



Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
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(11) Publication number:

0 407 160 A3

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(21) Application number: **90307289.0**

(51) Int. Cl.⁵: **H01J 65/04, H01J 61/12**

(22) Date of filing: **04.07.90**

(30) Priority: **07.07.89 GB 8915611**

(43) Date of publication of application:
09.01.91 Bulletin 91/02

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH DE DK ES FR GB GR IT LI LU NL SE

(88) Date of deferred publication of the search report:
31.07.91 Bulletin 91/31

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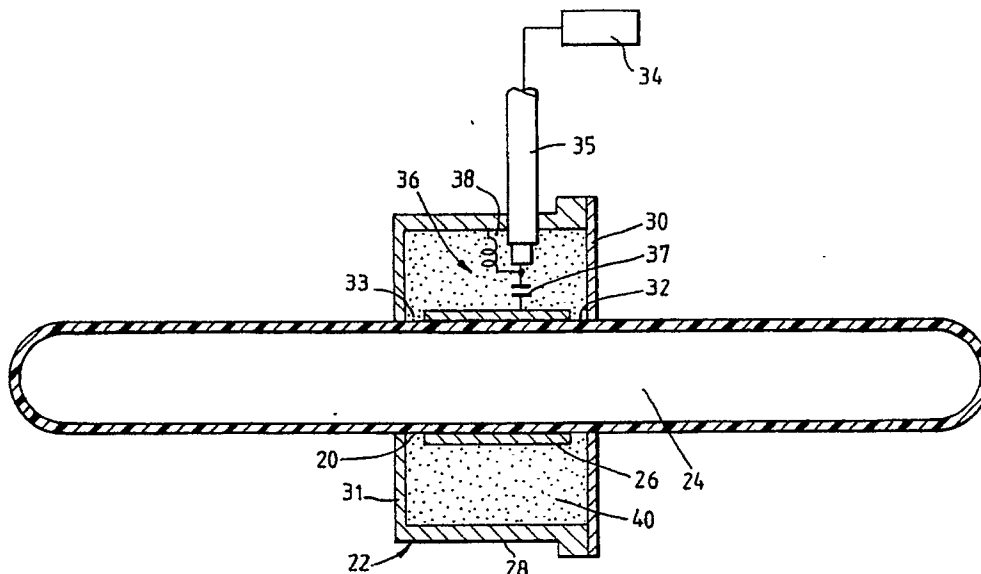
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(54) **A discharge tube arrangement.**

(57) A method of generating visible light from a discharge tube (20) having walls made of a light-transmissive dielectric material. The discharge tube containing a fill (24) comprising at least one compound selected from a group consisting of metal halides

and metal oxyhalides. The method comprises the step of applying a radio frequency electric field over a part of a wall of the discharge tube at a power sufficient to excite a surface wave in the fill, whereby the fill is excited to generate visible light.



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

EP 90 30 7289

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.5)
Y,D	EP-A-0 225 753 (THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA) * abstract ** page 3, lines 10 - 17 ** page 4, lines 1 - 29 * - - -	1-7	H 01 J 65/04 H 01 J 61/12
Y	US-A-4 591 759 (CHALEK ET AL.) * abstract ** column 1, lines 1 - 40 ** column 2, lines 16 - 27 * - - -	1-7	
A	US-A-3 720 855 (GARDNER ET AL.) * abstract * - - -	8	
A	US-A-4 480 213 (LAPATOVICH ET AL.) * abstract * - - -	1,2,4,5	
E	EP-A-0 416 839 (THORN EMI PLC) * abstract; claim 4; figure 1 * - - -	1-3	
P,A	EP-A-0 357 452 (THORN EMI PLC) * abstract; figures 2, 4 * - - - - -	1-3	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
			H 01 J
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of search	Examiner
The Hague		28 May 91	MARTIN Y VICENTE M.A
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			