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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))

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: DEVICE AND METHOD FOR FOCUSING A BEAM OF LIGHT WITH REDUCED FOCAL PLANE DISTORTION

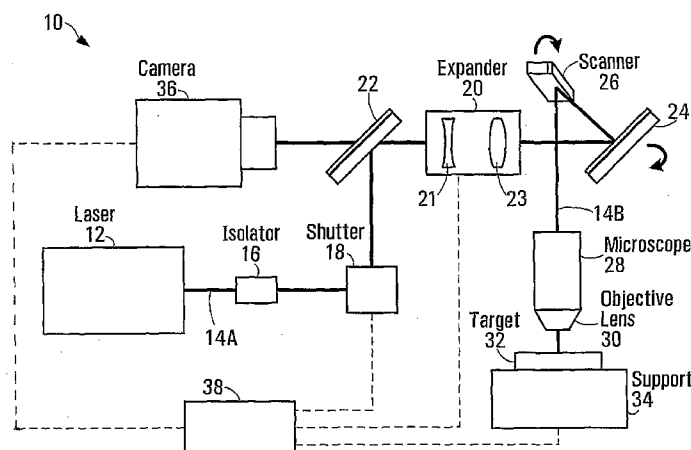


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: A system for focusing a light beam may be used for multi-photon stereolithography. It comprises a collimator or expander for adjusting the beam divergence and a scanner for directing the beam onto a focusing device to focus the beam to a focal point or beam waist and to scan the focused beam. A controller controls adjustment of the beam divergence so that the focal point or beam waist is scanned substantially in a plane. A light source may be provided to generate the light beam. The expander may comprise a diverging lens and a converging lens for expanding the beam to produce a collimated beam. The divergence of the collimated beam is dependent on the distance between the diverging lens and the converging lens, which may be adjusted to adjust the beam divergence. The focusing device may comprise a dry objective lens to focus the collimated beam onto the target material to induce multi-photon absorption in the target material at the beam waist of the focused beam.

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- *as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))*
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