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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **SHELL INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH MAATSCHAPPIJ B.V.** [NL/NL]; Carel van Bylandtlaan 30, NL-2596 HR The Hague (NL).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **VAN NIEUWKOP, Pieter** [NL/NL]; Kesslerpark 1, NL-2288 GS Rijswijk (NL).

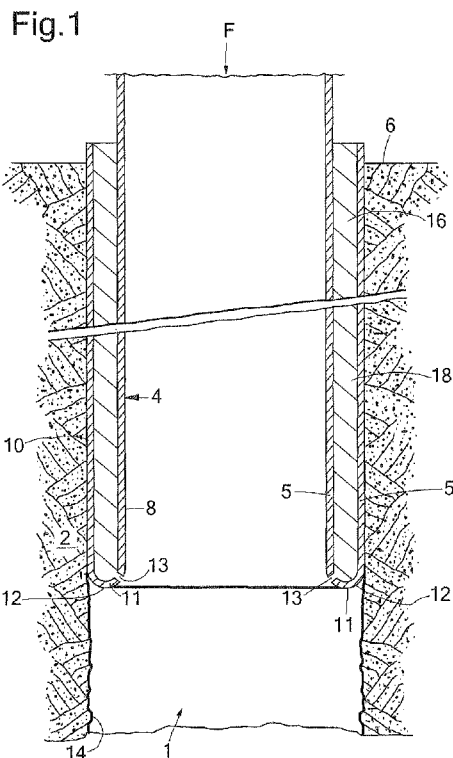
(74) Agent: **Shell International B.V.**; PO Box 384, Intellectual Property services, NL-2501 CJ The Hague (NL).

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(54) Title: METHOD OF EXPANDING A TUBULAR ELEMENT IN A WELLBORE



(57) Abstract: A method is disclosed of radially expanding a tubular element (4) in a wellbore (1) formed in an earth formation (2). The method comprises arranging the tubular element in the wellbore whereby a lower end portion of the wall of the tubular element extends radially outward and in axially reverse direction so as to form an expanded tubular section (10) extending around a remaining tubular section (8) of the tubular element, whereby an annulus (16) is defined between said expanded and remaining tubular sections. The expanded tubular section is axially extended by moving the remaining tubular section downward relative to the expanded tubular section so that said lower end portion (11) of the wall bends radially outward and in axially reverse direction, and load transfer means (18) is positioned in the annulus, the load transfer means being arranged to transfer a load between the remaining tubular section and the expanded tubular section.



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**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
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ADD.

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)

E21B F16L

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 practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages                                    | Relevant to claim No. |
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|           | figure 1                                                                                                              |                       |
|           | -----<br>-/--                                                                                                         |                       |

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☒ See patent family annex.

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Name and mailing address of the ISA/  
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk  
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040,  
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Dantinne, Patrick

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Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/EP2008/068296

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