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(71) Applicant: **ABIOMED EUROPE GMBH** [DE/DE];
Neuenhofer Weg 3, 52074 Aachen (DE).

(72) Inventors: **SIESS, Thorsten**; c/o Abiomed Europe GmbH,
Neuenhofer Weg 3, 52074 Aachen (DE). **NIX, Christoph**;
c/o Abiomed Europe GmbH, Neuenhofer Weg 3, 52074

Aachen (DE). **BÖNSCH, Stefan**; c/o Abiomed Europe
GmbH, Neuenhofer Weg 3, 52074 Aachen (DE).

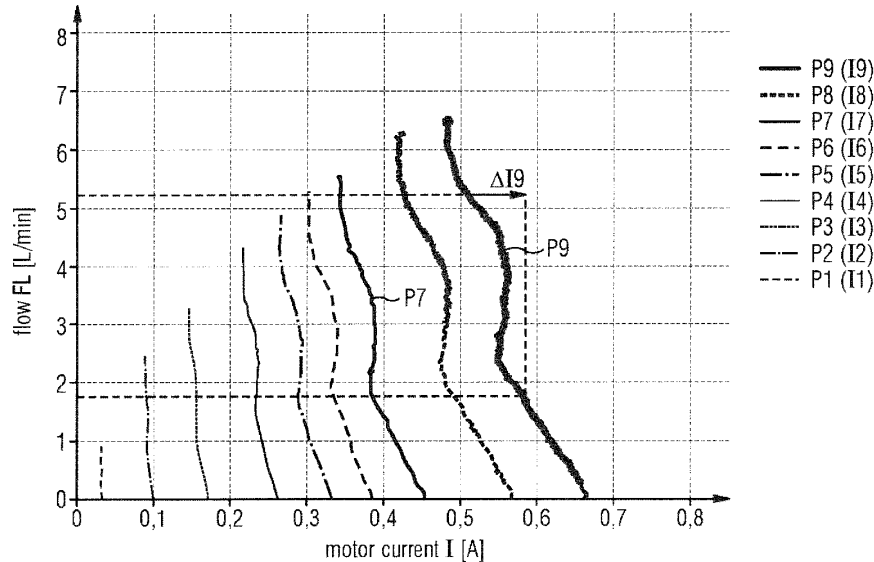
(74) Agent: **KLUNKER IP PATENTANWÄLTE PARTG
MBB**; Destouchesstraße 68, 80796 München (DE).

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TRAVASCULAR BLOOD PUMP

FIG 2



(57) Abstract: A method and an apparatus for use in estimating blood flow in an intravascular blood pump comprise retrieving reference data from a set of reference data obtained in a test environment. The set of reference data comprises, for at least one motor speed at different pump loads, including a first pump load, both a reference motor current (I) of a motor driving the blood pump and an amount of fluid flow through the blood pump. After placement of the blood pump in the patient, a patient-specific motor current for said motor speed at said first pump load is measured, and a motor current deviation value (ΔI) is calculated from the reference motor current (I) at said first pump load and patient-specific motor current. Finally, the motor current deviation value ΔI is used for estimating a patient-specific blood flow amount through the blood pump.

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