

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
8 February 2007 (08.02.2007)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2007/015226 A3

(51) International Patent Classification:
A01J 3/00 (2006.01) A01J 5/04 (2006.01)

GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/IL2005/000817

(22) International Filing Date: 1 August 2005 (01.08.2005)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

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(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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Published:
— with international search report
— before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

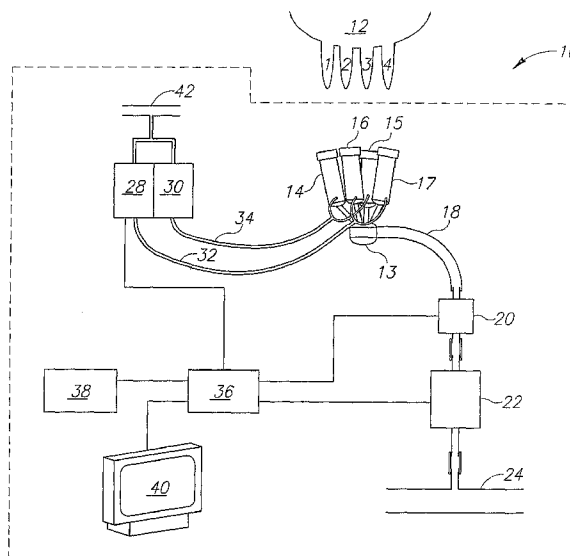
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(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
10 January 2008

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI,

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DETECTION OF MILK CHARACTERISTICS DURING MILKING



(57) Abstract: An innovative method and apparatus enabling an early detection of abnormal changes in milk characteristics during milking. A control unit that controls a two-channel pulsator is provided to create two short periods of time during milking, each period typically lasting a few seconds. Within the first period of time, milk characteristics and flow rate during milking are measured from only a first half of the udder by temporarily stopping the milk flow from a second half of the udder. This measuring procedure is then alternately repeated within the second period of time for the second half. The control unit is provided for analyzing measurements of the milk characteristics in real-time, while controlling the operation of the two channels separately accordingly.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/IL05/00817

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC: A01J 3/00(2006.01),5/04(2006.01)

 USPC: 119/14.02,14.07,14.14,14.15,14.17,14.29,14.3,14.37,14.38,14.41
 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. : 119/14.02,14.07,14.14,14.15,14.17,14.29,14.3,14.37,14.38,14.41

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

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X --- Y	US 6,164,242 A (Olofsson) 26 December 2000 (26.12.2000), column 3, lines 50-67 and column 4, lines 1-15 column 3, lines 50-67 and column 4, lines 1-15	15-17 and 24 ----- 18-22 and 26
Y	US 6,553,934 B2 (Gentner et al.) 29 April 2003 (29.04.2003), column 2, lines 18-28, column 7, lines 33-40, column 3, lines 35-65	18,19,21,22 and 26

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

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"O"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&"	document member of the same patent family
"P"	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search
04 September 2007 (04.09.2007)

Date of mailing of the international search report
08 NOV 2007

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