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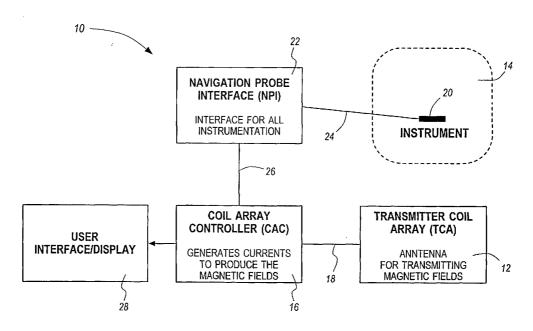
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ELECTROMAGNETIC NAVIGATION OF A SURGICAL PROBE NEAR A METAL OBJECT



(57) Abstract: A method and apparatus for electromagnetic navigation of a surgical probe (20) near a metal object. The electromagnetic navigation system includes a transmitter coil array (12) and a shield (54). The coil transmitter coil array (12) has a plurality of transmitter coils (62) and is operable to generate the electromagnetic field to navigate the probe. The shield is positioned adjacent the metal object and is operable to shield the metal object from the electromagnetic field generated by the transmitter coil array, such that the shield (54) substantially reduces distortion of the electromagnetic field by the metal object.



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Declarations under Rule 4.17:

— as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS,

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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				
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where ap		Relevant to claim No.	
A	US 6,201,987 B1 (DUMOULIN) 13 March 2001 (13.03.2001), SEE ENTIRE DOCUMENT.		1-43	
A,E	US 6,437,567 B1 (SCHENCK ET AL) 20 August 2002 (20.08.2002), SEE ENTIRE DOCUMENT.		1-43	
A	US 5,913,820 A (BLADEN ET AL) 22 June 1999 (22.06.1999), SEE FIGURE 1.		1-43	
A	US 4,821,731 A (MARTINELLI ET AL) 18 April 1989 (18.04.1989), SEE ENTIRE DOCUMENT.		1-43	
Α	US 5,740,808 A (PANESCU ET AL) 21 April 1998 (21.04.1998), SEE ENTIRE DOCUMENT.		1-43	
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Further	r documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.	See patent family annex.		
		"T" later document published after the inte	rnational filing date or priority	
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