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Declarations under Rule 4.17:

- as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))
- as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SYSTEM FOR CONTROLLING THE POSITION OF A ROBOT CARRIAGE

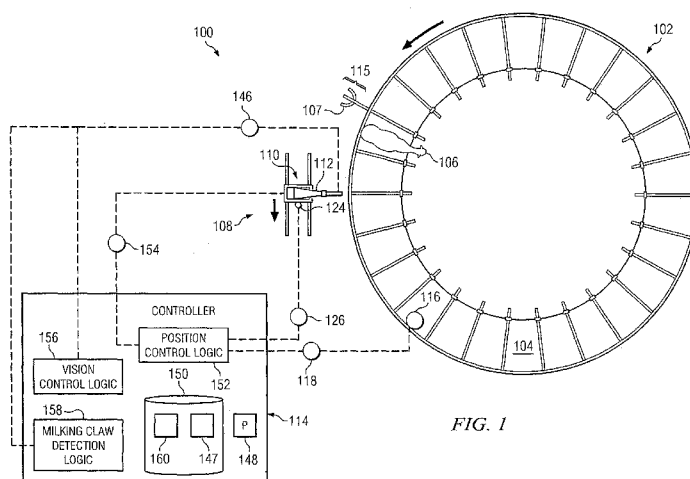


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: In certain embodiments, a system includes a carriage track positioned adjacent to a rotary milking platform, a robot carriage mounted to the carriage track, and a controller. The controller is operable to receive both a first rotary encoder signal indicating a first rotational position of a milking stall of the rotary milking platform (corresponding to a starting linear position of the robot carriage) and a second rotary encoder signal indicating a second rotational position of the milking stall of the rotary milking platform. The controller is further operable to determine, based on a difference between the received first and second signals, a desired linear position of the robot carriage on the carriage track (a position corresponding to the second rotational position of the milking stall). The controller is further operable to communicate a position signal to a carriage actuator, the position signal causing the carriage actuator to move the robot carriage along the carriage track to the desired linear position.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. A01K1/12
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)
A01J A01K

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)
EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	WO 2010/110663 A1 (ROTEC ENGINEERING B V [NL]; VAN DER SLUIS PETER WILLEM [NL]; HOFMAN HE) 30 September 2010 (2010-09-30)	33-35
A	page 5, lines 9-19; claims 4,13; figure 1 -----	1-9
A	WO 2008/118068 A1 (DELAVAL HOLDING AB [SE]; ERIKSSON JAN [SE]; DANNEKER GERT [SE]) 2 October 2008 (2008-10-02)	1-9
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	paragraphs [0013], [0023] - [0029], [0035]; figures 1-7 ----- -/--	

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
- "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "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 considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "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 being obvious to a person skilled in the art
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

3 December 2012

Date of mailing of the international search report

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Name and mailing address of the ISA/

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
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C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	EP 0 689 762 A1 (MAASLAND NV [NL]) 3 January 1996 (1996-01-03) column 3, line 54 - column 6, line 15; figures 1,2 -----	1-9
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A	DE 102 12 676 C1 (WESTFALIA LANDTECHNIK GMBH [DE]) 12 June 2003 (2003-06-12) paragraphs [0011] - [0017], [0027], [0028] -----	1-9
Y	DE 102 12 676 C1 (WESTFALIA LANDTECHNIK GMBH [DE]) 12 June 2003 (2003-06-12) paragraphs [0011] - [0017], [0027], [0028] -----	34
A	WO 2009/093965 A1 (DELAVAL HOLDING AB [SE]; AXELSSON THOMAS [SE]; HOLMGREN HANS [SE]; LIA) 30 July 2009 (2009-07-30) page 6, line 17 - page 7, line 23 page 12, line 9 - page 16, line 2 -----	10-27
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A	WO 2008/030085 A1 (MAASLAND NV [NL]; VAN DEN BERG KAREL [NL]) 13 March 2008 (2008-03-13) page 13, line 25 - page 15, line 3 -----	27-39
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US2012/035074

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-9

A device for controlling the position of a robot carriage mounted on a track positioned adjacent to a rotary milking platform

2. claims: 10-26

A device with a robotic arm operable to extend between the legs of a cow in a milking stall of a rotary milking platform

3. claims: 27-39

A device with a 3D camera for determination of hind legs of a cow

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/US2012/035074

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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International application No

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