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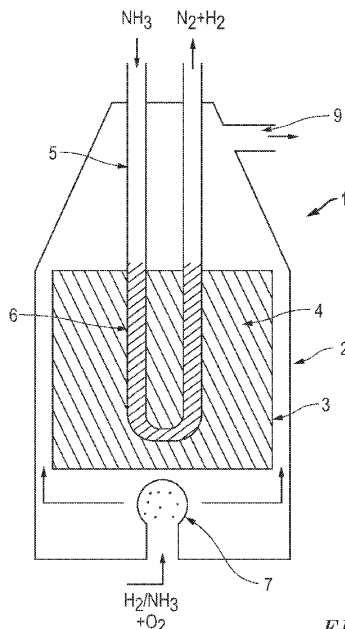


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a process for the thermal decomposition of ammonia. The process comprises passing ammonia through a conduit which contains an ammonia decomposition catalyst in a part thereof. At least a section of the part of the conduit which contains the catalyst is immersed in molten lead as heat transfer medium, which is at a temperature at which the catalyst is capable of catalyzing the decomposition of ammonia into hydrogen and nitrogen. A reactor for carrying out this process is also disclosed.

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