

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROTECTING EQUIPMENT DATA
ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Processing equipment for protecting equipment data. A processing unit processes an article, such as a wafer. A storage unit stores equipment data for the processing unit. A controlling unit receives a data retrieval request for the equipment data, wherein the data retrieval request comprises identification data. An authentication unit validates the identification data and retrieves corresponding equipment data from the storage unit through the controlling unit, when the identification data is validated. An encryption unit receives the equipment data from the authentication unit, and encrypts the equipment data. A controlling unit further transfers the encrypted equipment data to an external system.

(FIG. 2)