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Declarations under Rule 4.17:

— *as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))*

— *as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))*

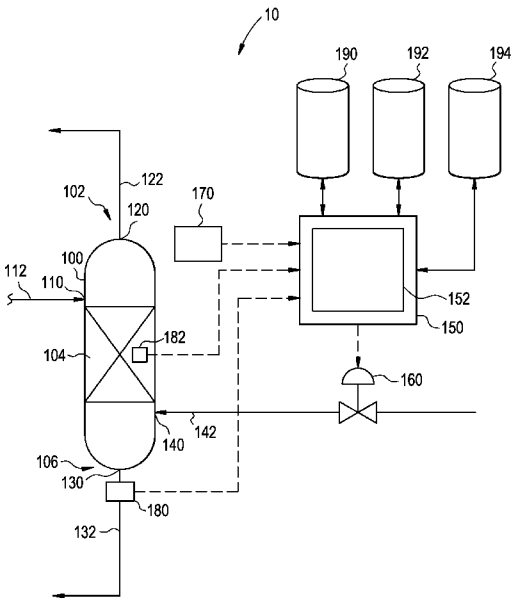
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— *with international search report (Art. 21(3))*

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR CONTROL OF A STRIPPER TOWER

FIG. 1



(57) Abstract: A system and method for operating a stripper tower is disclosed. The temperature T_M of an aqueous solution is measured at a first elevation in the stripper tower. Temperature T_C, which corresponds to the temperature of saturated steam at the operating pressure of the stripper tower, is calculated. A temperature T_{OVER}, the difference between a temperature of an aqueous solution in the stripper tower subject to over stripping conditions and a temperature of an aqueous solution in the stripper tower subject to normal stripping conditions. The method further includes the step of adjusting a flow rate of saturated steam into the stripper tower so that T_M is substantially equivalent to the difference between T_C and T_{OVER}.

WO 2013/144851 A3

— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments (Rule 48.2(h))*

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. B01D3/38 B01D3/42
ADD.

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)
B01D

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)
EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 3 413 217 A (KUNESH JOHN G) 26 November 1968 (1968-11-26) column 3, line 66 - column 4, line 22; figure 1	1-8, 11-16
X	US 2005/133359 A1 (GLENWRIGHT THOMAS B [US] ET AL) 23 June 2005 (2005-06-23) paragraphs [0015], [0016]; figure 1	1-8, 11-16
X	JP 2004 016856 A (BABCOCK HITACHI KK) 22 January 2004 (2004-01-22) paragraph [0019]; figures 1,2	1-8, 11-16
X	US 4 617 092 A (HIRAMATSU TERUAKI [JP]) 14 October 1986 (1986-10-14) column 2, lines 46-49; figure 1 column 3, lines 27-51 column 4, lines 15-30	9,10,17, 18

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

[X] See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"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

"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

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
12 February 2014	20/02/2014

Name and mailing address of the ISA/	Authorized officer
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Weber, Christian

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/IB2013/052415

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☒ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.

2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.

3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.

☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.

☒ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/IB2013/052415

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 368 699 A (RHIEL FRANZ F [DE] ET AL) 29 November 1994 (1994-11-29) claim 1; figure 1 -----	9,10,17, 18

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No
PCT/IB2013/052415

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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		US 5368699 A	29-11-1994

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-8, 11-16

   The steam supply control is based on temperature measurements at elevation whereby a temperature difference between over stripper conditions and "normal" stripping conditions is used as a steering variable.

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2. claims: 9, 10, 17, 18

   The steam supply control is based on temperature measurements at the bottom outlet and temperature in the bottom of the stripper whereby the steam admitted to the stripper is adjusted so that the bottom outlet temperature is equal to the difference between the steam saturation temperature at operating pressure and the temperature in the bottom of the stripper.
