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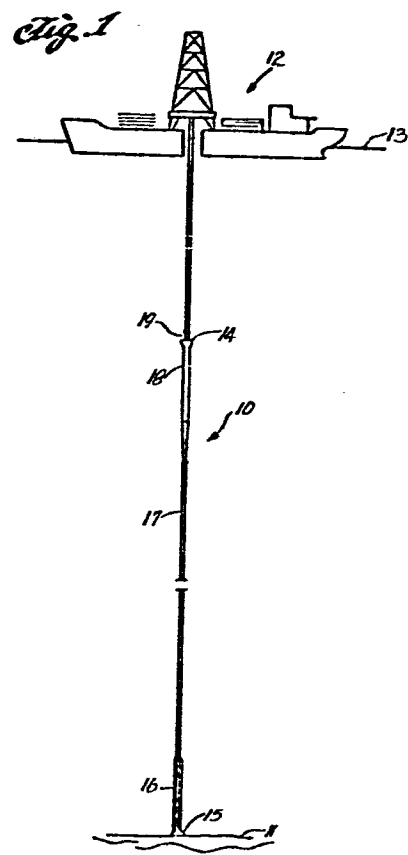
Submerged buoyant offshore drilling and production tower and apparatus and method for defining and installing same.

(57)

A submerged tubular tower (10) is connected at its lower end (15) to an ocean floor (11) at a site where at least one subsea hydrocarbon well is to be drilled. A riser duct (22) for each well to be drilled extends from an upwardly accessible connection point (20) at the upper end (14) of the tower to the lower end of the tower. The tower is positively buoyant to stand erect in an unguyed manner. The upper end (18) of the tower is located a substantial distance above the ocean floor at a depth sufficiently small to enable wells to be drilled through the riser ducts, through equipment (19) landed on the top of the tower, using floating drilling equipment (12) designed for use in substantially shallower water depths.

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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 3)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
X	GB - A - 2 024 766 (MOBIL OIL) * Page 1, line 70 - page 4, line 57 * --	1-11, 13-24, 26-30, 32-34	E 21 B 43/01 E 21 B 7/12 E 21 B 17/01 E 02 B 17/00 B 63 B 35/44
X	US - A - 3 017 934 (RHODES) * Column 3, line 72 - column 8, line 32 * --	1,4,6, 22-24, 28-29, 32-34	
X	US - A - 3 261 398 (HAEBER) * Column 3, line 51 - column 4, line 36 * --	1-3,12, 17,18, 31	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.3) E 21 B E 02 B B 63 B
A	US - A - 4 119 145 (TUSON) * Abstract * --	31	
X	US - A - 3 378 067 (LEONARD) * Column 2, line 40 - column 3, line 75 * --	1,6,18	CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X: particularly relevant if taken alone Y: particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A: technological background O: non-written disclosure P: intermediate document T: theory or principle underlying the invention E: earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D: document cited in the application L: document cited for other reasons
X	US - A - 3 677 016 (GARRIGUS) * Column 3, lines 8-17 * --	2,3	
X	US - A - 3 387 459 (MANNING) * Column 5, lines 2-69 * --	15,20, 21, 32 ./.	
X	The present search report has been drawn up for all claims		&: member of the same patent family. corresponding document
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 19-02-1982	Examiner PAUCNIK

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
X	<u>US - A - 4 109 478 (GRACIA)</u> * Whole document * --	20,21	
X	<u>US - A - 4 188 156 (FISHER)</u> * Column 2, line 56 -column 3, line 4 * --	22,23	
X	<u>US - A - 4 094 162 (ALLEE)</u> * Column 2, line 51 - column 6, line 50 * --	25-27	
A	<u>US - A - 3 166 123 (WATKINS)</u> * Claim 1 * ----	30,31	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.3)