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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: A WASHING SYSTEM

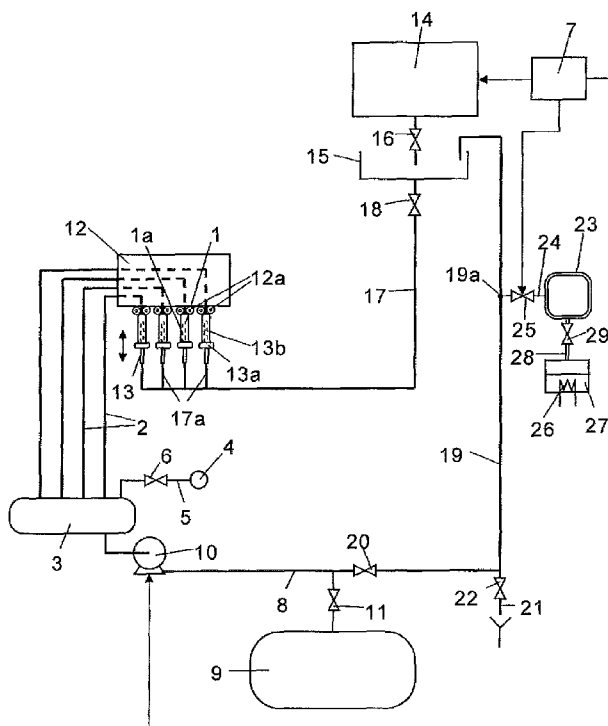


Fig 1

(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a washing system for washing equipment in a milking plant. The washing system comprises a closed flow circuit, a washing liquid source (14), feeding means (7, 16) adapted to supply washing liquid from the washing liquid source (14) to a first portion (15) of the closed flow circuit and circulating means (10) adapted to circulate the washing liquid in the closed flow circuit during a washing process of the equipment (1, 2, 3, 8). The washing system comprises heating means (7, 23-28) adapted to supply steam to at least a second portion (19a) of the closed flow circuit during at least a part of the washing process for supplying heat energy to the circulating washing liquid. The second portion (19a) of the closed flow circuit is located at a distance from the first portion (15) of the closed flow circuit.

SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). **Published:**

**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))*
- *of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv))*

- *with international search report (Art. 21(3))*
- *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments (Rule 48.2(h))*

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
INV. A01J7/02  
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  
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.
A	WO 2007/073287 A1 (DELAVAL HOLDING AB [SE]; PERSSON STAFFAN [SE]; SJOELUND MARTIN [SE]; K) 28 June 2007 (2007-06-28) page 5, line 10 - page 8, line 6; claim 1; figures 1,2	1-16
A	EP 1 579 758 A1 (LELY ENTPR AG [CH]) 28 September 2005 (2005-09-28) the whole document	1-16
A	WO 03/077645 A1 (DELAVAL HOLDING AB [SE]; ERICSSON JAN [SE]; WASE LARS [SE]; HOLMERTZ N) 25 September 2003 (2003-09-25) page 9, line 6 - page 14, line 3; figures 1-6	1-16
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Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

\* Special categories of cited documents :

<p>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date</p> <p>"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)</p> <p>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p>	<p>"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</p> <p>"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</p> <p>"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.</p> <p>"&amp;" document member of the same patent family</p>
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Date of the actual completion of the international search  23 May 2011	Date of mailing of the international search report  31/05/2011
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  Simson, Guenter

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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	WO 01/43534 A1 (DELAVAL HOLDING AB [SE]; FORSEN GOESTA [SE]; BOSMA EPKE [SE]) 21 June 2001 (2001-06-21) page 4, line 20 - page 5, line 29; figure 1  -----	1-16

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Information on patent family members

International application No PCT/EP2010/057713
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