Title: INFLATABLE STRUCTURE SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR USING THE SAME

Abstract: A system and method for deploying a belt-line inflatable structure with substantial axial tension, the system including an inflatable structure serial assembly (200, 204) held at its ends by two static anchors (202, 208). The serial assembly can be independent inflatable structures connected together (200, 204) or one continuous inflatable structure (910). One or more dynamic anchors (205), mounted opposite the static anchors, restraints the serial assembly at an intermediate portion of the serial assembly such that the serial assembly has a first axis between the one static anchor and the one or more dynamic anchors and a second axis between the other static anchor and the one or more dynamic anchors. The dynamic anchor(s) (205) allow the serial assembly to move axially along the first axis and the second axis and to equalize the axial tension of the serial assembly along the first and second axes. The system can further include a shield (600) covering the inflatable structures.
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : B60R 21/22
US CL : 280/730.2, 743.2
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. : 280/730.2, 743.2, 733, 730.1, 749

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)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category *</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>US 6,095,551 A (O'DOHERTY) 1 August 2000 (01.08.2000), figure 2.</td>
<td>1, 2, 11, 13, 17-21, 40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>US 5,480,181 A (BARK et al.) 24 January 1996 (02.01.2000), figure 5b.</td>
<td>1, 2, 11, 13, 17-21, 40</td>
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<td>X</td>
<td>US 5,839,753 A (YANIV et al.) 24 November 1998 (24.11.1998), figure 1b.</td>
<td>1, 2, 11, 17, 24, 28, 29, 31, 40</td>
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<td>A</td>
<td>US 5,462,308 A (SEKI et al.) 31 October 1995 (31.10.1995), figure 2.</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>P, A</td>
<td>US 6,168,194 B1 (CUEVAS et al.) 02 January 2001 (02.01.2001), figure 1.</td>
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Date of the actual completion of the international search
26 March 2002 (26.03.2002)

Date of mailing of the international search report
23 APR 2002

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