



EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

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Inventor : **Cullen, Liam**
39 Allman Road
Erdington, Birmingham, B24 9DY (GB)
 Inventor : **Clark, Michael Robert**
41 Red Hill
Stourbridge, West Midlands (GB)

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Representative : **Eyles, Winifred Joyce**
Burmah Castrol Group Patents Department,
Foseco International Limited,
285 Long Acre,
Nechells
Birmingham B7 5JR (GB)

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Applicant : **FOSECO INTERNATIONAL LIMITED**
285 Long Acre
Nechells Birmingham B7 5JR (GB)

54 Purifying molten metal.

Unwanted solid, non-metallic inclusions are removed from molten metal in a refractory-lined vessel by bubbling inert gas upwardly through the metal.

The invention provides a gas permeable nozzle block (16) shaped to contain a nozzle (17) with a centrally-disposed through bore and to be sealingly set in the refractory lining (13) of a vessel (10) to contain molten metal, the nozzle block (16) having a gas-receiving channel (18) to extend around the nozzle (17) and means to connect the gas-receiving channel (18) to a source of gas.

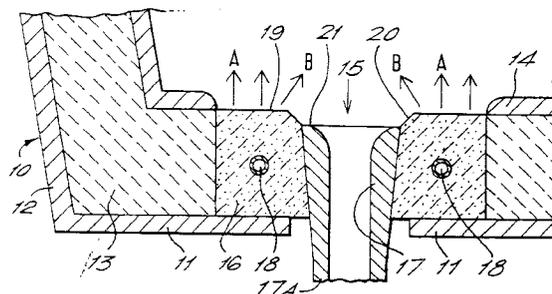


FIG.1.



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 93 30 4736

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)
X	FR-A-2 516 415 (DAUSSAN ET CIE) * page 10, line 31 - page 11, line 23; figures 6,7 * * page 1, line 1 - line 3 * * page 1, line 28 - page 2, line 20 *	1-4, 11-14	B22D1/00 C22B9/05 B22D41/58
Y	---	5,8,9, 15,18,19	
X	EP-A-0 187 924 (COMETUS AG) * page 5, last paragraph - page 6, line 14; figures 1-4 *	1,2	
X	GB-A-2 149 699 (USS ENGINEERS AND CONSULTANTS INC) * page 3, line 16 - line 66; figures 1-4 *	1,2	
Y	GB-A-1 601 944 (GLOCAST PRODUCTS LTD) * page 2, line 61 - line 71 *	5,15	
Y	DATABASE WPI Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; AN 85-015337 & JP-A-59 211 522 (HARIMA TAIKA RENGA) 30 November 1984 * abstract *	8,9,18, 19	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.5) B22D C22B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 14 September 1994	Examiner Mailliard, A
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		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	
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			

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