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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **BAKER HUGHES INCORPORATED** [US/US]; P.O.Box 4740, Houston, TX 77027 (US).

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(71) Applicant and
(72) Inventor (for all designated States except US): **WILLAUER, Darrin, L.** [US/US]; 79 North Brooksedge, The Woodlands, TX 77382 (US).

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(72) Inventor; and
(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **DUAN, Ping** [US/US]; 26325 Northgate Crossing Blvd., Spring, TX 77373 (US).

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(74) Agent: **PORTER, Andre, J.**; Baker Hughes Incorporated, P.O. Box 4740, Houston, TX 77027-4740 (US).

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(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR CONTROLLED DEPLOYMENT OF SHAPE-CONFORMING MATERIALS

(57) Abstract: An apparatus and method for filling a defined space, such as an annulus around a production tubular within a well-bore, includes a compliant porous material. The compliant porous material can be compressed and maintained in a compressed state by incorporation of a deployment modifier, which may be a water-soluble or oil-soluble adhesive or biopolymer, used as an impregnant, a coating, or a casing. The production tubular can be positioned at a desired location and the compliant porous material exposed to a deployment modifier neutralizing agent, which then dissolves or otherwise prevents the deployment modifier from continuing to inhibit deployment. Thus, deployment can be delayed to an optimum time by preventing exposure of the deployment modifier to the deployment modifier neutralizing agent.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER INV. E21B43/04 E21B43/08 E21B43/10		
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B. FIELDS SEARCHED		
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Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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 document 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		
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Date of the actual completion of the international search 12 February 2009		Date of mailing of the international search report 23/02/2009
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 van Berlo, André

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