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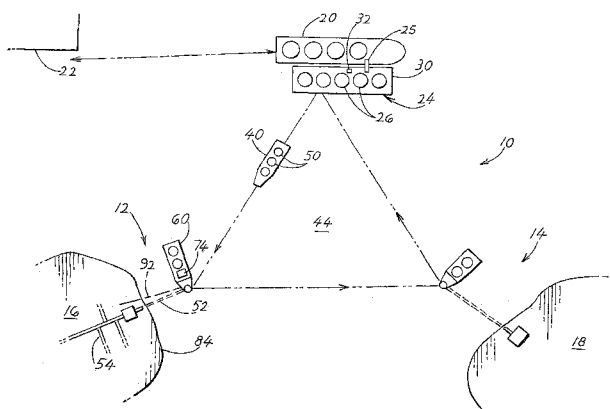
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(54) Title: GAS DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: An economical system provides gaseous hydrocarbon to numerous locations (16, 18) that are each in the vicinity of an ocean coast, such as islands in a developing country, so the coastal inhabitants have access to low cost, easily supplied by pipeline and clean-burning natural gas. The system includes a local supply station (24), or hub, that stores natural gas, as by receiving LNG (liquefied natural gas) that has been liquefied by cooling it to -160°C , from a large tanker (20) having a storage capacity of over 50 million standard cubic feet of natural gas. Shuttle boats (40) that each has a much smaller LNG storage capacity than the tanker, load LNG from the local supply station, carry it to one of a plurality of local coastal stations (12, 14), heat the LNG to produce gaseous hydrocarbons, and transfer the gaseous hydrocarbons to an offshore receiving facility of the local coastal station. The gaseous hydrocarbons are then used by the local coastal station as to distribute gaseous hydrocarbons to residents of the island or to fuel an electricity generating plant.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC (8) - B65B 1/04 (2007.01)

USPC - 141/103

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)

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

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keywords: gas tanker local coastal small

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

PUBWEST DB=PGPB,USPT,USOC,EPAB,JPAB; keywords: gas tanker local coastal small

Google: gas distribution system tanker

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	NORWEGIAN MARINE TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH INSTITUTE; ISSN-801-1818; 01 April 2004; Developing and Optimizing the LNG Distribution Chain; pg. 6	1-11
A	US 2004/0211485 A1 (SAMUELSEN, ET AL.) 28 Oct 2004 (28.10.2004), entire document	1-11
A	US 2002/0134455 A1 (EMBLEM, ET AL.) 26 Sep 2002 (26.09.2002), entire document	1-11
A	US 2004/0154697 A1 (DUPONT, ET AL.) 12 Aug 2004 (12.08.2004), entire document	1-11

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"&" document member of the same patent family

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