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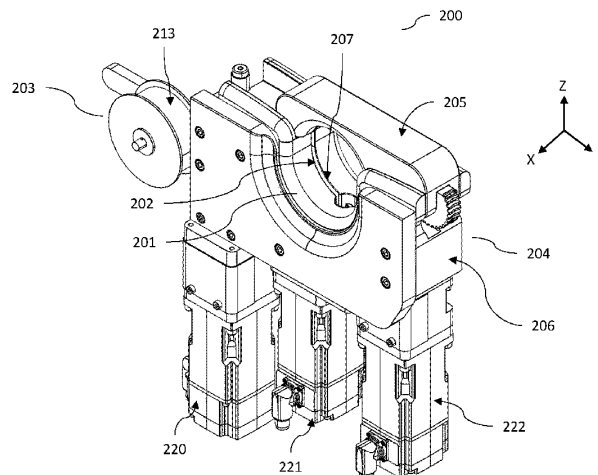


Figure 9

(57) Abstract: Disclosed is a coupler for coupling a marine vessel line and a tugboat line. The coupler includes a coupling zone for receiving the marine vessel line and the tugboat line. A guide is configured to receive a connector and guide the connector around the coupling zone to wrap the connector around the lines. A securing member is configured to secure the connector to the lines such that the lines are coupled. The securing member is upstream of the guide and is configured to bend the connector prior to the connector being received by the guide.

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