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(54) Title: SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR CONTINUOUS AND NEAR CONTINUOUS DRILLING

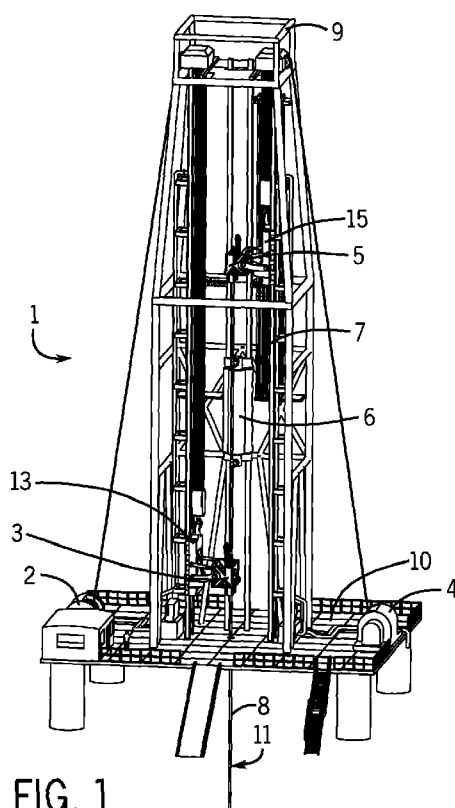


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: The present disclosure provides drilling and tripping equip-
ment packages and control schemes and methods using two or more lifting
systems that operate simultaneously and continuously in a synchronized
manner such that the feeding of tubular into or out of a well bore is
achieved with continuous or near continuous movement, without the need
for periodic interruptions. The drilling and tripping equipment packages
and control schemes are also able to rotate the tubular in the well bore
with continuous speed and torque sufficient for both drilling and back-
reaming operations. The drilling and tripping equipment package and con-
trol scheme is additionally able to circulate drilling fluid into the internal
bore of the tubular with sufficient pressure and flow to facilitate both
drilling and back-reaming operations, with minimal interruption to circula-
tion.



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