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(54) **Method and apparatus for transporting a fine powder**

(57) The invention provides methods, systems and apparatus for the metered transport of fine powders into receptacles. According to one exemplary embodiment, an apparatus is provided which comprises a hopper (12) having an opening (18). The hopper (12) is adapted to receive a bed of fine powder (20). At least one chamber

(24), which is moveable to allow the chamber to be placed in close proximity to the opening (18), is also provided. An element (28) having a proximal end and a distal end (29) is positioned within the hopper (12) such that the distal end (29) is near the opening. A vibrator motor (26) is provided to vibrate the element (28) when within the fine powder.

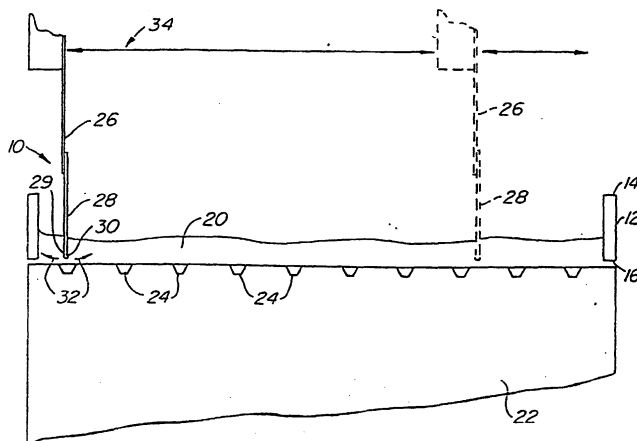


FIG. 1.

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 03 07 5990

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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 August 2003	Examiner Jagusiak, A
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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The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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