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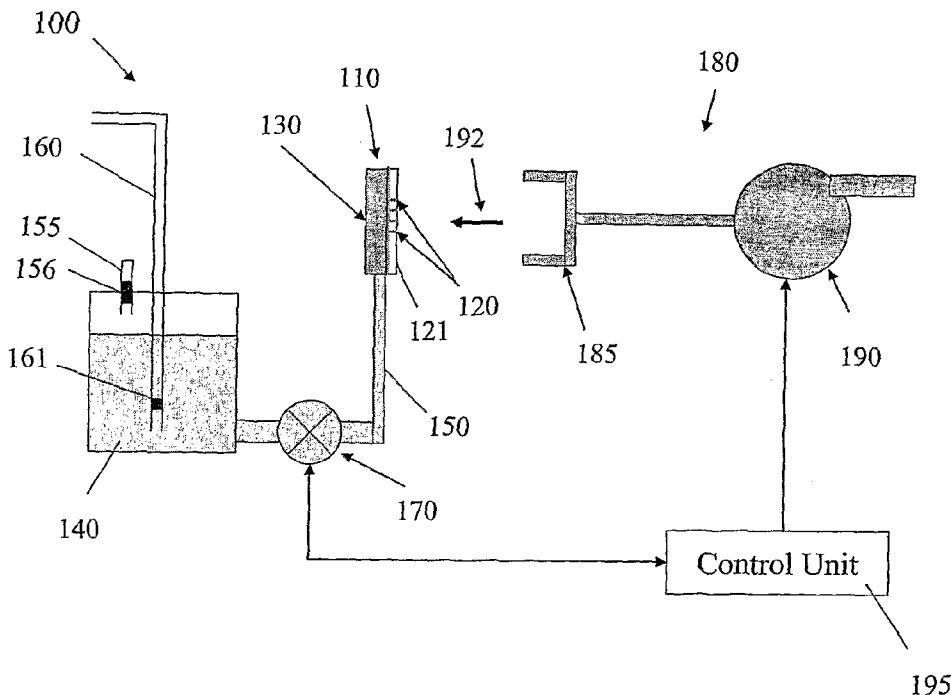
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(54) Title: FLUID DROP EJECTION



(57) Abstract: A drop ejection system includes a flow regulator that can regulate the fluid flow to enhance fluid purging from the fluid ejection head and other system operations. The drop ejection system can include a drop ejection head with a plurality of nozzles, a pumping chamber, and a fluid purge unit capable of purging the fluid from the nozzles by generating a negative pressure outside of nozzles. The flow regulator can increase the flow resistance of the fluid flow to the drop ejection head when the fluid is purged out of the nozzles.

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*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.*

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US06/00283

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
 IPC: **B41J 2/17**( 2006.01)

USPC: 347/84  
 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. : 347/84, 7, 24, 89, 35, 71; 400/56

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched  
 NONE

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)  
 Please See Continuation Sheet

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	JP 2002248779 A (TAKESHI) 03 September 2002 (03.09.2002) see entire document.	1, 13
X,E	US 7,066,585 B2 (KUMAGAI) 27 June 2006 (27.06.2006) see entire document.	1, 13
Y	US 6,155,664 A (COOK) 05 December 2000 (05.12.2000) see entire document.	1-29
Y	US 6,231,174 B1 (HAIGO) 15 May 2001 (15.05.2001) see entire document	1-29
Y	US 5,367,328 A (ERICKSON) 22 November 1994 (22.11.1994) see entire document.	4
Y	US 5,504,508 A (HASHIMOTO) 02 April 1996 (02.04.1996) see entire document.	10
Y,P	US 2005/0052513 A1 (INOUE) 10 March 2005 (10.03.2005) see entire document	10, 21

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

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"P"	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

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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.
Y	US 6,682,181 B1 (MOYNIHAN et al) 27 January 2004 (27.01.2004) see entire document.	11
Y,P	US 2005/0152726 A1 (UEDA et al) 14 July 2005 (14.07.2005) see entire document.	22
Y	US 6,517,189 B2 (OGAWA et al) 11 Febraury 2003 (11.02.2003) see entire document.	

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Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:

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