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(71) Applicant: FMC TECHNOLOGIES, INC. [US/US]; 200 East Randolph Drive, Chicago, IL 60601 (US).

(72) Inventor: BARTLETT, Christopher, D.; 8506 Shadow Valley Lane, Spring, TX 77388 (US).

(74) Agent: QUERY, Henry, C., Jr.; 504 S. Pierce Avenue, Wheaton, IL 60187 (US).

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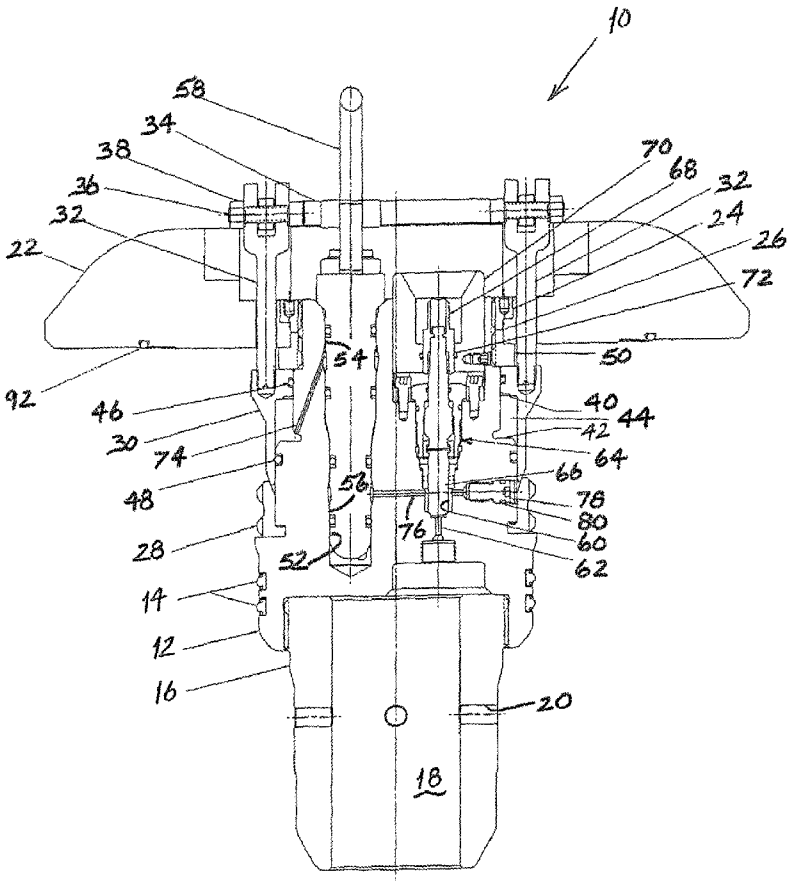
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**Declarations under Rule 4.17:**

— *as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for all designations*

*[Continued on next page]*

(54) Title: VACUUM ASSISTED SEAL ENGAGEMENT FOR ROV DEPLOYED EQUIPMENT




(57) Abstract: A method for attaching a first component (10) which comprises a depending portion (12) to a second component (82) which comprises a bore (84) that is sized and configured to receive the depending portion, wherein the first and second components are exposed to a fluid which is at an ambient pressure, comprises the steps of inserting the depending portion at least partially into the bore and then creating a bore pressure within the bore which is less than the ambient pressure. In this manner a pressure difference between the ambient pressure and the bore pressure will force the depending portion into the bore to thereby attach the first component to the second component. The first component is a tree cap and the second component is a subsea christmas tree.

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— *as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii)) for all designations*

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