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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US97/22133 (22) International Filing Date: 10 December 1997 (10.12.97) (30) Priority Data: 08/766,271 13 December 1996 (13.12.96) US (71) Applicant: BTEC SYSTEMS, INC. [US/US]; 26460 Corporate Avenue, Hayward, CA 94546 (US). (72) Inventors: TROST, David; 1201 California Street, San Francisco, CA 94109 (US). VENEKLASSEN, Lee; 3445 Badding Road, Castro Valley, CA 94546 (US). (74) Agents: KLIVANS, Norman, R. et al.; Skjerven, Morrill, MacPherson, Franklin & Friel LLP, Suite 700, 25 Metro Drive, San Jose, CA 95110 (US).		(81) Designated States: CA, JP, KR, SG, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). Published With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.
(54) Title: VACUUM COMPATIBLE LINEAR MOTION DEVICE (57) Abstract A vacuum compatible linear motion device having a fluid bearing is contained within a vacuum chamber having a working pressure of significantly less than one atmosphere. The fluid bearing is contained within a vacuum enclosure within the vacuum chamber and is maintained at a pressure higher than that of the vacuum chamber but less than one atmosphere, thus essentially isolating the fluid bearing. A moveable payload is coupled to the linear motion device such that linear motion in the direction of the long axis of the device is provided to the moveable payload.		