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(54) Process and apparatus for filling bottles with gas

(57) Characterised in that the apparatus comprises a turner (1) on which the bottles (2,3,4) are placed, an actuator that causes the turner (1) to swivel, a pneumatic circuit that connects the aforesaid bottles (2,3,4) to a gas tank, pneumatic means (7 to 21) provided in said circuit for carrying out the venting, washing, vacuumising and filling operations, and control means that act on the ac-

tuator and on the pneumatic means (7 to 21) so as to permit automatic control of said operations. Filling of the bottles with gas is controlled by means of a mass flow meter. The gas can thus be dispensed into the bottles without removing them from the turner, thereby reducing the number of operations to be carried out for each bottle, and ensuring the quality of the bottled gas.

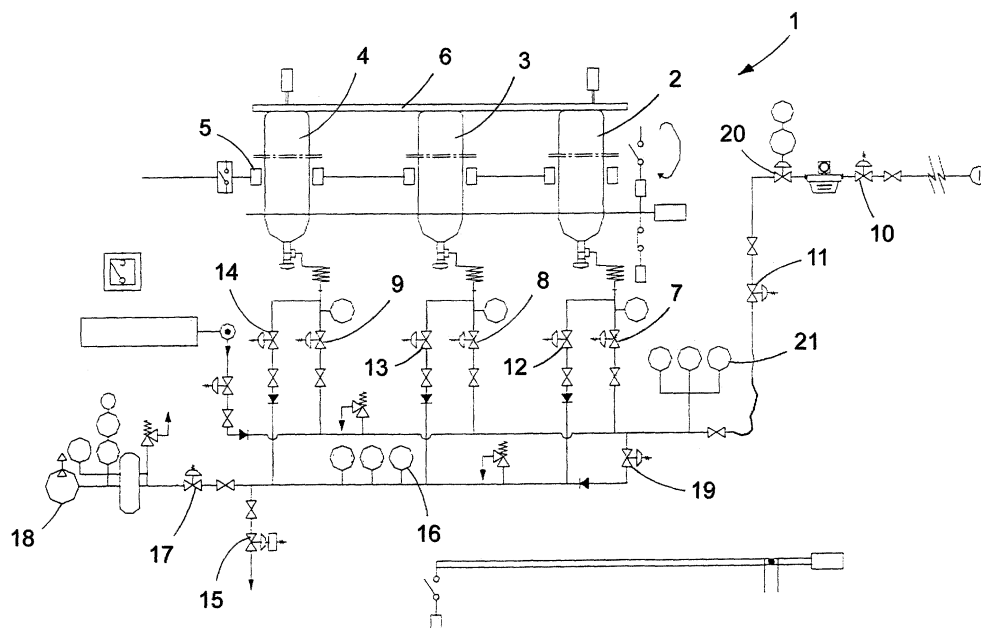


FIG. 1



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 03 38 4001

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	FR 2 750 689 A (PROVENCALE D AUTOMATION ET DE) 9 January 1998 (1998-01-09) * the whole document * -----	1-17	INV. F17C5/00 F17C13/00 F17C6/00 F17C13/02
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			F17C
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 8 June 2006	Examiner Nicol, B
<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 & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

3
EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
FR 2750689	A	09-01-1998	NONE

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82