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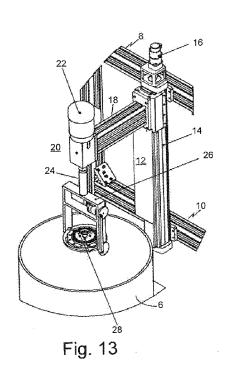
US

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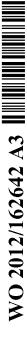
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SYSTEM AND PROCESS FOR COATING AN OBJECT



(57) Abstract: Coating systems (1700, 1800, 1900) and processes are disclosed for uniformly coating objects (28, 802, 926, 1026, 1126). The system (1700, 1800, 1900) comprises a pre-treatment unit (1704, 1804, 1904), a first processing unit (1706, 1806, 1906), a first post-treatment unit (1708, 1808, 1908) and one or more coating apparatus (800, 900, 1000, 1100) each configured to engage an object (28, 802, 926, 1026, 1126) and rotate the object around or about two or more axes. The coating apparatus (800, 900, 1000, 1100) used in the system can comprise a first gimbal (26, 808, 902, 1002, 1102) connected to a first rotational mechanism (24, 810, 904, 1004, 1104) to allow rotation of the first gimbal (26, 808, 902, 1002, 1102) around or about a first axis, a second gimbal (812, 906, 1006, 1106) connected to the first gimbal (26, 808, 902, 1002, 1102) to allow rotation around or about a second axis and optionally a third gimbal (916) connected to the second gimbal to allow rotation around or about a third axis. An object holder (46, 48, 822, 924, 1024, 1124) is connected to the second/third gimbal. When an object is present in the object holder (46, 48, 822, 924, 1024, 1124), it can be immersed in a coating solution to form a coated object. The coated object is then rotated around or about two or three axes which produces a multidirectional centrifugal force together which together with the force of gravity creates a three dimensional tensor force which causes the coating solution to spread evenly over all or part of the object or a complex surface of the object to produce a uniform thin film. Composites comprising the object with a uniform thin film coating covalently attached to at least all or part of the object or a complex surface of the object are also disclosed.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No PCT/US2012/039652

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER INV. B65G49/04 B05D1/00

B05C11/08

B05C13/02

B05D1/18

B05C3/05

B05C3/09

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)

B05C B05D B65G B05B C08G C09D B29C

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

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Х	US 2001/019004 A1 (SAGANE CHITOSHI [JP] ET AL) 6 September 2001 (2001-09-06) paragraphs [0077] - [0088]; figures	1-6,11, 12,15,18
X	WO 2008/025498 A1 (HOLDER RAINER [DE]; HOLDER JOCHEN [DE]) 6 March 2008 (2008-03-06) page 10 - page 12; claims; figures	19-26
X	JP 2004 071186 A (MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC IND CO LTD) 4 March 2004 (2004-03-04) the whole document	19-29
X	US 2010/178414 A1 (JUDGE FEARGAL D [IE] ET AL) 15 July 2010 (2010-07-15) paragraphs [0031] - [0051]; figures	19-26

X Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.	X See patent family annex.
"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	"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
the priority date claimed	"&" document member of the same patent family
Date of the actual completion of the international search 28 January 2014	Date of mailing of the international search report $10/02/2014$
Name and mailing address of the ISA/ European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer Endrizzi, Silvio

3

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/US2012/039652

O(OOIIIIIIda	ntion). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT	T
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 136 682 A (MOYER WENDELL W [US] ET AL) 4 August 1992 (1992-08-04) column 15, line 27 - column 20, line 40; figures	27-40
X	column 15, line 27 - column 20, line 40; figures US 2010/129646 A1 (FISK THOMAS E [US] ET AL) 27 May 2010 (2010-05-27) paragraphs [0001], [0038] - [0072]	27-40

International application No. PCT/US2012/039652

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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. X 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.:
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.
X No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

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

1. claims: 1-18

claims 1-18 are directed to a coating system comprising a coating apparatus configured to be transported between the pre-treatment, the first processing and the post-treatment units. It is considered that the coating system having a coating apparatus configured to be transported between the different units of the system comprises a "first special technical feature".

2. claims: 19-26

claims 19-26 are directed to a coating process comprising the steps of: pre-treating, immersing, withdrawing, post-treating an object and further rotating said object around a first and second axis after said withdrawing. It is considered that the coating process having the step of rotating said object around a first and second axis after said withdrawing comprises a "second special technical feature".

3. claims: 27-40

claims 27-40 are directed to a composite comprising an object and a thin layer covalently bonded thereto with adhesion value greater than 3B. It is considered that the composite having an object and a thin layer covalently bonded thereto with adhesion value greater than 3B comprises a "third special technical feature".

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No
PCT/US2012/039652

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