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The production of ferronickel from nickel containing laterite.

A process for the production of ferronickel from nickel containing laterite is provided wherein the laterite includes at least a proportion of relatively fine material of size less than 10mm. The feed material may also be composed substantially or entirely of laterite fines or dust and also partially treated dust arising from conventional treatment routes, and may be pre-reduced, optionally after drying. The laterite is fed to the central region of the molten bath of a circular furnace in which at least one electrode in the roof acts as cathode, and the molten bath itself acts as anode. The process can be used to economically treat fine laterite ore previously discarded and stockpiled and even formerly non-viable deposits of laterite, and fines or dust arising from conventional treatment plants.

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 94 30 6256

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.6)
X	FR-A-508 508 (SOCIÉTÉ ÉLECTRO-MÉTALLURGIQUE FRANÇAISE) * Résumé * * figure *	1,2,4,6	C22C33/04
A	WO-A-92 03896 (TETRONICS RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT ET AL.) * page 16; claims 15-17; table 1 *	1,3,15	
A	US-A-4 789 580 (M. HIRSCH ET AL.) * column 1, line 4 - line 58; claim 1 *	8,9	
A	GB-A-828 314 (DEMAG ELEKTROMETALLURGIE) * claim 1; figure *	9	
A	GB-A-1 467 542 (ASEA) * claim 1 *	1	
A	SE-B-447 996 (ASEA) * page 3, line 11-13 *	1	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			C22C C22B C21B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search BERLIN		Date of completion of the search 22 February 1995	Examiner Sutor, W
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	

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