

Drive unit, in particular for fire fighting installation

5 The present invention relates to a drive unit, in particular for a fire fighting installation intended to operate with a high drive pressure, said unit comprising a number of hydraulic accumulators coupled in parallel.

10 In the Finnish patent application 931405 is included, among other things, a drive unit of the above-mentioned type, where the liquid of the hydraulic accumulators is driven out by means gas fed in under a high pressure from pressure gas containers, often called gas bottles in daily speech, whereat the
15 drive gas, after a beginning stage with liquid delivery only, is successively mixed into the liquid.

A problem with standard made gas bottles is that their outlet valve is small, due to which a sufficiently large gas flow is not obtained. A large
20 gas flow is a necessity for the primary requirement to in the beginning of the extinguishing process obtain a large water flow, likewise also for the somewhat more secondary requirement to be able to deliver cooling water for a longer time.

25 The object of the invention is to provide a new drive unit which eliminates the above drawback and enables efficient extinguishing.

The drive unit according to the invention is mainly characterized in that the hydraulic
30 accumulators are divided into at least two groups optionally connectable to at least one drive gas container charged to a high pressure, and that said at least one drive gas container is arranged to in a beginning stage be connected to a first group of
35 hydraulic accumulators and in a later stage be connected to another group of hydraulic accumulators.

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During the later stage the connection to the beginning stage group of hydraulic accumulators is preferably closed.

5 The invention shall in the following be described in more detail, with reference to a preferred exemplifying embodiment shown in the attached drawing.

10 In the drawing the drive unit is generally indicated by the reference numeral 1. The drive unit 1 comprises two groups of hydraulic accumulators, preferably of the type described in the patent application 931405 and indicated by 2 and 3, respectively. Each group can comprise e.g. three accumulators, as in the drawing.

15 Two gas bottles, the initial charge pressure of which can be 200 bar, are indicated by 4 and 5. the bottles 4 and 5 can via a valve 6 be connected to the accumulator group 2 and via a valve 7 be connected to the accumulator group 3.

20 When the drive unit 1 is activated due to fire alarm, only one of the valves 6 and 7 is opened to begin with, e.g. the valve 6 to the accumulator group 2. In this first stage both gas bottles 4 and 5 drive out liquid from the group 2 only through the group out-going line 8 to the out-going line 10 of the whole drive unit 1.

25 When the pressure in the gas bottles 4 and 5 has fallen to a predetermined value, e.g. 130 bar, the hereto open valve 6 is closed and instead the hereto closed valve 7 is opened. in spite of fallen and continuously falling drive pressure in the gas bottles 4 and 5 these are capable of effectively emptying the accumulator group 3 via the out-going line 9 of that group to the out-going line 10 of the drive unit 1.

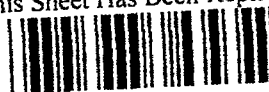
30 When the first opened valve 6 is closed, a considerable amount of gas has already flown into the upper part of the accumulators 2, and when closing the



valve 6 this gas has still a relatively high pressure, e.g. 130 bar. The entrapped gas continues to expand in the accumulators 2 and completes the emptying of these at the same time as the gas bottles 4 and 5 empty the accumulators 3.

In this way a relatively low number of gas bottles can efficiently be utilized for driving liquid out of a relatively large number of hydraulic accumulators. In principle one can have more than two groups of accumulators, alternatively it can be contemplated to during the second stage keep the first opened valve 6 continuously at least partially open.

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Claims:

1. A drive unit, in particular for a fire fighting installation intended to operate with a high drive pressure, said unit comprising a number of hydraulic accumulators coupled in parallel, characterized in that the hydraulic accumulators are divided into at least two groups (2;3) optionally connectable to at least one drive gas container (4,5) charged to a high pressure, and that said at least one drive gas container is arranged to in a beginning stage be connected to a first group of hydraulic accumulators and in a later stage be connected to another group of hydraulic accumulators.
2. A drive unit according to claim 1, characterized in that the connection (6) to the beginning stage group of hydraulic accumulators (2) is arranged to be closed when opening the connection (7) to the other group of hydraulic accumulators (3).



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