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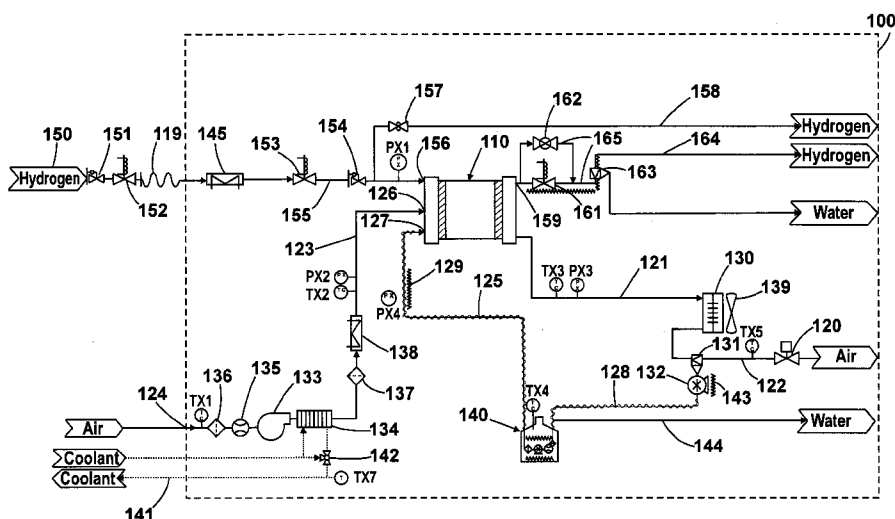


Fig. 1

(57) Abstract: A method of shutting down operation of a fuel cell system (100) comprising a fuel cell stack (110), the method comprising the sequential steps of: i) ceasing a supply of fuel to the fuel cell stack (110); ii) closing a shut-off valve (120) on an exhaust line (122) in fluid communication with a cathode system of the fuel cell system (100), the cathode system comprising a cathode fluid flow path passing through the fuel cell stack (110); iii) pressurising the cathode system with an air compressor (133) in fluid communication with a cathode air inlet port (126) in the fuel cell stack (110); and iv) ejecting water from the cathode flow path.