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(21) International Application Number: PCT/NO99/00187 (22) International Filing Date: 7 June 1999 (07.06.99) (30) Priority Data: 19982626 8 June 1998 (08.06.98) NO (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): LEIV EIRIKSSON NYFOTEK AS [NO/NO]; Boks 62 Pirsenteret, N-7005 Trondheim (NO). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): JONASSEN, Ola [NO/NO]; Eklesbakken, N-7064 Bratsberg (NO). STRØMMEN, Ingvald [NO/NO]; Væretøa 74, N-7053 Ranheim (NO). SCHIEFLO, Per, Arne [NO/NO]; Osloveien 6, N-7018 Trondheim (NO). ODILIO, Alves-Filho [NO/NO]; Rødrevvn. 16F, N-7082 Katterm (NO). (74) Agent: TANDBERGS PATENTKONTOR AS; Boks 7085, N-0306 Oslo (NO).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DRYING A POROUS MATRIX**(57) Abstract**

Method of drying a medium for producing a porous matrix from a solution, a paste, an extract, a granulated material or such, where a liquid inert agent is fed into a vessel (5) at controlled pressure and amount through a valve (7), transferring the pressurized liquid inert agent to a mixing vessel (4), said mixing vessel (4) also receiving the solution, such as paste, extract or granulated material, through an inlet valve (10), adjusting the pressure and temperature inside the mixing vessel (4) to desired levels by a release valve (6), upon complete mixing of the inert agent with the solution, the mixture is expanded into a porous matrix and injected into a drying circuit through a drying chamber (3), the matrix thereby being kept suspended in the drying chamber by the flowing drying medium, supplied by the blower (2), the matrix moisture being removed from the mixture through a heat exchanger coil comprising a first heat exchanger (11) where the water vapour is condensed and removed from the circuit and finally the drying medium is adjusted to the desired inlet condition in a heat exchanger (1) before the drying medium flows through the matrix and the process is repeated.

