

VESSEL ACCESS DEVICE

ABSTRACT

- 5 An aquatic vessel has a hull 1 with a side or end opening 4. An access door/ramp is moveable, relative to the hull, between a first configuration closing the opening and complementing the hull shape, and a second configuration 2C extending outwardly from the hull. The door/ramp is supported by pairs of starboard and port links; a first pair 10S, 10P being pivotally attached to the major hull portion at a fixed first axis 12.
- 10 The door/ramp is pivotally attached to the first links at a second axis 14. A second pair of links 8S is pivotally attached to the first at a third axis 18 lying between the first and second axes. The second and third axes are each moveable along respective circular paths about the first axis. A third pair of links 10S, 10P is pivotally connected to the second at a fourth axis 22 which is preferably constrained to move
- 15 along a rectilinear path 24. The door/ramp is pivotally attached to the third pair of links at a moveable fifth axis 26. The five axes are spaced apart and substantially parallel to one another. Preferably, the links are in a pantograph form; the distance between the third and fourth axes equalling that between the second and fifth axes, and the distance between the second and third axes equalling that between the fourth
- 20 and fifth axes.

Figure 1