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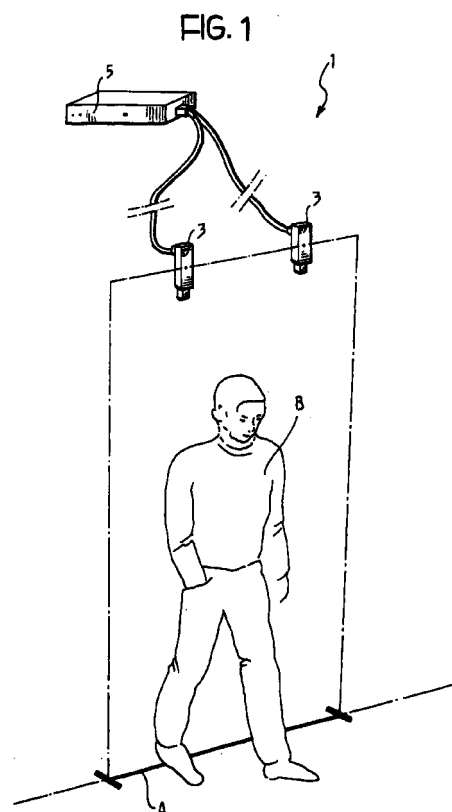
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(54) **A method and device for automatically detecting and counting bodies passing through a gap**

(57) A method for automatically detecting and counting bodies passing through a gap (A) includes the steps of monitoring the gap (A) with means for generating image signals (3; 4, 9) to obtain a succession of images (4a, 4b; L<sub>0</sub>, L<sub>1</sub>, ..., L<sub>N</sub>) of each body (B) passing through the gap (A), of processing these images (4a, 4b; L<sub>0</sub>, L<sub>1</sub>, ..., L<sub>N</sub>) to obtain an altimetric map for each body (B) passing through the gap (A) for each moment considered, of comparing at least one altimetric map obtained with at least one model of altimetric map stored in a processing unit (5), and of activating a counting procedure depending on the result of the comparison.



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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 97 12 1056

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)
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A	DE 195 16 662 A (FRAUNHOFER GES FORSCHUNG) 14 November 1996 (1996-11-14) * the whole document *	1,5-7, 9-13	
A	EP 0 317 026 A (HEINEKEN TECHNISCHE BEHEER BV) 24 May 1989 (1989-05-24) * abstract * * page 2, line 48 - page 5, line 13 * * claims 1,2; figures 1-3 *	1,5-7, 11-13	
A	EP 0 561 071 A (DATATEC IND INC) 22 September 1993 (1993-09-22) * abstract * * page 3, line 1 - line 26 * * page 3, line 52 - page 5, line 1 * * page 5, line 37 - page 6, line 53 * * figures 1-3 *	1,7	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
A	DE 44 11 448 A (SICK OPTIK ELEKTRONIK ERWIN) 5 October 1995 (1995-10-05) * abstract * * column 1, line 20 - column 4, line 14 * * claims 1-6; figures *	1,7	G07C G06M
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search <b>THE HAGUE</b>		Date of completion of the search <b>8 October 1999</b>	Examiner <b>Miltgen, E</b>
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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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 97 12 1056

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)
A	<p>NAKAMURA J ET AL: "ALGORITHM FOR COUNTING THE NUMBER OF PERSONS USING IR IMAGE PROCESSING", PROCEEDINGS OF THE INSTRUMENTATION AND MEASUREMENT TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE, ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES IN I &amp; M HAMAMATSU, MAY 10 - 12, 1994, VOL. VOL. 1, NR. CONF. 10, PAGE(S) 220 - 223 , INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEERS XP000507293ISBN: 0-7803-1881-1</p> <p>-----</p>		
			<p>TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)</p>
<p>The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</p>			
<p>Place of search</p> <p>THE HAGUE</p>		<p>Date of completion of the search</p> <p>8 October 1999</p>	<p>Examiner</p> <p>Miltgen, E</p>
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>&amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

EPO FORM 1503 03/82 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 97 12 1056

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
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