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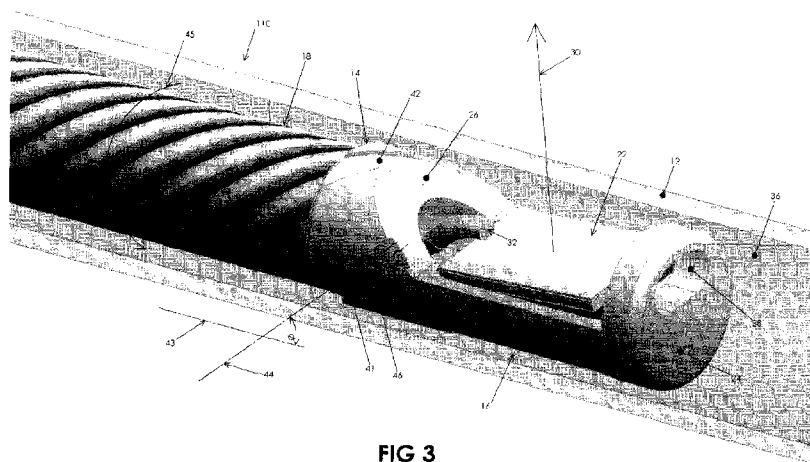


FIG 3

(57) Abstract: An imaging probe for use in a catheter for ultrasonic imaging is provided. The catheter may be of the type including a sheath having an opening at a distal end for conducting a fluid there through. The imaging probe includes a distal housing coupled to a drive shaft for rotation, a transducer within the distal housing for generating and sensing ultrasonic waves, and a fluid flow promoter that promotes flow of the fluid within the sheath across the transducer.



A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER*A61B 8/12(2006.01)i*

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)

IPC8 A61B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Korean Utility models and applications for Utility models since 1975

Japanese Utility models and applications for Utility models since 1975

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

eKOMPASS(KIPO internal) and keywords "salin, solution, promote, ultrasonic, sound, image, catheter, probe, transducer, and similar terms"

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 2005-0203396 A1 (Angelsen et al.) 15 September 2005 See abstract, Figures 1-11 and claims 1-30	1-10
A	US 2007-0167824 A1 (Lee et al.) 19 July 2007 See abstract, Figures 1-16 and claims 1-20	1-10
A	WO 1992-021965 A1 (FORCE INSTITUTTERNE) 10 December 1992 See abstract, Figures 1-3 and claims 1-3	1-10



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

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"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

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 2005-203396 A1	15.09.2005	None	
US 2007-0167824 A1	19.07.2007	JP 2007-152101 A US 2007-0167826 A1 US 2007-0167813 A1 US 2007-0167821 A1 US 2007-0167825 A1	21.06.2007 19.07.2007 19.07.2007 19.07.2007 19.07.2007
WO 1992-021965 A1	10.12.1992	None	