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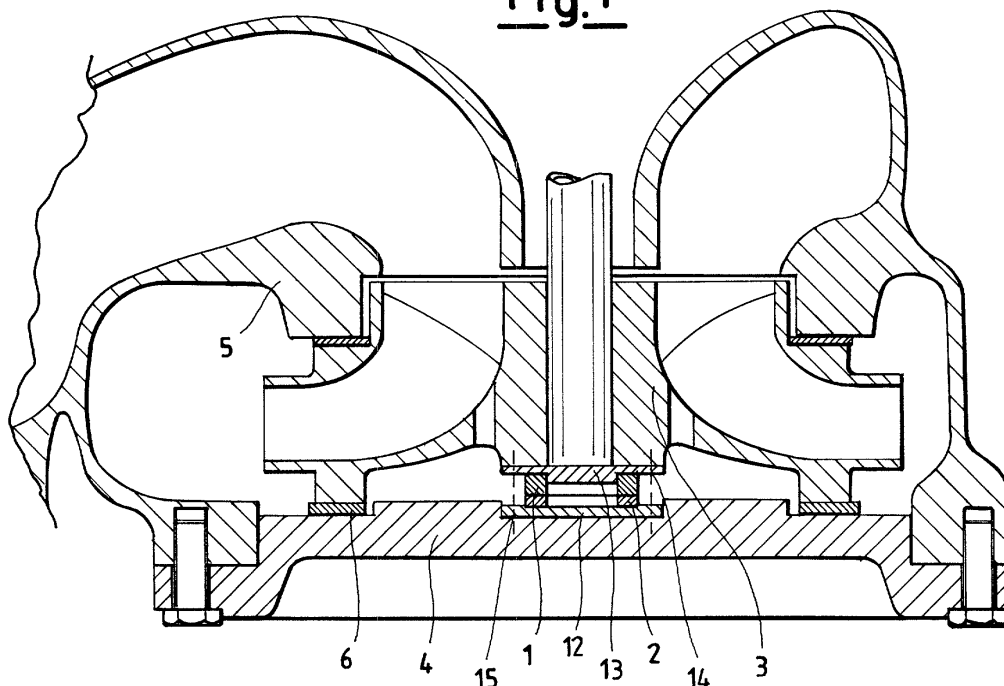
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(54) **Sliding-contact bearing for a centrifugal pump**

(57) A protection device (20) for centrifugal pumps with a vertical axis, where the aforementioned pump comprises a case (5) containing a shaft (21), with the pump also comprising an impeller (3) connected to said shaft (21) and free to rotate inside said case (5). The

device (20) comprises a first ring (1), mobile in rotation with the impeller (3) and a second ring (2), in a fixed position with respect to the case (5), in such a way that the sliding contact between the aforementioned first and second ring (1, 2) allows the dry operation of the centrifugal pump.

Fig.1





European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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EP 01 20 4014

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.7)
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X	EP 0 806 579 A (WILO GMBH) 12 November 1997 (1997-11-12) * column 1, line 24 - column 2, line 23 * * column 4, line 49 - line 57 * * column 5, line 27 - column 6, line 18; figures 1b,2b *	1,8,11, 12	
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Y	DE 295 03 755 U1 (GRUNDFOS A/S, BJERRINGBRO, DK) 20 April 1995 (1995-04-20) * page 5, line 12 - page 6, line 3 * * page 6, line 26 - page 7, line 18; figures 1,2 * -----	1,2,4,8	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 20 April 2005	Examiner Di Giorgio, F
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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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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EP 01 20 4014

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
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