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(54) Title: SWITCHING DEVICE INCLUDING SPARK GAP FOR SWITCHING ELECTRICAL POWER

(57) Abstract

A device for switching electric power comprises at least one electric switching arrangement (5). This switching arrangement comprises at least one switching element (10a) comprising an electrode gap (24). This gap is convertible between an electrically substantially insulating state and an electrically conducting state. Furthermore, the switching element comprises means (25) for causing or at least initiating the electrode gap or at least a part thereof to assume electrical conductivity. The means (25) for causing or at least initiating the electrode gap to assume conductivity are adapted to supply energy to the electrode gap in the form of radiation energy to bring the gap or at least a part thereof to the form of a plasma by means of this radiation energy.

