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EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

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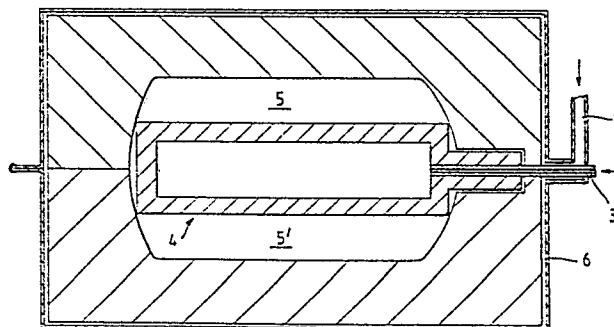
⑧④ Designated Contracting States: **BE DE FR GB IT NL SE**

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⑤④ **Superplastic forming.**

⑤⑦ A hollow vessel can be made by fabricating a preform from welded together sheets of superplastically deformable metal and then expanding the preform to the required shape of the vessel but the necessary weld lines can be a source of weakness. Herein, a vessel is made by superplastic deformation of a preform made by machining a hollow space within a solid piece of metal or by extruding a tubular preform and blanking off at least one of its ends.





European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

0194827

Application number

EP 86 30 1667

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.4)
X	FR-A-2 245 428 (ALTER LICENSING) * Figures 1-10; page 2, lines 10-20 *	1-3	B 21 D 26/02
A	GB-A-1 378 421 (BRITISH ARICRAFT CORP.) * Page 1, line 79 - page 2, line 25 *	1-3	
A	GB-A-2 030 480 (BRITISH AEROSPACE)		
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4)
			B 21 D
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 26-05-1987	Examiner ASH
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 & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	