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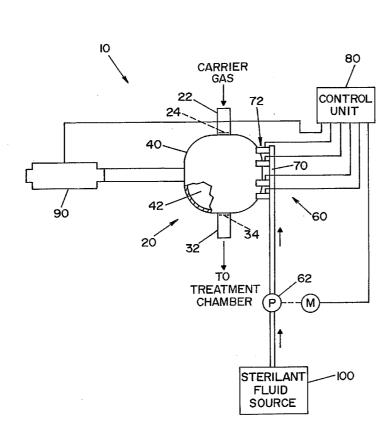
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR VAPORIZING A STERILANT FLUID USING MICROWAVE ENERGY



(57) Abstract: A method and apparatus (10) for vaporizing a sterilant fluid using microwave energy (90). A sterilant fluid is atomized to produce a spray, mist or fog of sterilant fluid. The atomized sterilant fluid is then exposed to microwave energy produced by a microwave generator Molecules of at least one chemical component of the sterilant fluid rotate in response to exposure to the microwave energy, thereby vaporizing (20) the sterilant fluid (100).

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Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) EAST and Internet.			
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where ap		Relevant to claim No.
Х	US 6,589,481 B1 (Lin et al) 8 July 2003 (08.07.2003), columns 2-4.	1-5, 7-9, 17-25, 28-31 and 33-36
Y	US 2,818,441 (Vaughan) 31 December 1957 (31.12.1957), column 3, lines 61-64 and column 6, Example II.		6
Y	US 5,961,871 (Bible et al) 05 October 1999 (05.10.1999), column 3, lines 20-63.		10-16, 26-27 and 32
Y	US 5,039,495 (Kutner et al) 13 August 1991 (13.08.1991), column 12, lines 55-60		37
Į.			
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