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(71) Applicant *(for all designated States except US)*: **NATIONAL OILWELL VARCO, L.P.** [—/US]; 7909 Parkwood Circle Drive, Houston, TX 77036 (US).

(71) Applicant *(for ZA only)*: **LUCAS, Brian Ronald** [GB/GB]; 135 Westhall Road, Warlingham Surrey CR6 9HJ (GB).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants *(for US only)*: **SPRINGETT, Frank Benjamin** [US/US]; 1303 Roseberry Manor, Spring, TX 77379 (US). **JOHNSON, Christopher Dale** [US/US]; 14718 Bladenboro Drive, Cypress, TX 77429 (US). **PETERS, Shern Eugene** [US/US]; 3626 Tenbury Glen Drive, Houston, TX 77066 (US). **ENSLEY, Eric Trevor** [US/US]; 20823 Oak Orchard Court, Cypress, TX 77433 (US).

(74) Agent: **CASBON, Paul Richard**; 135 Westhall Road, Warlingham Surrey CR6 9HJ (GB).

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(54) Title: BLOWOUT PREVENTER BLADE ASSEMBLY AND METHOD OF USING SAME

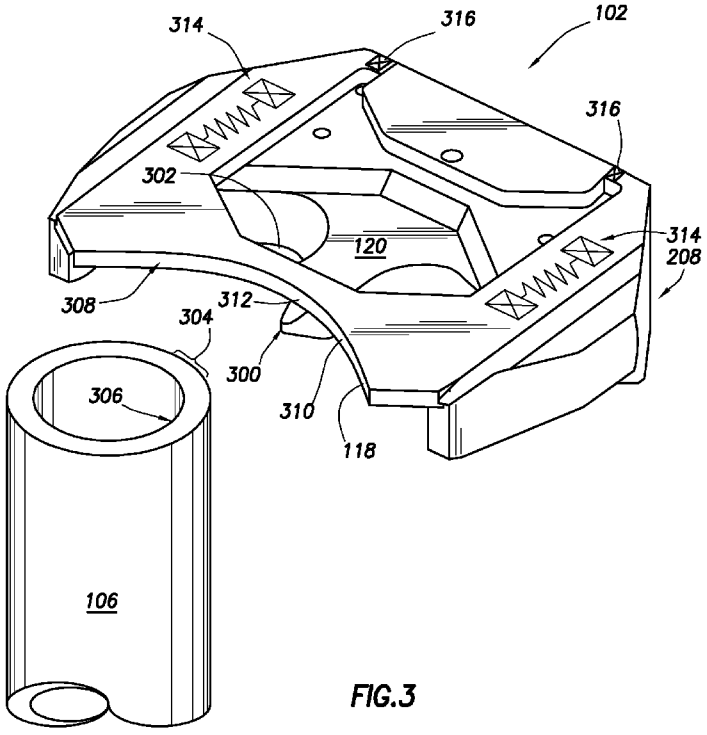


FIG.3

(57) Abstract: The techniques herein relate to a blade assembly of a blowout preventer for shearing a tubular of a wellbore penetrating a subterranean formation. The blowout preventer has a housing with a hole therethrough for receiving the tubular. The blade assembly includes a ram block movable between a non-engagement position and an engagement position about the tubular, a blade carried by the ram block for cuttingly engaging the tubular, a retractable guide carried by the ram block and slidably movable therealong, and a release mechanism for selectively releasing the guide to move between a guide position for guiding engagement with the tubular and a cutting position a distance behind the blade for permitting the blade to cuttingly engage the tubular.

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