

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
8 June 2006 (08.06.2006)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2006/060275 A3

(51) International Patent Classification:
F04B 25/00 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2005/042730

(22) International Filing Date:
23 November 2005 (23.11.2005)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
11/003,125 3 December 2004 (03.12.2004) US

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **THE BOC GROUP, INC.** [US/US]; 575 Mountain Avenue, Murray Hill, NJ 07974 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **BAILEY, Christopher, M.** [GB/GB]; The Coach House, Kingsmead Road, Broadbridge Heath, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 3LL (GB). **BOGER, Michael, S.** [US/US]; 3188 SW Williamette Ave., Corvallis, OR 97333 (US).

(74) Agent: **ZE BRAK, Ira, Lee**; The Boc Group, INC., 575 Mountain Avenue, Murray Hill, NJ 07974 (US).

(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, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, 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, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

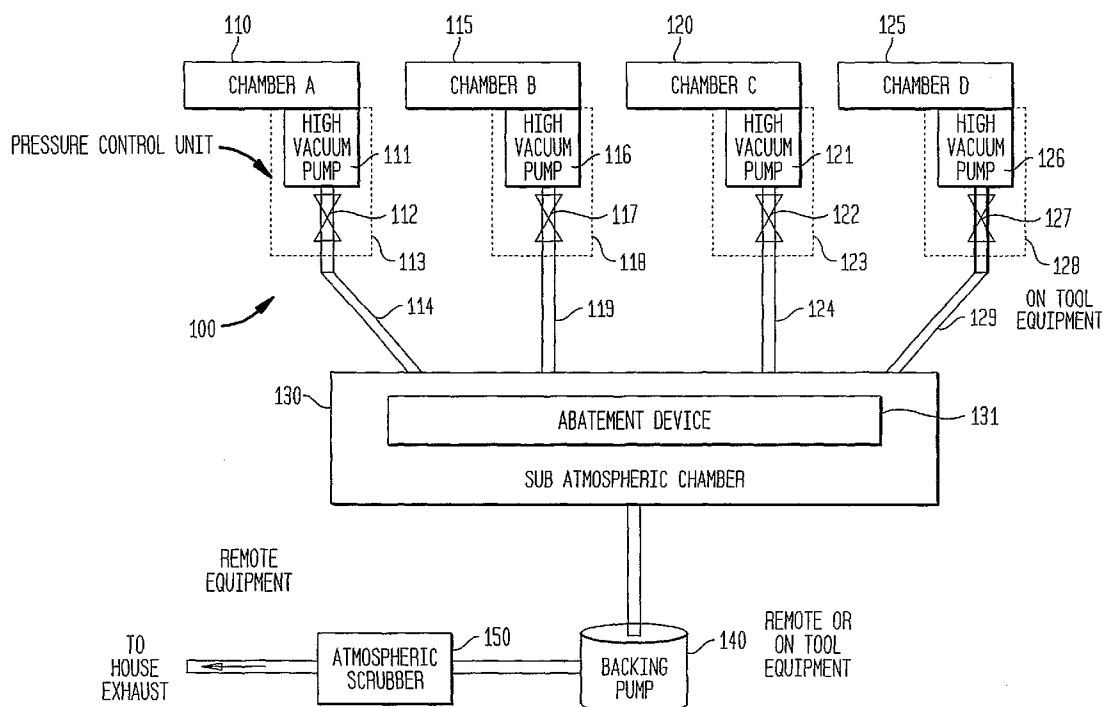
(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, 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).

Declarations under Rule 4.17:

- as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))
- as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: FORE-LINE PRECONDITIONING FOR VACUUM PUMPS



(57) Abstract: The present invention is an apparatus and method for evacuating a number of vacuum processing chambers containing incompatible gases. The gases are directed to a subatmospheric abatement chamber containing preconditioning devices. The gases are treated in the abatement chamber to render them compatible. The compatible gases are then drawn from the abatement chamber as a single stream through a backing pump.



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.

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:

17 August 2006