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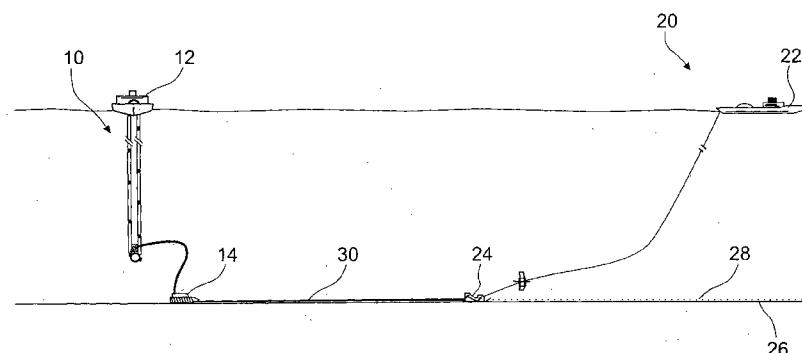


Fig. 1

(57) Abstract: A seafloor vertical hoisting system for hoisting ore from the seafloor, the hoisting system comprising a drive mechanism, at least one line adapted to be driven by the drive mechanism, a plurality of containers adapted to be operatively attached to the at least one line, a first casing adapted to at least partially encase the at least one line and the plurality of containers as they are hoisted relative to the seafloor and a second casing adapted to at least partially encase the at least one line and the plurality of containers as they are lowered towards the seafloor.