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(54) Landing craft with fixed and retractable azimuthing drives

(57) A marine vessel (10) used for loading and off-loading vehicles and cargo that has both excellent sea-keeping and beaching properties. The vessel (10) is provided with azimuthing or steerable thrusters (20,22) below the waterline at the bow (12) and stern (14) of the

ship, with the stern end thrusters (22) being retractable into the hull during beaching operations. Because the vessel (10) is beached "stem first" the bow (12) may be designed with better wave breaking and seakeeping features than are on prior landing craft designs.

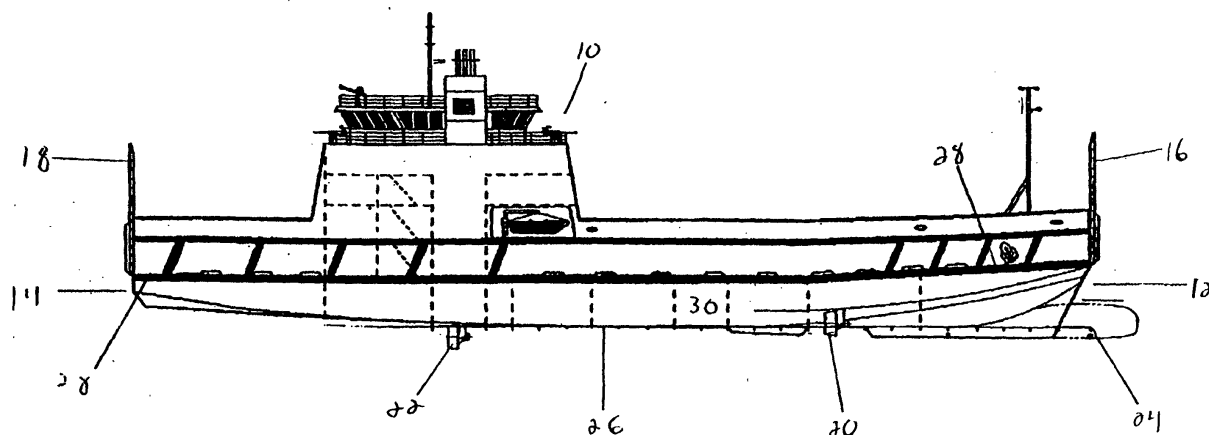


FIG. 1

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 02 29 0575

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 31 July 2003	Examiner Vermeulen, T
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