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(71) **Applicant** *(for all designated States except US):* **CAMERON INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION** [US/US]; 1333 W Loop N, Suite 1700, Houston, Texas 77027 (US).

(72) **Inventor; and**

(75) **Inventor/Applicant** *(for US only):* **NGUYEN, Dennis P.** [US/US]; 3305 Aspenbrook Court, Pearland, Texas 7758 1 (US).

(74) **Agent: SWANSON, Tait R.;** 7915 FM 1960 West, Suite 330, Houston, TX 77070 (US).

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Declarations under Rule 4.17:

— *as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.1 7(U))*

— *as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.1 7(Hi))*

— *of inventorship (Rule 4Λ 7(iv))*

[Continued on next page]

(54) **Title:** METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR SETTING A METAL SEAL

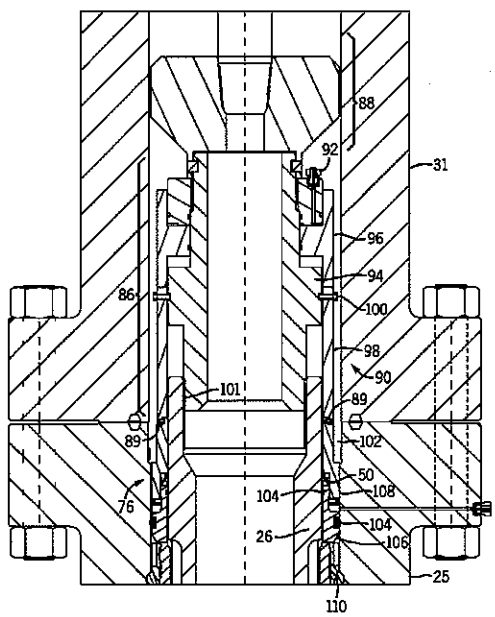


FIG. 4

(57) **Abstract:** A system and method is provided for setting a metal-to-metal seal (e.g., in an annular space between wellhead components) using a temporary elastomer seal. For example, the annular space may be sealed with one or more elastomer seals before hydraulically setting the metal-to-metal seal. A seal assembly may include the elastomer seals and the metal-to-metal seal. Positioning the seal assembly in the annular space between the wellhead components may isolate pressure in the annular space below the seal such that the metal-to-metal seal may be set. In an exemplary embodiment, a hydraulic mechanism axially compresses the metal-to-metal seal between two members of the seal assembly, thereby radially expanding and setting the metal-to-metal seal.

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