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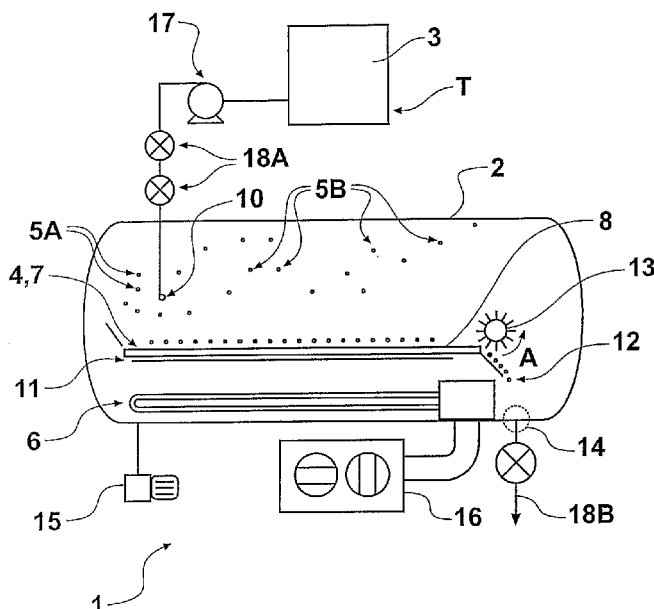
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(54) Title: DRYING PROCESS AND APPARATUS



(57) Abstract: This invention relates to a process and/or method and associated apparatus for use in spray freeze drying a liquid substance such as fruit juice, pharmaceuticals, nutraceuticals, tea and coffee. A liquid substance is sprayed (atomised) and reduced in temperature to below its eutectic temperature; thereby inducing a phase change of liquids in the liquid substance. The atomised liquid substance (ALS) is then subjected to a vacuumous drying chamber in which the ALS is subjected to an energy source to assist sublimation of liquid from the ALS as it is conveyed through the chamber. Such an energy source can provide a temperature gradient through which the ALS passes and is exposed to, all carried out so as to preferably minimise or reduce the likelihood of degradation of the substance being dried (reducing the liquid content).

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