

(51) International Patent Classification:
B67D 9/00 (2010.01)(21) International Application Number:
PCT/EP2014/072357(22) International Filing Date:
17 October 2014 (17.10.2014)

(25) Filing Language: English

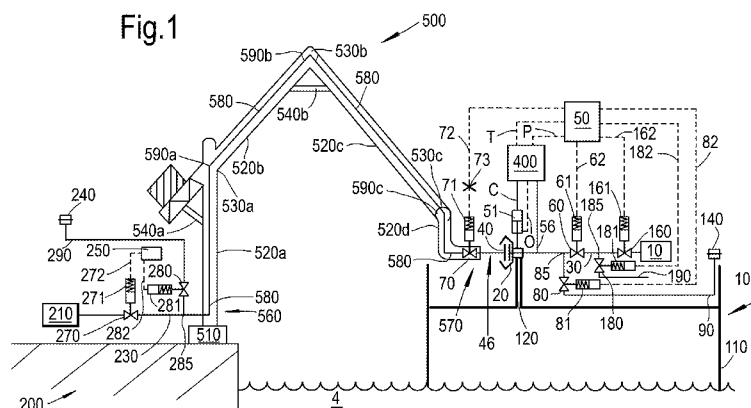
(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
13189337.2 18 October 2013 (18.10.2013) EP(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **SHELL
INTERNATIONALE RESEARCH MAATSCHAPPIJ
B.V.** [NL/NL]; Carel van Bylandtlaan 30, NL-2596 HR
The Hague (NL).(71) Applicant (for US only): **SHELL OIL COMPANY**
[US/US]; Shell Plaza 1, Houston, TX 77252-2463 (US).(72) Inventors: **VEGA, PEREZ, Pablo, Antonio**; Lange Klei-
weg 40, NL-2288GK Rijswijk (NL). **LATIL, Serge**;
Grasweg 31, NL-1031HW Amsterdam (NL).(74) Agents: **MATTHEZING, Robert, Maarten** et al.; PO
Box 384, NL-2501 CJ The Hague (NL).(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,
AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY,BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM,
DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT,
HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IR, IS, JP, KE, KG, KN, KP, KR,
KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG,
MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM,
PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SA, SC,
SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN,
TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH,
GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, ST, SZ,
TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU,
TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE,
DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU,
LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK,
SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ,
GW, KM, 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))

Published:

— with international search report (Art. 21(3))
— before the expiration of the time limit for amending the
claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of
amendments (Rule 48.2(h))(54) Title: **LOADING ASSEMBLY FOR CONVEYING A PRESSURIZED GAS STREAM AND A SWITCHING SYSTEM FOR
USE IN A LOADING ASSEMBLY**

(57) Abstract: A loading assembly has a gas conduit that extends between a floating structure and another structure, to convey a pressurized gas stream between the two structures. An emergency disconnection coupler is configured in the gas conduit. A switching system is provided for controlling switching of an engagement mechanism in the emergency disconnection coupler between a locked position and an unlocked position (in either direction). The switching system is subject to two distinct fail-safe regimes: a fail-unlocked regime which inherently instructs for release of the emergency disconnection coupler, and a fail-closed regime which inherently precludes release of the emergency disconnection coupler when there is pressurized gas in the gas connection. The fail-unlocked regime is active when the gas pressure in the gas connection is below a predetermined override threshold value. The fail-locked regime overrides the fail-unlocked regime.