CLAIMS

1. An annular seal system for sealing between a casing hanger and a wellhead housing, the system comprising:

an actuator ring comprising a rigid portion and a flexible portion;

a lockdown ring positioned adjacent the actuator ring; and

a seal assembly capable of moving from a de-energized position to an energized position, wherein when the seal assembly is in the de-energized position there is defined a space between the seal assembly and the rigid portion of the actuator ring, and when the seal assembly is in the energized position the space is closed, the rigid portion of the actuator ring contacts a surface of the casing hanger, and the flexible portion of the actuator ring pushes the lockdown ring into engagement with the wellhead, the flexible portion of the actuator ring adapted to axially compress to allow positional variation between the lockdown ring and the wellhead housing.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the seal assembly comprises:

a U-shaped seal; and

an energizing ring configured to push the U-shaped seal into sealing contact with the casing hanger and the wellhead housing.

3. The system of claim 1, wherein at least a part of the flexible portion of the actuator ring extends between the seal assembly and the rigid portion of the actuator ring while the space between the seal assembly and the rigid portion of the actuator ring is maintained.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein the flexible portion of the actuator ring includes a flexible element selected from the group consisting of a bladder, one or more collapsible or compressible members, and a combination of a collet and bump.