(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
18 January 2007 (18.01.2007)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2007/008736 A1

(51) International Patent Classification:
H01L 21/00 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2006/026642

(22) International Filing Date: 7 July 2006 (07.07.2006)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/697,616 8 July 2005 (08.07.2005) US

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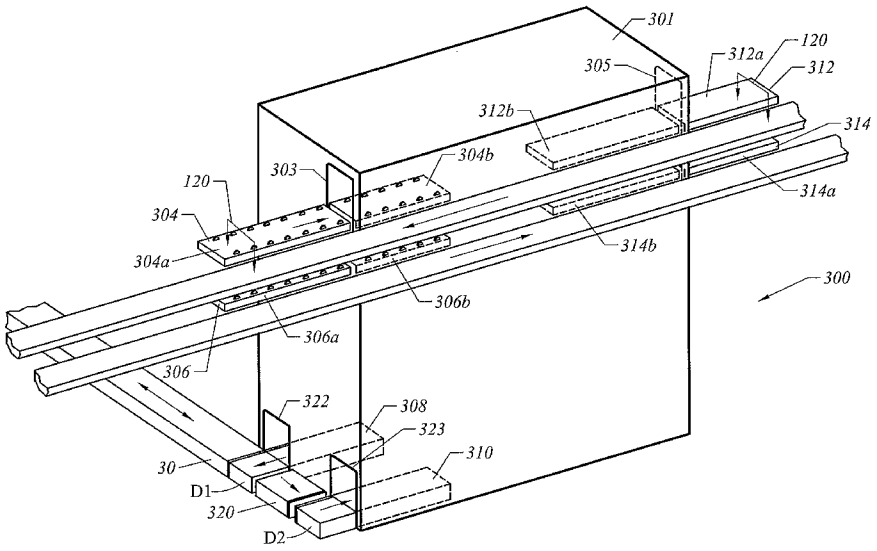
(81) Designated States *(unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available)*: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, LY, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States *(unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available)*: ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:
— *with international search report*
— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: STOCKER



(57) Abstract: The present invention comprises a stocker for managing containers within a fabrication facility having a ceiling-based interbay material handling system a floor-based intrabay material handling system. In one embodiment, the stocker comprises a container storage area for storing at least one container, a ceiling-based input conveyor, a floor- based conveyor and a robotic mechanism. The ceiling-based input conveyor receives containers from the ceiling based interbay material handling system. The stocker' s floor- based conveyor may comprise an output conveyor, an input conveyor or both, and moves containers between the stocker' s container storage area and the floor-based intrabay material handling system. A robotic mechanism moves containers between the ceiling- based input conveyor, the container storage area and the floor-based conveyor.

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