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(54) **Hand controller for a remote operated vehicle**

(57) A hand controller for a submersible remote operated vehicle (ROV) with left, right and vertical thrusters. The hand controller can be gripped between the fingers and palm of one hand. A joystick (340) is mounted for thumb actuation and configured to provide control signals for the ROV's left and right thrusters, thereby to

control surge and yaw. A. A trigger (348) with two buttons (350, 352) is mounted for index finger actuation. The two buttons respectively provide control signals for up and down control of a vertical thruster of the ROV, thereby to control heave. This ergonomic design has proved to be easy to learn and use.

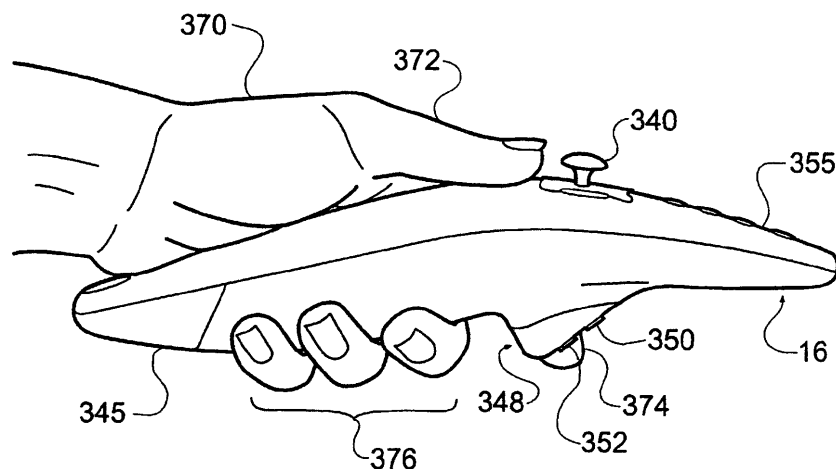


Fig. 6



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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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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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 27 September 2004	Examiner Overdijk, J
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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