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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: POSITIONER SYSTEM AND METHOD OF POSITIONING

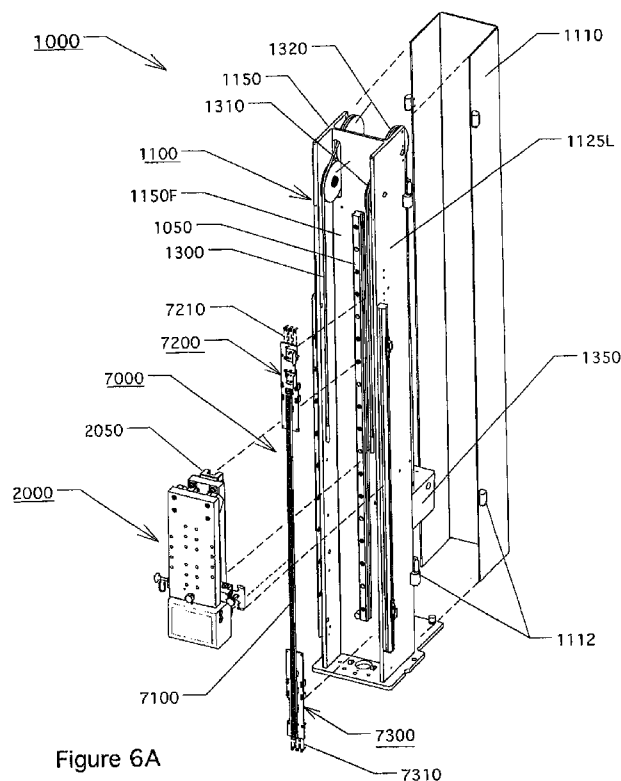


Figure 6A

(57) Abstract: A system for positioning a load including a support column, a drive rail unit coupled to the support column, the drive rail unit moveable relative to the support column, a vertical carriage moveable along the support column, wherein the vertical carriage supports the load, an engagement member which engages the drive rail and which moves along the drive rail, and a motor which applies force to the engagement member, causing the engagement member to move along the drive rail. The motor is coupled to the vertical carriage so that, as the motor applies force to the engagement member, the vertical carriage moves relative to the drive rail unit, the vertical carriage is also moveable with the drive rail unit so that the vertical carriage and the drive rail unit move relative to the support column. A method of positioning a load is also provided.

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