



(51) International Patent Classification:

H01L 21/687 (2006.01) H01L 21/67 (2006.01)
H01L 21/673 (2006.01) H01L 21/677 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2019/045015

(22) International Filing Date:

02 August 2019 (02.08.2019)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

16/117,797 30 August 2018 (30.08.2018) US

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DJ, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IR, IS, JO, JP, KE, KG, KH, KN, KP, KR, KW, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SA, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH,

(54) Title: USING IDENTIFIERS TO MAP EDGE RING PART NUMBERS ONTO SLOT NUMBERS

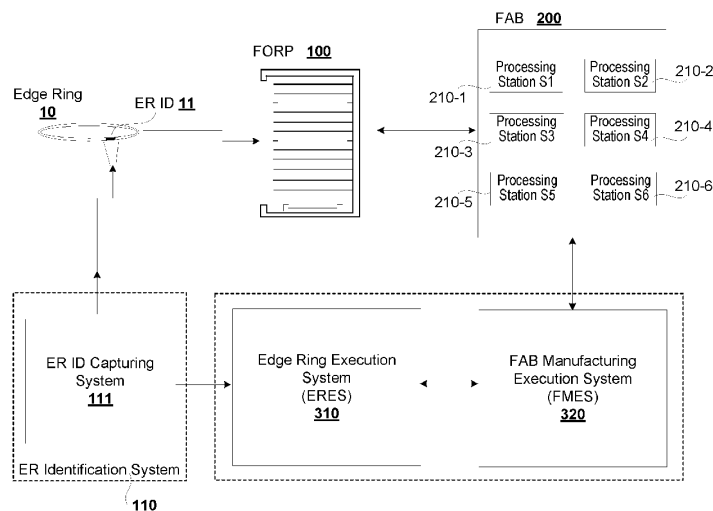


Figure 1

(57) Abstract: Methods and systems for tracking an edge ring includes capturing an edge ring identifier from a source related to the edge ring. The edge ring is inserted into a slot of an edge ring carrier, wherein the edge ring is being assigned to the edge ring carrier. The edge ring identifier is tracked to determine transfers into and out of the edge ring carrier and into and out of a processing station. The tracking of the edge ring identifier builds a metadata file that provides lifetime information regarding the edge ring.

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GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, ST, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— *with international search report (Art. 21(3))*