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(54) **A submerged pump having a bearing lubricated by discharged fluid**

(57) A target fluid discharged from a pump (12) is partially diverted, by a lead-in duct (58), into a housing chamber (49) including a motor (32) therein. A top bearing (50) supporting a motor shaft (36) is placed in the lead-in duct (58), and lubricated by the target fluid flowing through the lead-in duct (58). A top seal (60) is installed downstream from the top bearing (50) in the lead-in duct (58). The top seal (60) has a slight gap from the motor shaft (36) to form a throttle structure which increases a flow resistance. The throttle structure maintains a pressure in an area near the top bearing (50), to thereby suppress presence of gases.

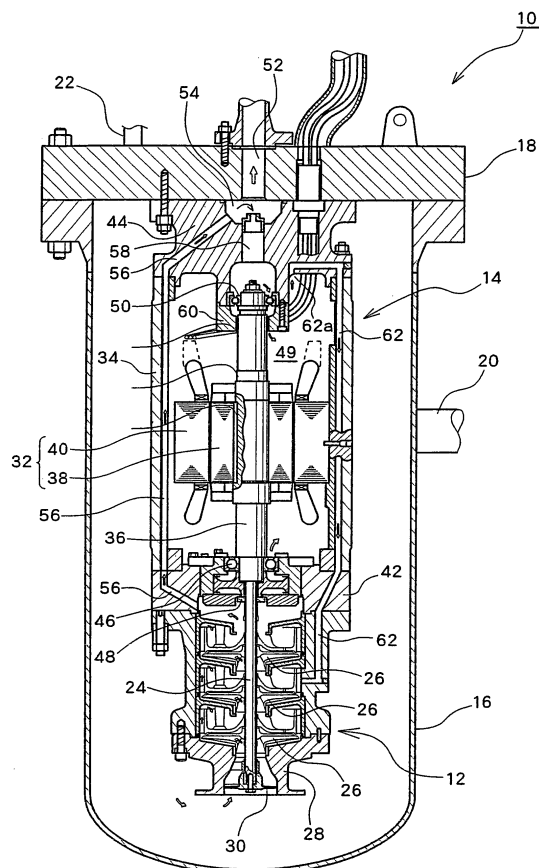


Fig. 1



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 04 02 3215

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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 4 March 2009	Examiner Ingelbrecht, Peter
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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