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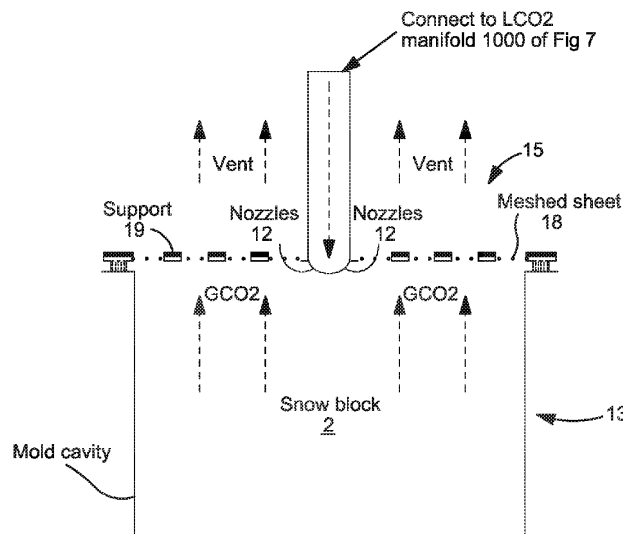


FIG. 1b

(57) Abstract: A method for automatically dispensing and vending carbon dioxide (CO₂) snow block is disclosed. The automatic dispensing system contains multiple containers of different volumes. A user can input the volume of CO₂ snow block into a controller, such as a programmable logic controller (PLC). The controller uses the inputted volume and process information to determine which container to utilize for the automated filling process. The controller can configure the selected container into a filling orientation into which liquid CO₂ can flow to generate CO₂ snow block. Upon detection of the completion of the fill, the container is configured into a dispensing orientation from which the CO₂ snow block is released into an access region from which the user can retrieve the CO₂ snow block. The control methodology may also be used to auto charge a single container located within a charging station as disclosed herein.

[Continued on next page]

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