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- (71) **Applicant (for all designated States except US):** INTER-CONTINENTAL GREAT BRANDS LLC [US/US]; 100 Deforest Avenue, East Hanover, NJ 07936 (US).
- (72) **Inventors; and**
- (75) **Inventors/Applicants (for US only):** ELEJALDE, Cesar C. [US/US]; KRAFT FOODS GLOBAL BRANDS LLC, Three Lakes Drive, Northfield, Illinois 60093 (US). VAN NIEKERK, Miles [US/US]; KRAFT FOODS GLOBAL BRANDS LLC, Three Lakes Drive, Northfield, Illinois 60093 (US). COTTEN, Gerald B. [US/US]; KRAFT FOODS GLOBAL BRANDS LLC, Three Lakes Drive, Northfield, Illinois 60093 (US).
- (74) **Agent:** GIBSON, Daniel R.; CANTOR COLBURN LLP, 20 Church Street, 22nd Floor, Hartford, Connecticut 06103 (US).
- (81) **Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available):** AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) **Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available):** ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Declarations under Rule 4.17:

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

[Continued on next page]

(54) **Title:** SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR CONTINUOUSLY COATING CONFECTIONARY PRODUCT

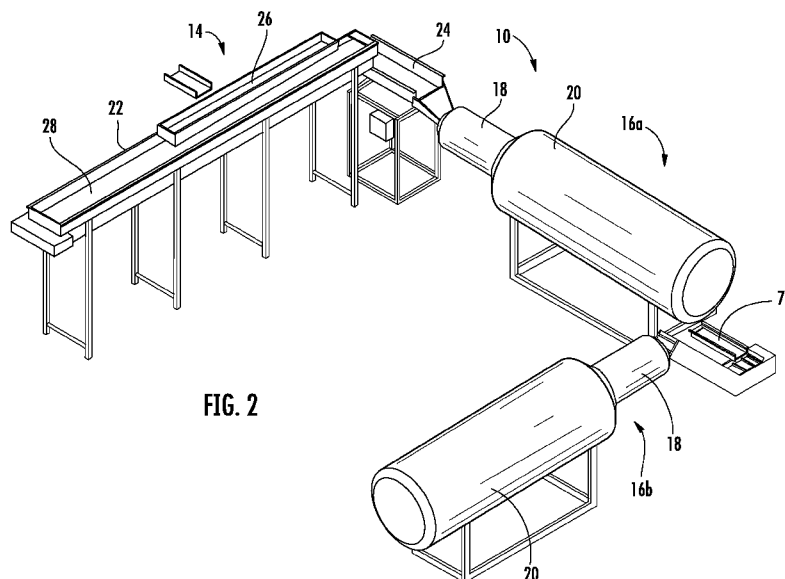


FIG. 2

(57) **Abstract:** Disclosed is a system for continuously coating individual pieces of confectionary product, the system including a product feed device, at least one drum coating arrangement configured to continuously receive the individual pieces of confectionary product from the product feed device, the drum coating arrangement including a first rotating drum rotatable about a first drum axis and a second rotating drum rotatable about a second drum axis, a first drum volume defined by the first rotating drum, and a second drum volume defined by the second rotating drum, the first drum volume being communicable with the second drum volume, wherein the drum coating arrangement is configured such that the confectionary product has a longer residence time in the second drum volume than the first drum volume.



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- *as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))* (88) **Date of publication of the international search report:**
9 June 2016

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

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/US2012/039973

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. A23G3/00 A23G3/26
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)

A23G A61J B01J

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, BIOSIS, COMPENDEX, FSTA

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0 212 824 A2 (NABISCO BRANDS INC [US]) 4 March 1987 (1987-03-04) Page 10, the paragraph starting with "Referring to ..." to page 15, end of first paragraph; page 16, last paragraph - page 17, paragraph 1 claims 1-4,8,10; figures 1,2,4,5-7 ----- -/--	1,4, 8-10, 13-15, 20-22, 26,31, 32,35, 36,40,41

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☒ 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

13 September 2012

Date of mailing of the international search report

23. 12. 2015

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

Götz, Michael

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/US2012/039973

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 3 911 860 A (NOHYNEK ODON) 14 October 1975 (1975-10-14) column 1, line 62 - column 2, line 39 column 3, line 11 - column 4, line 11 column 4, line 38 - column 5, line 2 claims 1-3,6,7; figure 1	1,2,4, 6-9,15, 20,22, 26,27, 29-31,40
X	DE 195 18 721 A1 (BOHLE L B PHARMATECH GMBH [DE]) 28 November 1996 (1996-11-28) column 2, lines 6-46 column 3, line 18 - column 4, line 9 column 4, lines 36-44 figure 1	1,2,4,6, 8,9,13, 15,22, 26,27, 29,31,35
X	WO 01/11984 A1 (WARNER LAMBERT CO [US]) 22 February 2001 (2001-02-22) page 7, line 4 - page 10, line 2 page 12, lines 1-17 claims 1,2,6,8; figure 4	1,3,4,8, 9,15,17, 20-23, 26,31,40
X	DE 23 24 946 A1 (ENDERS WERNER) 5 December 1974 (1974-12-05) page 3, last paragraph - page 4, last paragraph page 11, paragraph 2 page 11, last paragraph - page 12, paragraph 1 page 14, paragraph 6 page 15, paragraph 3 claims 1,6,23,24,26,28; figures 1,15	1,2,4,7, 17,22, 26,27, 30,31,38

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US2012/039973

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.:

1-15, 17-36, 38-43

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.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

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

1. claims: 1-15, 17-36, 38-43

System and method for coating confectionery nuclei using a serial coating drum configuration.

2. claims: 16, 37

System and method for coating confectionery nuclei using a product feed device.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/US2012/039973

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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