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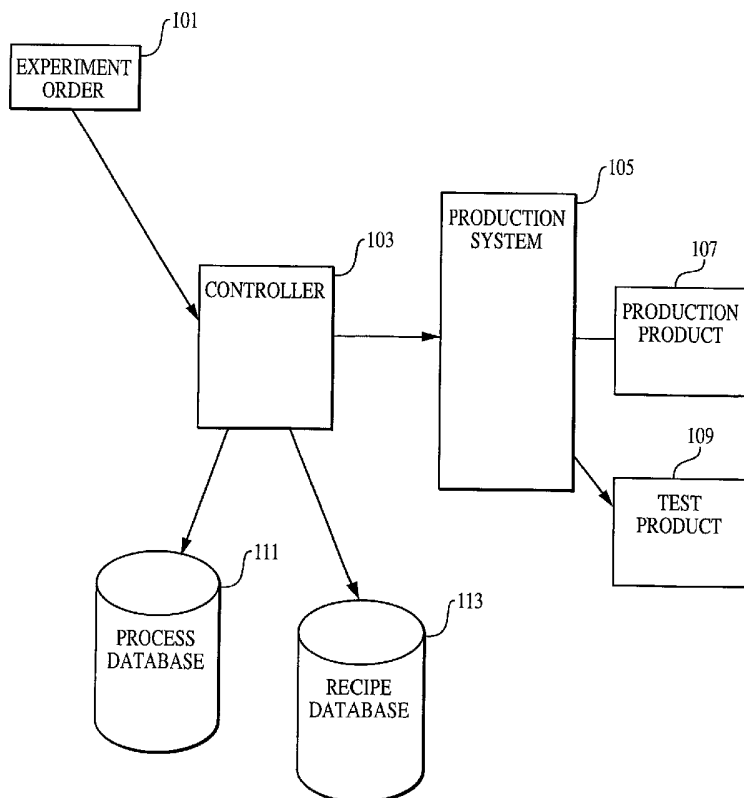
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: EXPERIMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM, METHOD AND MEDIUM



(57) Abstract: Systems, methods and mediums are provided for automating experiments within an automated environment without the need to disassociate the test subject (e.g., the semiconductor chip or chips) from that environment. An "experiment" may be a pre-planned deviation of an established (e.g., pre-defined) process utilizing the automated environment. A computer-implemented method, system and computer-readable medium for managing experiments, such as those relating to semiconductor technology. An experiment order includes some deviation from a base process capable of operating in an automated environment. An approval of the experiment order is obtained from a distribution list of users, while permitting the users to attach documents to the experiment order or perhaps modify the experiment. The experiment order is translated into processing data suitable for implementation by said automated environment, and stored. The experiment is caused to be executed in conjunction with at least some portion of said base process via the automated environment according to the processing data.



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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
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## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

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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

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Relevant to claim No.   |
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| X          | US 5 495 417 A (MIURA KAZUYUKI ET AL)<br>27 February 1996 (1996-02-27)<br>column 6, line 13-15<br>column 14, line 8 -column 15, line 35<br>column 24, line 63 -column 30, line 11<br>column 36, line 17 -column 47, line 67<br>figures 1-7, 43-48, 79-86, 89-92<br>claims 1, 4, 7, 10-12, 15, 17 | 1-27                    |
| Y          | ---                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 3, 4, 11,<br>12, 19, 20 |
|            | ---<br>-/--                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                         |

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## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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| Patent document<br>cited in search report |   | Publication<br>date |    | Patent family<br>member(s) |  | Publication<br>date |
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