(19) World Intellectual Property Organization

International Bureau





(43) International Publication Date 31 December 2003 (31.12.2003)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number WO 2004/000446 A3

(51) International Patent Classification⁷:

B01F 13/08

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2003/019257

(22) International Filing Date: 20 June 2003 (20.06.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:

60/391,073 20 June 2002 (20.06.2002) US

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS [US/US]; P.O. Box 87511, Tempe, AZ 85287-3511 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): GARCIA, Antonio, A. [US/US]; 1642 West Morelos Street, Chandler, AZ 85224 (US). VUPPU, Anil, K. [US/US]; 5104 East VanBuren Street, Apt. 2204, Phoenix, AZ 85008 (US).
- (74) Agents: BUTTER, Gary, M. et al.; Baker Botts LLP, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10112-4498 (US).

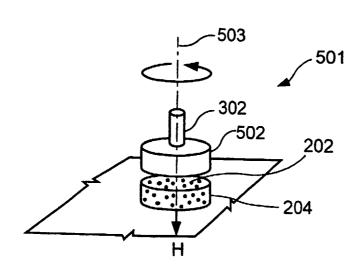
- (81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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: 25 March 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.

(54) Title: METHOD AND ARRANGEMENT OF ROTATING MAGNETICALLY INDUCIBLE PARTICLES



(57) Abstract: A device and method for rotating magnetically inducible particles (204) suspended in a fluid by rotating a multidirectional magnetic field through the suspended particles. A rare earth magnet (502) is positioned adjacent to the suspended particles and oriented such that the axis of a magnetic field generated by the magnet passes through the suspension. The magnetic flux lines of the magnet's field radiate in multiple directions through the suspended particles, them to form long multidirectional chains (601). magnet and the chains of suspended particles (601) are rotated with respect to one another, the axis of the rotation (503) being approximately parallel to

the magnetic axis of the multidirectional magnetic field. This causes the particle chains (601) to rotate about the magnetic axis, thus mixing the fluid.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/19257

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC(7) : B01F 13/08			
US CL : 366/273, 274			
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.: 366/273, 274			
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) EAST: search terms: microspheres, magnetic particles, magnetic powder, mix, magnet			
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where	appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5,468,616 A (COULTER et al) 21 November 1	995 (21.11.1995), see figures 8,	1-2, 16-17
Y	column5, lines 41-60.		3-8, 18-23
Y	US 2,932,493 A (JACOBS) 12 April 1960 (12.04.1960), see element 15 and 17.		3-8, 18-23
A	US 2,735,232 A (SIMJIAN) 21 February 1956 (21.02.1956), see entire document.		1-32
A	US 3,848,363 A (LOVESS et al) 19 November 1974 (19.11.1974), see entire document.		1-32
A A	US 2001/0007312 A1 (SIDDIQI) 12 JULY 2001 (12.07.2001), see entire document. US 3,869,251 A (TSANTKER et al) 04 March 1975, (04.03.1975), see entire document.		1-32 1-32
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		"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be	
"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to		considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone	
establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)		"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	
"O" document	referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	being obvious to a person skilled in the	art Compination
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		"&" document member of the same patent family	
Date of the actual completion of the international search 03 December 2003 (03.12.2003)		Date of mailing of the international search report 2 1 JAN 2004	
		Authorized officer	
Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230		Tony G Soohoo Telephone No. (703) 308-0661 Saraterel Scrip	
DCT/ICA/010 (consider the DCT/L 1000)			

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