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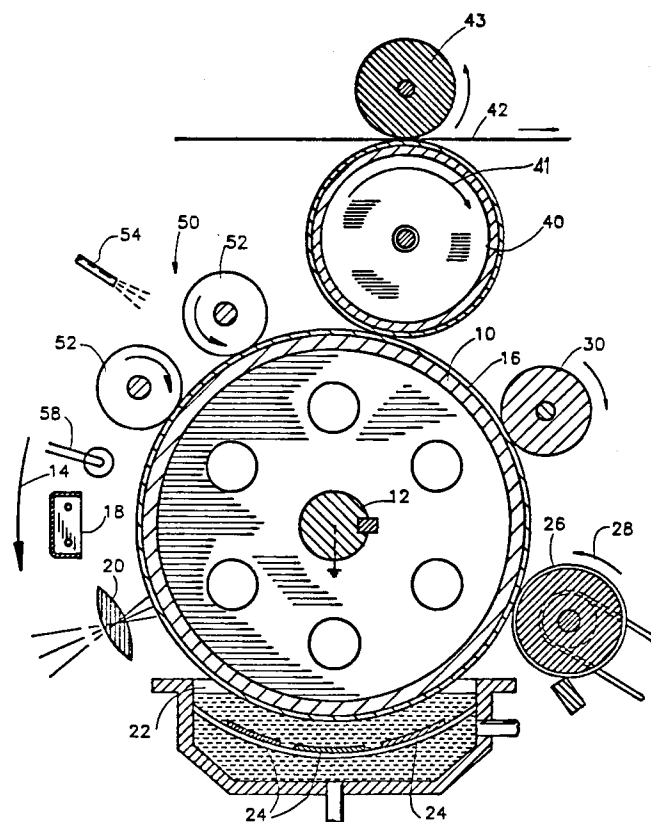
(54) **Image transfer apparatus and method.**

(57) An imaging system including an image bearing surface (16) and an intermediate transfer member (40) operative for transfer of liquid toner images from the image bearing surface (16) to a substrate (42) provides for first transfer engagement between the intermediate transfer member (40) and the image bearing surface (16) for transfer of an image from the image bearing surface to the intermediate transfer member (40) at a first pressure, producing deformation of the intermediate transfer member (40) to a first deformation degree. The system also provides for second transfer engagement between the

intermediate transfer member (40) and the substrate (42) for transfer of the image from the intermediate transfer member to the substrate at a second pressure, producing deformation of the intermediate transfer member (40) to a second deformation degree. In one preferred embodiment the intermediate transfer member (40) includes a compressible layer having a transfer surface, a backing layer disposed away from the image bearing surface and a heating layer. The heating layer is disposed intermediate the backing layer and the transfer surface.

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FIG.1





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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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)
D,A	US-A-4 708 460 (LANGDON) * column 4, line 59 - column 5, line 65; figure 1 * ---	1,2,8, 11-13	G03G15/16
D,A	EP-A-0 176 143 (OCÉ-NEDERLAND B.V.) * page 3, line 26 - page 4, line 11; figure 1 * ---	1	
A	EP-A-0 318 078 (OCÉ-NEDERLAND B.V.) * abstract; figure 1 * ---	1	
A	FUJITSU-SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL JOURNAL, vol.24, no.3, September 1988, KAWASAKI JP pages 235 - 241 OGASAWARA ET AL. 'High Quality Toner Image Transfer in Electrophotographic Printing' * paragraph 4; figures 7-9 * -----	1	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.5)
			G03G
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 30 August 1994	Examiner Cigoj, P
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			