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

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
28 February 2008 (28.02.2008)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2008/024681 A3

(51) International Patent Classification:
B65G 47/22 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2007/076205

(22) International Filing Date: 17 August 2007 (17.08.2007)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/823,175 22 August 2006 (22.08.2006) US

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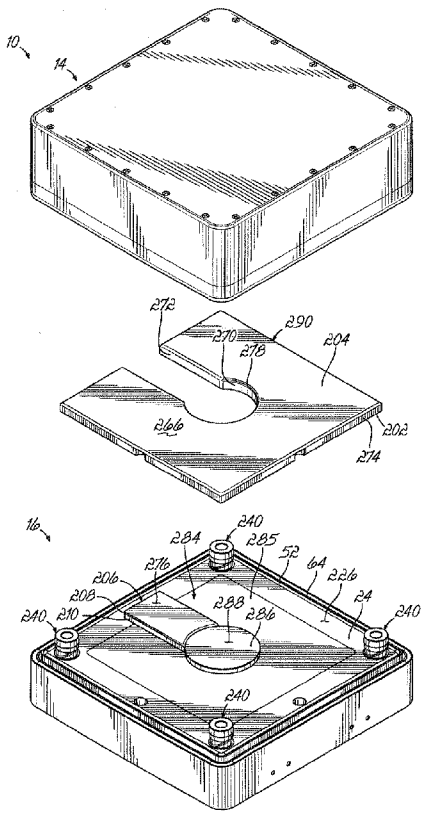
(81) Designated States *(unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available)*: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN,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

(84) Designated States *(unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available)*: ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:
— *with international search report*

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHODS FOR HANDLING WORKPIECES IN A PROCESSING SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: Apparatus and methods for handling workpieces in a processing system. The workpjece vertical lift mechanism (200), which is disposed inside a process chamber (40) of the processing system, is adapted to transfer a workpjece (55) to and from a pedestal portion (286) of an electrode (24). The pedestal portion (286) is configured to support the workpiece (55) during processing. The workpiece vertical lift mechanism (200) including a workpiece fixture (290) movable relative to the pedestal portion (286) between a first position in which the workpiece fixture (290) holds the workpiece (55) in a non-contacting relationship with the pedestal portion (286) and a second position in which the pedestal portion (286) projects above workpiece fixture (290) so as to transfer the workpiece (55) from the workpiece fixture (290) to the pedestal portion (286).

WO 2008/024681 A3

— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
24 April 2008