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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: MULTI-STAGE AERATION APPARATUS

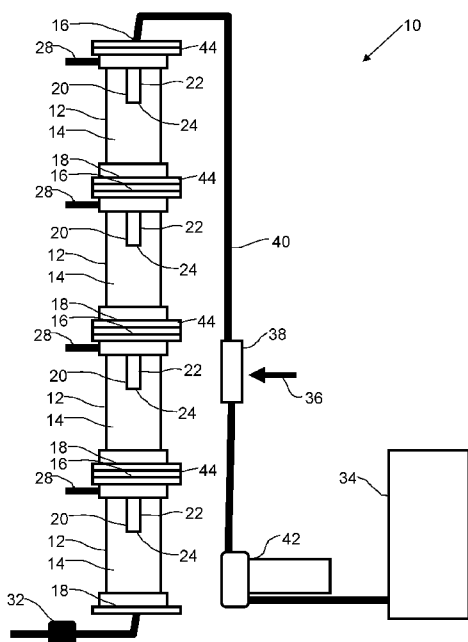


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: A multi-stage aeration apparatus includes at least two vertically oriented aeration modules. Each aeration module defines a vertically elongated aeration chamber having a top inlet and a bottom outlet. The bottom outlet of each of the aeration modules feeds a fluid stream comprising liquid and gas into the top inlet of an underlying one of the aeration modules. Each aeration module has an aeration head connected to the top inlet, such that the fluid stream passing through the top inlet into the aeration chamber must pass through the aeration head, the aeration head aerating the liquid with the gas in the fluid stream.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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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)

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic database(s) consulted during the international search (name of database(s) and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant	Relevant to claim No.
X	DE 4242425 A1 (STACH, H.) 16 June 1994 (16-06-1994) Abstract, Fig 1	1, 2, 5, 8, 11 and 14
A	EP 0827765 A2 (YUKIHIRO, Y. et al.) 11 March 1998 (11-03-1998) the whole document	1 to 15
A	US 5049320 A (WANG, L. K. et al.) 17 September 1991 (17-09-1991) the whole document	1 to 15
A	WO 2011/073977 A1 (SHECHTER, R. I. et al.) 23 June 2011 (23-06-2011) the whole document	1 to 15

[] Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

[X] See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :	"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
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"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	

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
Information on patent family members

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