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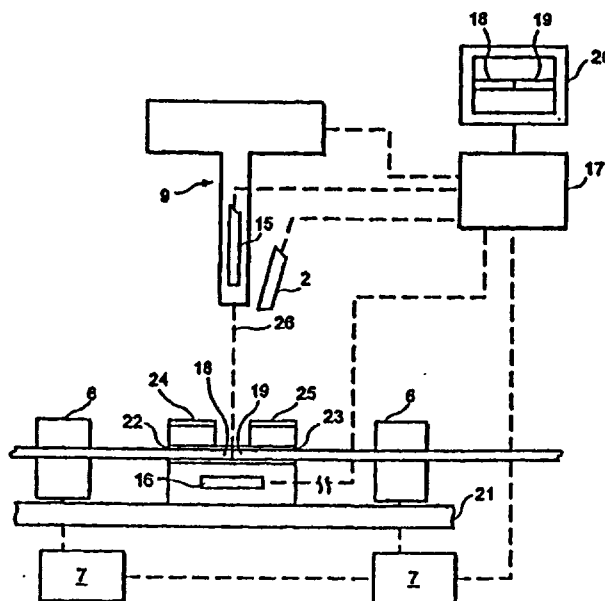
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR LASER SPLICING OF OPTICAL FIBERS



(57) Abstract: A method and apparatus for fusing a pair of optical fibers (18, 19) together using an intense beam of electromagnetic radiation (26) directed against the aligned ends of the optical fibers (18, 19). The intense beam (26) is of a power sufficient to fuse the fibers together, and is applied for a time sufficient to effect joining of the fibers (18, 19). Preferably, the beam (26) is of a sufficiently high intensity to create a plasma which increases the amount of optical power absorbed by the fiber ends (18, 19).

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