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(71) Applicant: OCEANEERING INTERNATIONAL, INC. [US/US]; 11911 FM 529, Houston, TX 77041 (US).

(72) Inventors: STRACKE, Peter; 5218 Royal Walk, Houston, TX 77069 (US). CLEGG, William; 15911 Meadow Village, Houston, TX 77095 (US). CUNNINGHAM, Michael; 219 W. Oleander, South Padre Island, TX 78597 (US).

(74) Agent: REDANO, Richard, T.; Duane, Morris & Heckscher LLP, One Greenway Plaza, Suite 500, Houston, TX 77046 (US).

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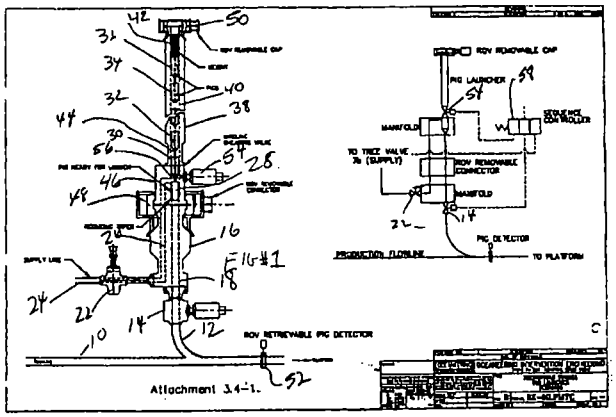
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(54) Title: SUBSEA PIG LAUNCHER



(57) Abstract: A multiple pig launcher (16) is mounted above a subsea flow line (10) which has a branch (12) attached to an outlet valve (14). Passage (18) within the pig launcher (16) is in fluid communication with the outlet valve (14) for launching the pigs (28) and thus cleaning the flow line of debris. A pressure supply source (24) controlled by valve (26) supplies high pressure air to propel the pig (28) through the flow line (10) to a pig detector (52). Multiple pigs (28, 30, 32, 34, 36) are loaded into a verticle receptacle (38) and are connected in series by a common spine (44), which runs through all the pigs. The pig receptacle (38) is mounted upon the pig launcher (16) via a top cap (46) having a connector (48). An inlet valve (54) has a cutter assembly (56) for supporting the lowermost pig (28) above the launch position (20). Upon actuation of the inlet valve (54), the cutter assembly is withdrawn allowing the lowermost pig (28) to drop into the launch position (20). The inlet valve (54) is repeatedly actuated to cause the cutter assembly (56) to at least partially sever the spine (44) connecting successive pigs (28) from (30). Valve (26) is actuated to pressurize the passage (18) behind the lowermost pig (28) in order to launch the pig into the flow line (10).

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