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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **SKY-
WALKER ROBOTICS, INC.** [US/US]; 121 South River
Street, Seattle, WA 98108 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **JESWINE,
William, W.** [US/US]; 121 South River Street, Seattle,
WA 98108 (US). **DAILEY, Frank** [US/US]; 3245 - 14th
Avenue West, Apt. 4, Seattle, WA 98119 (US). **OLSEN,
Eric** [US/US]; 2733 - 144th Street Southwest, Lynnwood,
WA 98037 (US).

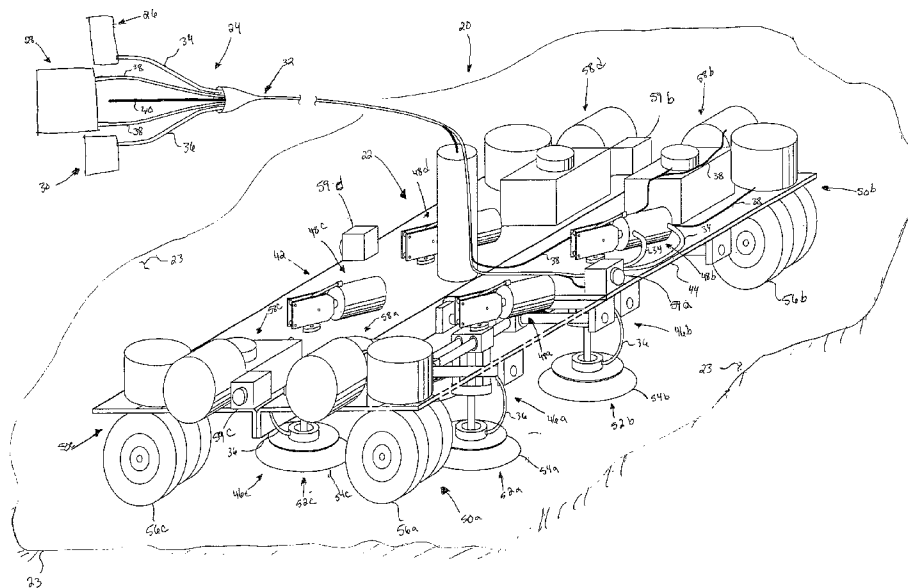
(74) Agents: **SANTARELLI, Bryan, A.** et al.; Graybeal Jack-
son Haley LLP, 155-108th Avenue Northeast, Suite 350,
Bellevue, WA 98004-5901 (US).

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(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR TRAVERSING CURVED SURFACES BY ADHESION



(57) Abstract: A traction unit (22) capable of traversing and turning on surfaces that include compound curves like the surface of a sphere or are inverted like a ceiling. The traction unit includes a plurality of trucks (50a-50d) operable to propel the unit across a surface and a plurality of adherence members operable to releasably secure the unit (22) to the surface (23). In operation, the adherence members (46a-46d) cyclically attach to and release from the surface as the trucks propel the unit across the surface. Within each cycle, after the unit has traveled a predetermined distance relative to an attached member, the member releases the surface and reattaches to the surface at a different point.



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