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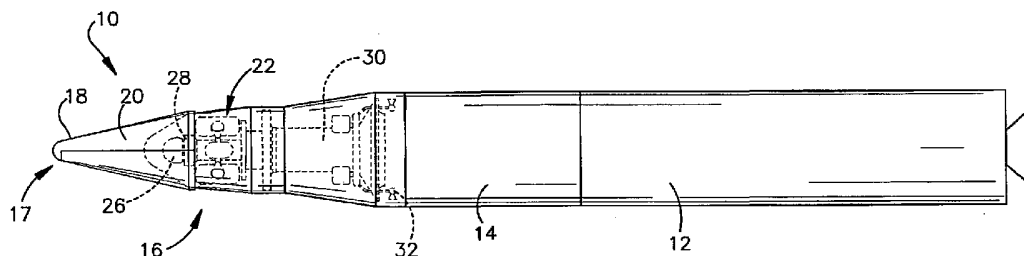
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(54) Title: MISSILE WITH MULTIPLE NOSECONES



(57) Abstract: A missile (10) includes a payload assembly (16) that has a pair of nosecones (18, 20). The nosecones may be optimized for different environments and/or phases of flight, for example, having different shapes, different shell materials, different types of seals, and/or different separation mechanisms. The first (outer) nosecone (18) may have a more streamlined shape, be made of more thermally-protective material, and may meet less stringent sealing requirements, than the second (inner) nosecone (20). Separation of the outer nosecone from the payload assembly may cause backward movement of a center of pressure of the payload assembly, bringing the center of pressure of the assembly closer to a center of gravity of the assembly. This may make the payload assembly easier to maneuver, for example, reducing or eliminating the need for intervention by an attitude control system, to maintain the payload assembly on a desired course.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 F42B10/00 F42B10/02

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)

IPC 7 F42B

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.
Y	US 6 622 971 B1 (ROBERTSON JAMES HAMILTON) 23 September 2003 (2003-09-23)	1
A	paragraph '0031!; figures 1a,2	2-7
Y	US 3 485 460 A (WILLIAM J. MERTENS) 23 December 1969 (1969-12-23)	1
A	column 1, line 34 - line 42; figures 1,2 column 2, line 11 - line 27	2-10
A	US 6 142 424 A (WAGNER ET AL) 7 November 2000 (2000-11-07) the whole document	1-10

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 6622971	B1	23-09-2003	NONE	
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US 6142424	A	07-11-2000	FR 2729117 A1 JP 8230799 A	12-07-1996 10-09-1996