Title: MONORAIL SORTATION SYSTEM

Abstract: A universal cross belt sorter system (1) consisting of four major components: a monorail track (26), a drive car (20), multiple cross belt cars (24) and system controls. The drive cars (20) pull multiple cross belt cars (24) along the track (26). The cross belt cars (24) are typically loaded with material, which is then discharged into outlets. An outlet may be a chute, a bin, a conveyor, a truck, etc. Sortation systems are typically used to consolidate material according to selected pa-rameters, such as zip code, customer order, to replenish a specific store and many other identifying information. The cross belt cars (24) are loaded with material at induction areas (3). The types or methods of inducing material onto the cross belt cars (24) range from manual to semi-automatic to fully automatic.
Published:
— with international search report
— before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
19 August 2004

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.
# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IPC(7)</th>
<th>US CL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B 61 B 12/02, 13/04; E 01 B 25/22</td>
<td>104/96, 106, 107, 108, 118, 119; 105/141, 144</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC.

B. DOCUMENTS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)


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)

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>A</td>
<td>US 5,293,308 A (Boys et al.) 8 March 1994 (08.03.1994), whole document.</td>
<td>1-68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>US 5,676, 061 A (Loomer) 14 October 1997 (14.10.1997), whole document.</td>
<td>1-68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>US 5,927,657 A (Takasan et al.) 27 July 1999 (27.07.1999), whole document.</td>
<td>1-68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>US 6,602,038 A (Ahn et al.) 5 August 2003 (05.08.2003), whole document.</td>
<td>1-68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>US 6,655,297 A (Kawato et al.) 2 December 2003 (02.12.2003), whole document.</td>
<td>1-68</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Date of the actual completion of the international search: 29 April 2004 (29.04.2004)

Date of mailing of the international search report: 29 June 2004 (29.06.2004)

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
Facsimile No. (703)308-3230

Authorized officer: S. Joseph Morano
Telephone No. (703) 308-1113

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (July 1998)