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(54) Title: NON-THERMIONIC BALLAST-FREE ENERGY-EFFICIENT LIGHT-PRODUCING GAS DISCHARGE SYSTEM AND METHOD

(57) Abstract

A system of igniting a gas discharge device (208) having spaced electrodes immersed (204, 205) in a gas, at voltages below the required starter ignition voltage for cold cathodes. A square wave alternating voltage source (203) of between about 75 kHz and 4 MHz is applied directly to the gas discharge device so that the voltage on the spaced electrodes reverses its polarity more rapidly than the pattern of electron and ion density in the gas can shift.

