Claims:

Claim 1: A low friction inlet nozzle for a turbo expander, comprising:

- a nozzle cover ring (101), wherein the nozzle cover ring (101) comprises a face (102),
- a set of nozzle blades (105), wherein each nozzle blade comprises a nozzle first face (107) and a nozzle second face (108),
- a set of pressure springs (112), and
- a set of axial loading bolts (113),

Wherein the axial loading bolts (113) are located behind the face (102) of the nozzle cover ring (101); and are configured to accept all the force which the set of pressure springs (112) induces between the nozzle cover ring (101) and the first face (107) of the nozzle blades (105),

Wherein the pressure springs (112) are configured to place a preload on the nozzle first face (107) of the nozzle blades (105),

Wherein the axial loading bolts (113) are adjustable to reduce said preload by drawing the nozzle cover ring (101) away from the nozzle first face (107) of the nozzle blades (105), thereby reducing the preload to zero,

Wherein, once the preload is reduced to zero, the axial loading bolts (113) are further adjustable to produce a gap between the nozzle cover ring (101) and the nozzle first face (107) of the nozzle blade (105),

Thereby locating the first face (107) of the nozzle blade (105) at a predetermined distance away from the face (102) of the nozzle cover ring (101).

Claim 2: The low friction inlet nozzle of claim 1, wherein the predetermined distance is between 0.02 and 0.04 mm.