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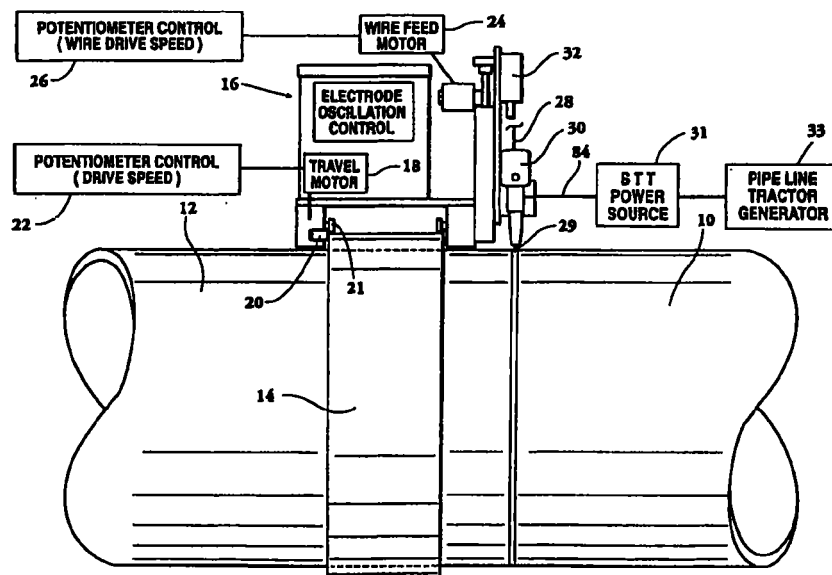


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(54) Title: METHOD OF WELDING PIPE



(57) Abstract

A new system for welding sections of pipe (10, 12) together to form a long continuous pipeline. A welding bug (16) is mounted on a guide track (14) which goes around the circumference of the pipe. The welding bug is provided with a wire feeder, a motor (24) to drive the wire feeder, and driving motor (18) for driving the bug around the track. One may vary the speed of the bug and the wire feeder while the bug is continuously driven around the track. The welding head on the welding bug is powered by a surface-tension-transfer power source (31). The initial or root pass is made external of the pipe.

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