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(71) Applicant: **MAX NICHOLAS RENEWABLES LTD**
[GB/GB]; 22 The Pastures, Lowestoft Suffolk NR32 4WT
(GB).

(72) Inventor: **NORFOLK, Robert**; 22 The Pastures, Lowestoft Suffolk NR32 4WT (GB).

(74) Agent: **HOLMES, Jacqueline** et al.; Dummett Copp LLP, 25 The Square, Martlesham Heath, Ipswich Suffolk IP5 3SL (GB).

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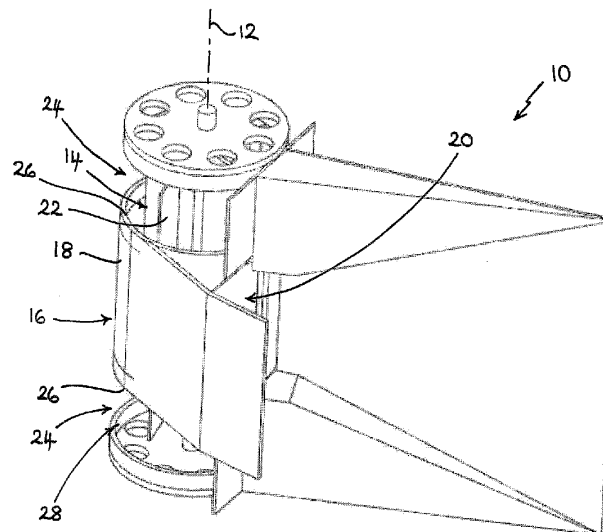


Fig. 1

(57) Abstract: A rotor assembly comprises a rotor having a plurality of blades and an axis about which the rotor rotates, each blade being spaced from the axis of the rotor such that there is a gap between the axis and an inner edge of each blade through which fluid can flow, and inner and outer edges of each blade lying in and defining a blade plane and each blade being offset from the axis of the rotor such that the axis does not lie in the blade plane; a casing partially surrounding the rotor, the casing having a first opening to permit a fluid flow into or out of the casing in a direction generally perpendicular to the rotor axis; and a second opening at an axial end of the casing to permit a fluid flow into or out of the casing in a direction generally parallel to the rotor axis.

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