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(54) Title: ABATEMENT APPARATUS AND METHOD

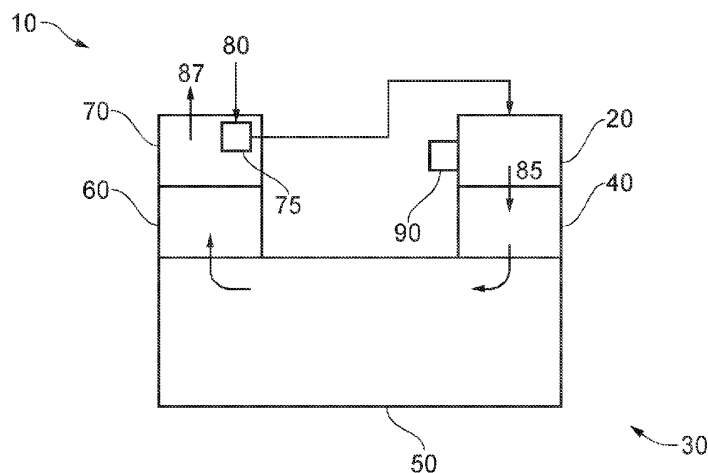


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: An abatement apparatus and a method are disclosed. The abatement apparatus is for abating an effluent stream from a semiconductor processing tool and comprises: an abatement chamber configured to receive the effluent stream and to provide an abated effluent stream; a wet scrubber located downstream of the abatement chamber, the wet scrubber being configured to receive the abated effluent stream and provide a scrubbed effluent stream; and a catalyst bed located downstream of the wet scrubber, the catalyst bed being configured to receive the scrubbed effluent stream and provide a remediated effluent stream. In this way, undesirable compounds present in the abated effluent stream, which are there because they were either already present in the effluent stream and were insufficiently abated by the abatement chamber or because they are abatement by-products generated within the abatement chamber, can be remediated, removed or reduced by the catalyst bed prior to being vented by the abatement apparatus. This helps to improve

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the performance of the abatement apparatus by removing compounds which may otherwise be difficult or energy-intensive to remove using the abatement chamber alone.