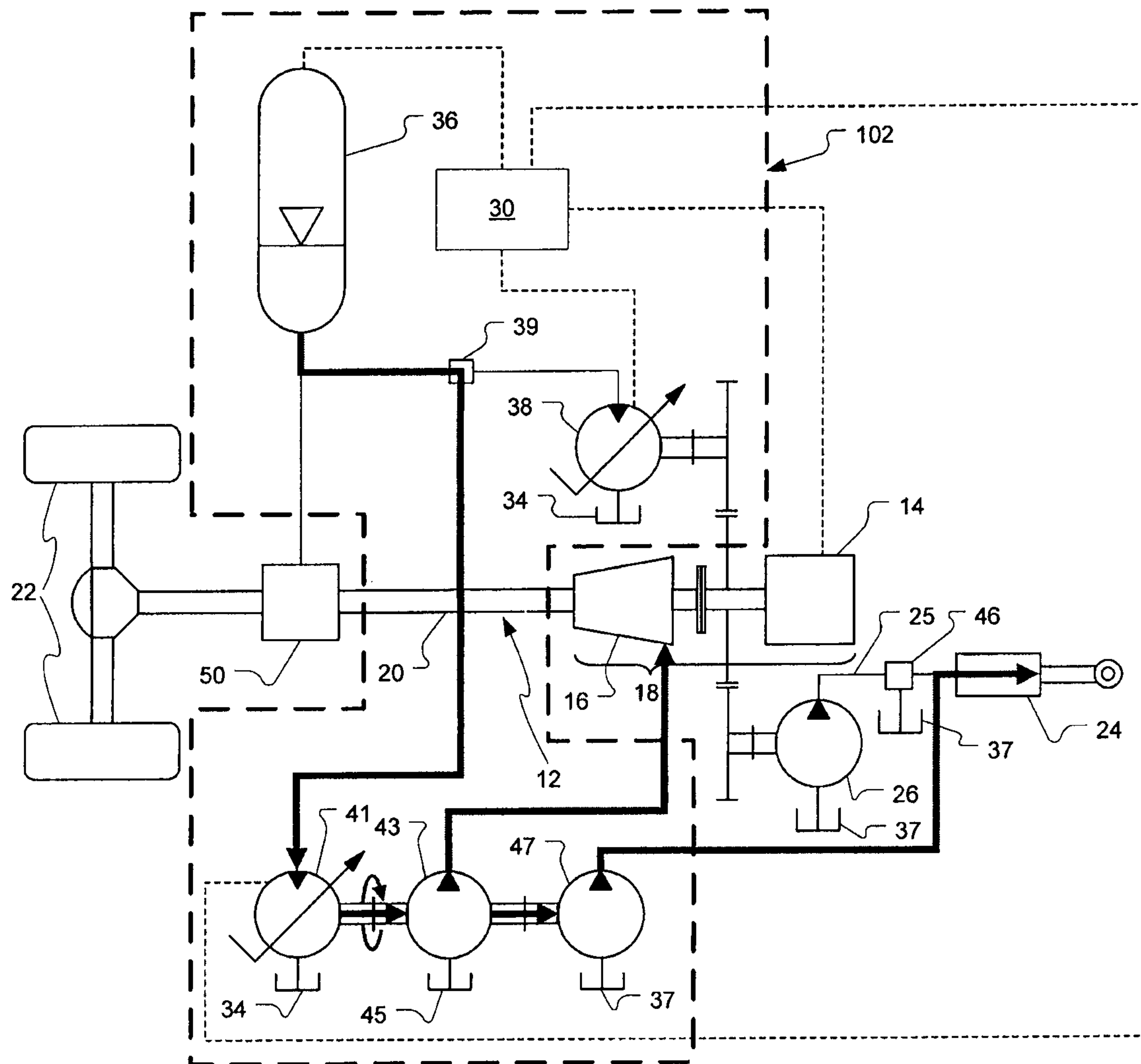


Fig. 14

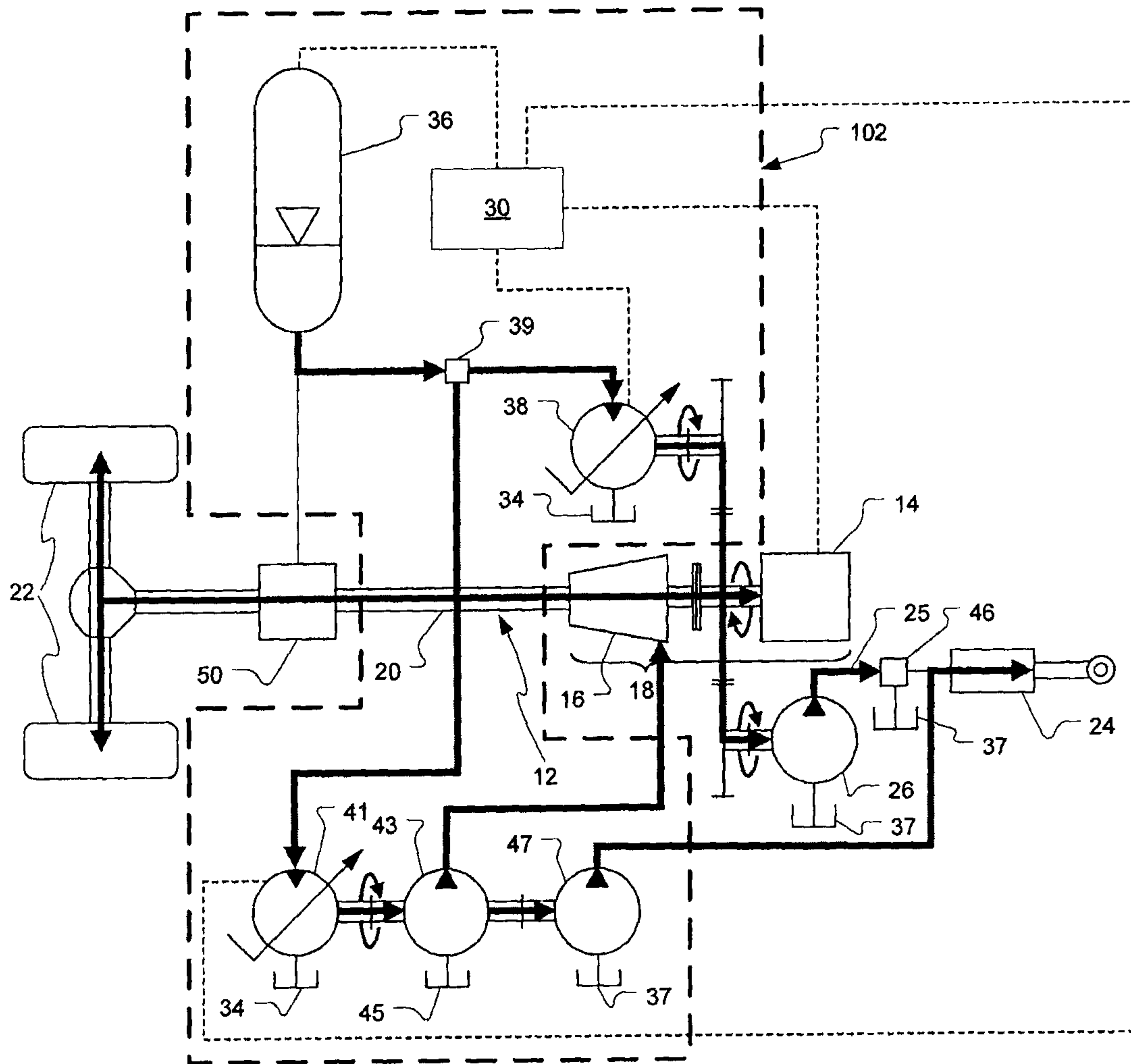


Fig. 15

