

APPARATUS AND METHOD OF SELF-CLEANING TEST SOCKETS**ABSTRACT**

A system and method of test sockets for general electronic devices, capable of self-cleaning and preventing contaminants from depositing on the external and internal contact areas of pogo probes by means of diffused fluid streams which blow in the directions away from the probe tips. Gases such as air, nitrogen and inert gases may be used as suitable fluid. The fluid streams are delivered to individual pogo plunges through a network of main and branch fluid ducts embedded in the test socket. Said main fluid duct draws fluid from an external fluid controller via a fluid inlet. The fluid controller is user programmable to deliver fluid flow at pre-determined pressure levels at scheduled times, and on a continuous basis for preventing debris collection.

Figure 2 accompanies the Abstract.