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(54) **Sliding door mechanism for vehicles**

(57) The present invention relates to the operation of sliding doors. The invention provides a mechanism comprising two sub-mechanisms for opening and closing a sliding vehicle door of the type commonly found in vans, buses and commercial vehicles.

The invention provide a mechanism for electrically opening and closing a sliding door on the side of a ve-

hicle, the mechanism comprising a first and a second sub-mechanism, each of the sub-mechanisms being driven by its own electric motor, the first sub-mechanism being arranged to move the door in a direction parallel to the direction of vehicle motion, and the second sub-mechanism being arranged to move the door in a direction substantially perpendicular to the direction of vehicle motion for latching and unlatching of the door.

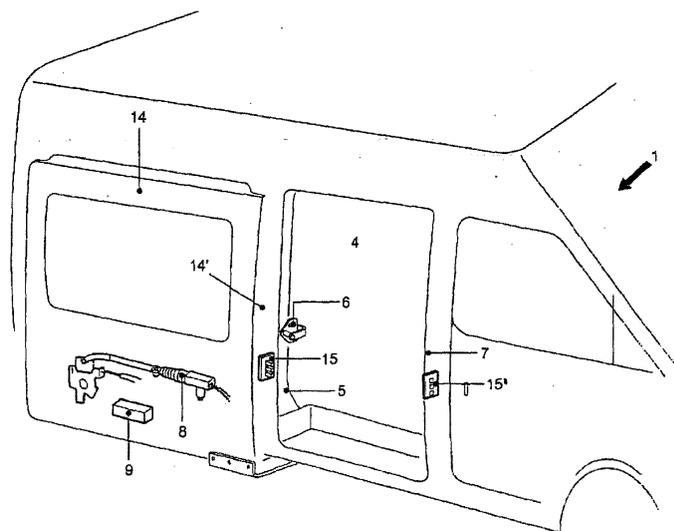


FIG. 1

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 04 00 0605

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	US 5 239 779 A (DELAND ET AL) 31 August 1993 (1993-08-31) * column 9, line 29 - column 10, line 45 *	1-3,5, 7-9	E05F15/14
Y	* column 14, line 39 - column 15, line 52; figure 8 *	6	
X	----- US 5 813 282 A (AZUMA ET AL) 29 September 1998 (1998-09-29) * column 6, lines 43-58 * * column 7, lines 47-57 * * column 9, lines 22-27; figure 11 *	1-4,8	
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
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Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
The Hague		8 November 2005	Witasse-Moreau, C
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

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08-11-2005

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82