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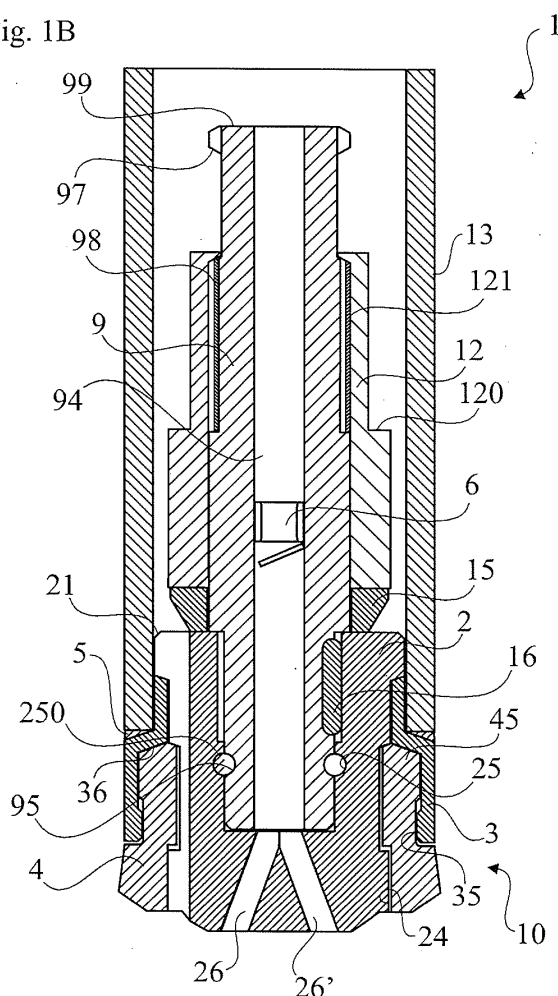
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(54) **Earth drilling tool and method**

(57) The present invention relates to a drilling tool for down-the-hole drilling, which drilling tool is intended to drill a hole ahead of a following casing tube, the drilling tool comprising a drill assembly which comprises a central pilot drill bit portion, a peripheral ring shaped drill bit portion and a casing shoe, said assembly being coupled to a drill string wherein the drill string is connected to the assembly via a drive shaft device which releasably interfits with the central pilot drill bit portion for transmitting torque from the drill string to the drill assembly.

Fig. 1B





EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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A	WO 91/12406 A1 (SANDVIK AB [SE]) 22 August 1991 (1991-08-22) * abstract; figures 1-7 * * page 5, paragraph 2-4; claim 1 *	1-16	
A	WO 2005/098194 A1 (ATLAS COPCO ROTEX AB OY [FI]; GOETING OVE [SE]) 20 October 2005 (2005-10-20) * abstract; figures 1,3 * * page 1, paragraph 2 * * page 4, paragraphs 1,3 *	1-16	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			E21B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 1 August 2016	Examiner Wehland, Florian
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
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