

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
04 February 2021 (04.02.2021)



(10) International Publication Number
WO 2021/021410 A1

(51) International Patent Classification:

H05B 3/14 (2006.01) *H01J 1/24* (2006.01)
H05B 3/48 (2006.01) *H01J 1/22* (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2020/041336

(22) International Filing Date:

09 July 2020 (09.07.2020)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

16/529,454 01 August 2019 (01.08.2019) US

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(81) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of national protection available*): AE, AG, AL, AM,
AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ,
CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DJ, DK, DM, DO,
DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN,
HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IR, IS, IT, JO, JP, KE, KG, KH, KN,
KP, KR, KW, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LU, LY, MA, MD,
ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO,
NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW,
SA, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN,
TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, WS, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, GH,
GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, ST, SZ, TZ,
UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ,

(54) Title: MULTI-APERTURED CONDUCTION HEATER

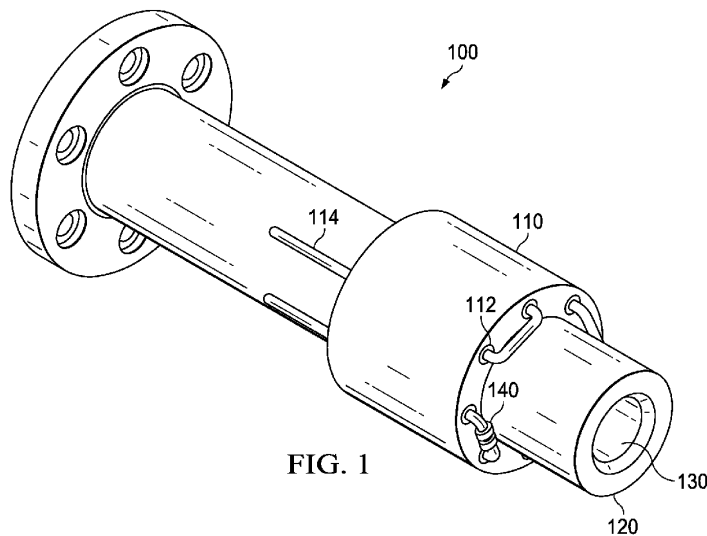


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: In one embodiment, a system includes a thermionic emitter and a heater at least partially surrounding the thermionic emitter. The heater is configured to heat the thermionic emitter. The heater includes a first end, a second end opposite the first end, and a plurality of hollow insulating tubes that each run from the first end to the second end. The heater also includes a heater wire that runs through each of the hollow insulating tubes. The heater wire is configured to be resistively heated by an electrical current passed through the heater wire.

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TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Declarations under Rule 4.17:

— *as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))*

Published:

— *with international search report (Art. 21(3))*