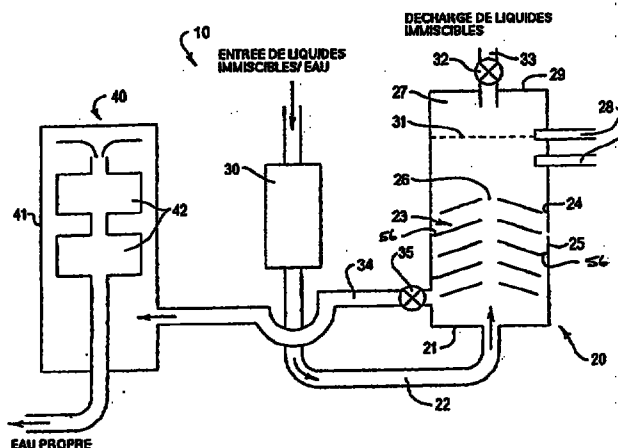




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(57) Abstract

An apparatus for separation of at least partly immiscible liquid components from a mixture. The apparatus including: a closed separation vessel; an inlet for introducing the mixture under pressure to the vessel; separation means comprising baffle means defining a flow path to allow at least partial separation of the mixture within the vessel to provide a first phase and a second phase; a first phase collection space having a first vertical extremity defined by an interior vertical extremity of the vessel; a plurality of outlets including an outlet for the first phase from said collection space and an outlet for the second phase; an outlet valve for controlling discharge of the first phase from the outlet; interface detection means for detecting the presence of an interface of the first phase with the other contents of the vessel and disposed at level within the vessel which is vertically spaced from said first vertical extremity and adapted to control said valve such that when the volume of said first phase in the first phase collection space provides an interface at the interface detection means the valve is actuated to discharge at least a portion of the volume of said first phase from said vessel.