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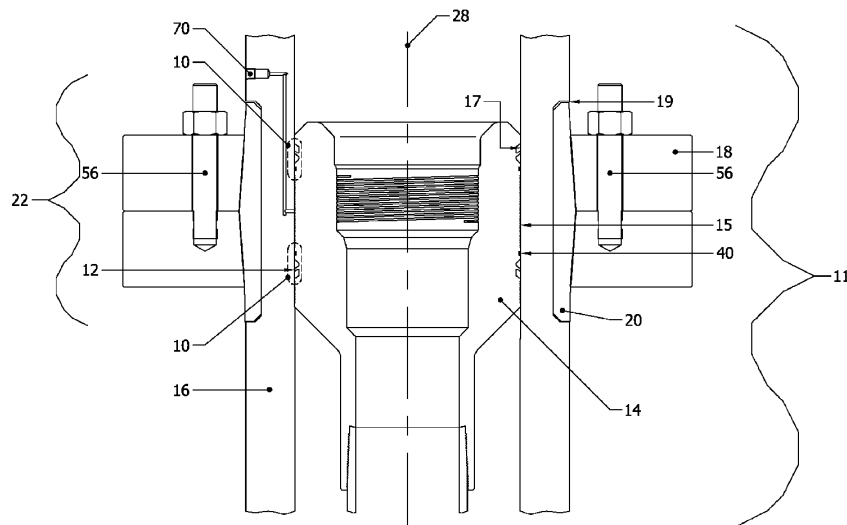


Figure 1

(57) Abstract: As shown in Figure 1, the present invention provides a pressure energised seal (10) for a wellhead (11) and, in particular, provides a seal (10) of an annulus between an inner wellhead casing member (14) and an outer wellhead casing member (16). The wellhead (11) incorporates a clamping arrangement (22) whereby the outer member (16) is arranged to be deflected radially inwardly in order to grip and secure the inner member (14) within the bore of the outer member (16). The present invention provides an improved seal for use in such a clamping arrangement (22). In particular, the seal (10) includes a sealing lip (12) which locates within a groove provided in the outer clamping surface (15) of the inner member (14). A seal is activated and created as the outer member (16) is clamped inwardly since this causes the outer member (16) to compress the inner member (14) and to reduce the diameter of the inner member (14). This squeezing of the inner member (14) causes the sealing lip (12) to come into contact with the outer member (16)

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and to be pressed against the outer member (16). This thereby automatically creates a seal as the inner member (14) is clamped by the outer member (16). The normal inherent sealing strength is increased due to the sealing lip (12) being urged to flare (20) outwardly as a result of the pressure within the annulus to be sealed.