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**EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

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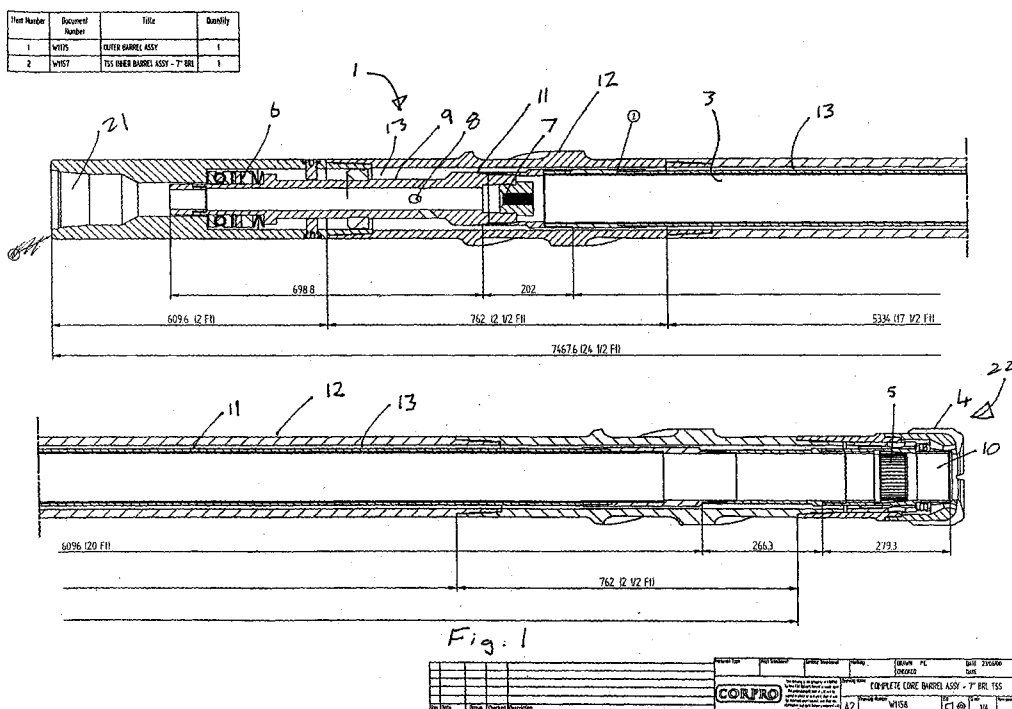
(30) Priority: **14.03.2001 GB 0106195**

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**(54) Apparatus and method for obtaining core samples**

(57) An apparatus and method for obtaining core samples from a wellbore includes bringing a substance (3) into contact with the core sample. The substance (3) is adapted to retain at least a portion of fluids recovered with the core sample. A receptacle (2) such as a core

barrel (2) contains the substance and is inserted into the wellbore and receiving the core sample in the receptacle (2). The substance may be sealed in the receptacle by a dissolvable plug mechanism (10). The substance (3) is transformable between a highly viscous state and a substantially solid matrix.



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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 02 25 1828

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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Y	* column 4, line 49 - column 4, line 55 *	6-8, 14-23	
X	US 5 482 123 A (COLLEE PIERRE E) 9 January 1996 (1996-01-09) * column 3, line 13 - column 3, line 65 * * column 10, line 12 - column 10, line 67 *	1-4,25, 31-33	
Y,D	GB 2 317 895 A (UNIV BRADFORD) 8 April 1998 (1998-04-08) * the whole document *	6-8, 14-23	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			E21B
<del>The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</del>			
Place of search <b>MUNICH</b>		Date of completion of the search <b>22 August 2002</b>	Examiner <b>Morrish, S</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	

EPO FORM 1503 03.02 (P04001)



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LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION  
SHEET B

Application Number  
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The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. Claims: 1-23,25-33

A method and an apparatus for obtaining core samples from a wellbore as well as the use of a substance to stabilise a core sample recovered from a wellbore (i.e. a process of stabilising a core sample recovered from a wellbore using a substance), a substance for stabilising a core sample recovered from a wellbore and a wellbore core sample stabilising device.

2. Claim : 24

A method for obtaining a sample of a formation from a borehole.

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

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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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22-08-2002

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