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(54) Title: DECOUPLING RADIOFREQUENCY (RF) SIGNALS FROM INPUT SIGNAL CONDUCTORS OF A PROCESS CHAMBER

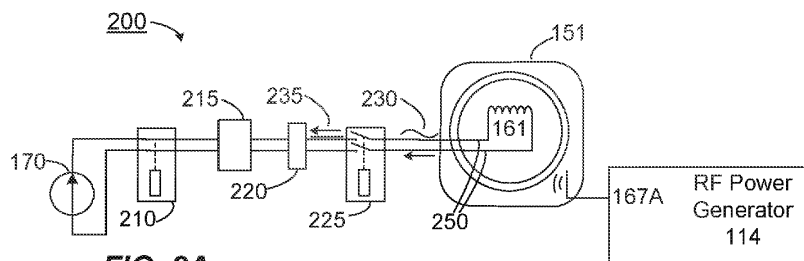


FIG. 2A

(57) Abstract: An apparatus to decouple RF signals from input signal conductors of a process chamber includes at least a first switch to decouple an energy storage element from an active element within a process station. In particular embodiments, while the first switch is in an opened position, a second switch located between a current generator and energy storage element is closed, thereby permitting the current generator to charge the energy storage element. In response to the energy storage element attaining a predetermined voltage, the first switch may be closed, and the second switch may be opened, thereby permitting current to be discharged from the energy storage element to the active element. In certain embodiments, the first and second switches are not permitted to simultaneously operate in a closed position, thereby preventing RF from being coupled from the process station to the current generator.

WO 2021/163043 A1