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(71) Applicant: **H2 CLIPPER, INC.** [US/US]; 2020 APS,
Suite 135, Santa Barbara, California 93103 (US).

(72) Inventors: **BRUTO CO, Rinaldo S.**; c/o H2 Clipper, Inc.,
2020 APS, Suite 135, Santa Barbara, California 93103 (US).
SHELTON, Robert H.; c/o H2 Clipper, Inc., 2020 APS,
Suite 135, Santa Barbara, California 93103 (US). **MER-**

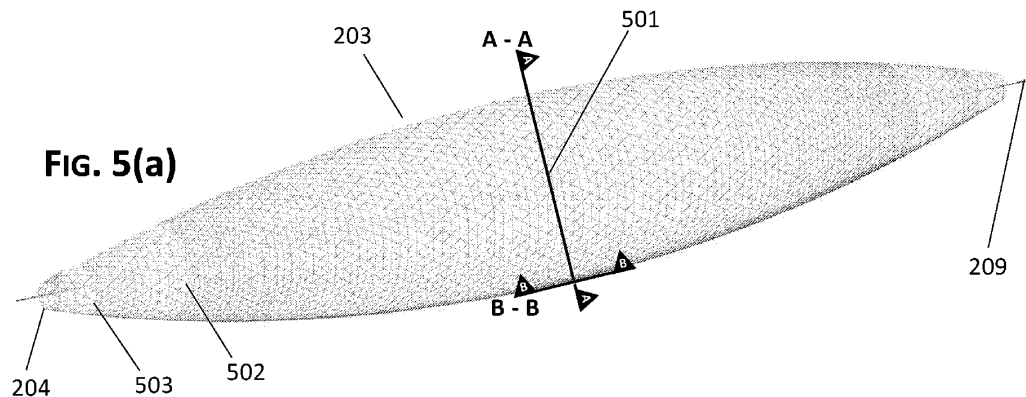
RITT, Shawn; c/o H2 Clipper, Inc., 2020 APS, Suite 135,
Santa Barbara, California 93103 (US).

(74) Agent: **MCGRATH, Daniel** et al.; Burns & Levinson,
LLP, 125 High Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02110 (US).

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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR LIGHTER-THAN-AIR AIRSHIP WITH IMPROVED STRUCTURE AND DELIVERY SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: A lighter-than-air airship has an exoskeleton constructed of spokes and hubs to create a set of connected hexagrams comprised of isosceles triangles wherein the spokes flex and vary in length to produce the slope of said airship's surface. In one embodiment, the exoskeleton connects to a nose cone that includes a cockpit cabin for controlling the airship's operation from a single location that can be physically separated from the exoskeleton in response to catastrophic events and for autonomous and/or remotely piloted operation. An improved means is also provided for landing and unloading cargo, and through use of unmanned aerial vehicles in another embodiment, the airship is configured for remote pickup, transport, delivery and return of payloads such as packages. In yet another embodiment, the airship provides a communications platform for beam form transmission and satellite signal relay, including in combination with the foregoing disclosed attributes.

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