METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR BLENDING AND DISPENSING FUELS

A method and system for blending and dispensing fuels that makes it easier for a retail filling station (10) to provide blended fuels to its customers and that more effectively encourages customers to purchase the blended fuels. Gasoline and additives such as ethanol are received and stored in separate tanks (12-18) at the filling station. Customers of the filling station are then allowed to select the amount of additive, if any, to add to their gasoline. Once a selection has been made, a proportioner (40) blends the selected amount of additive with gasoline at the time of purchase and then dispenses the blended fuel to the customer.
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US04/24097

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC(7) : B65B 1/04
US CL : 141/9,104
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)
U.S. : 141/9,104,100,94,98,83,59

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
NONE

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
EAST

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>US 5,979,705 A (KAEHLER et al.) 09 November 1999 (09.11.1999), see entire document.</td>
<td>1-5 and 7-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>US 5,969,691 A (MYERS) 19 October 1999 (19.10.1999), see entire document.</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>US 5,944,074 A (LEAHY et al.) 31 August 1999 (31.08.1999), see entire document.</td>
<td>1-15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

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

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"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
28 March 2005 (28.03.2005)

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24 MAY 2005

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