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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **INTELLIGENT ENERGY LIMITED** [GB/GB]; The Registry, 34 Beckenham Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3 4TU (GB).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **ADCOCK, Paul** [GB/GB]; 27 West End, Long Whatton, Loughborough, Leics LE12 5DW (GB). **HOOD, Peter, David** [GB/GB]; 1026 Melton Road, Syston, Leicester LE7 2NN (GB). **BAIRD, Scott** [GB/GB]; 55 Rufford Avenue, Bramcote, Nottingham NG9 3JG (GB).

(74) Agent: **CHARIG, Raymond**; Potter Clarkson LLP, Park View House, 58 The Ropewalk, Nottingham NG1 5DD (GB).

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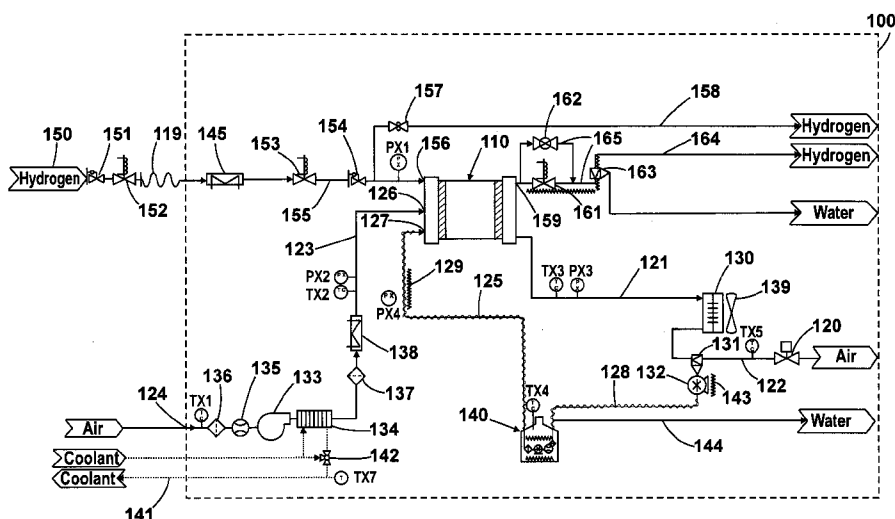


Fig. 1

(57) Abstract: A method of shutting down operation of a fuel cell system (100) comprising a fuel cell stack (110), the method comprising the sequential steps of: i) ceasing a supply of fuel to the fuel cell stack (110); ii) closing a shut-off valve (120) on an exhaust line (122) in fluid communication with a cathode system of the fuel cell system (100), the cathode system comprising a cathode fluid flow path passing through the fuel cell stack (110); iii) pressurising the cathode system with an air compressor (133) in fluid communication with a cathode air inlet port (126) in the fuel cell stack (110); and iv) ejecting water from the cathode flow path.