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(54) **Drainage system flow regulation**

(57) A surface drainage system 1 comprises a drainage channel 2 and a plurality of flow regulators 3 arranged therein. The plurality of flow regulators 3 improves the storage capacity of the system 1.

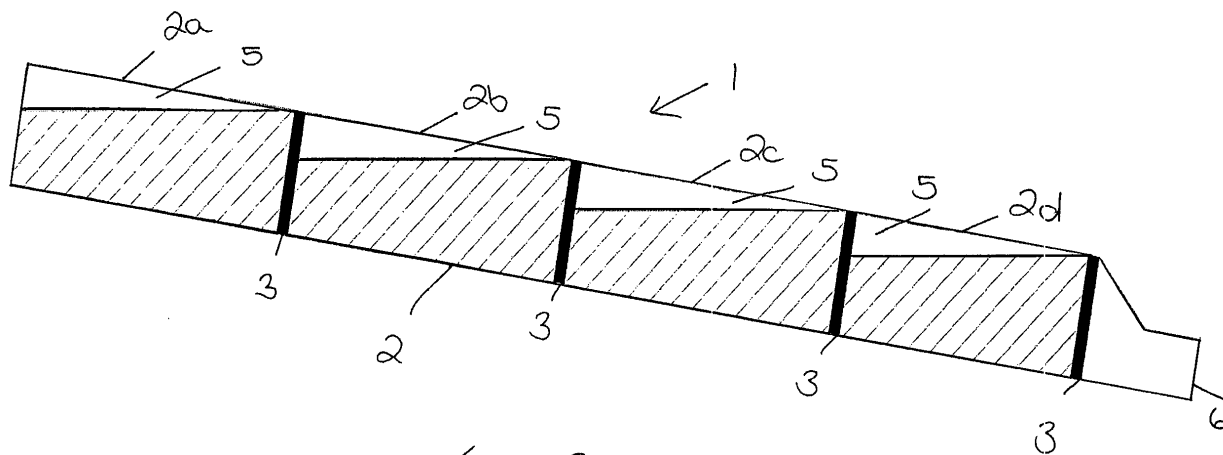


FIGURE 2

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PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

which under Rule 45 of the European Patent Convention EP 05 25 0859 shall be considered, for the purposes of subsequent proceedings, as the European search report

| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT | | | |
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| Category | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages | Relevant to claim | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC) |
| X | US 6 164 869 A (GUTHLER ET AL) 26 December 2000 (2000-12-26) * column 15, line 19 - line 31; figures 10,14,66,67 * | 1-13 | INV. E03F3/02 |
| Y | ----- | 14-23 | |
| X | DE 42 20 880 A1 (DEDERLE, KLAUS, 4200 OBERHAUSEN, DE) 5 January 1994 (1994-01-05) * figures 9-14 * | 1-3,8 | |
| Y | US 2 642 723 A (REISMANN GEORGE) 23 June 1953 (1953-06-23) * column 1, line 49 - column 3, line 29; figures * | 14-18, 21-23 | |
| Y | FR 2 643 971 A (SIKORA BERNARD) 7 September 1990 (1990-09-07) * figure 1 * | 18-20 | |
| | | | TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC) |
| | | | E03F E02B F16K |
| INCOMPLETE SEARCH | | | |
| <p>The Search Division considers that the present application, or one or more of its claims, does/do not comply with the EPC to such an extent that a meaningful search into the state of the art cannot be carried out, or can only be carried out partially, for these claims.</p> <p>Claims searched completely :</p> <p>Claims searched incompletely :</p> <p>Claims not searched :</p> <p>Reason for the limitation of the search:</p> <p>see sheet C</p> | | | |
| Place of search | | Date of completion of the search | Examiner |
| The Hague | | 23 August 2006 | De Coene, P |
| <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> | | | |

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EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C07)



Claim(s) searched completely:
1-23

Claim(s) not searched:
24-30

Reason for the limitation of the search:

The present application contains 30 claims, of which 8 are independent. There is no clear distinction between the independent claims because of overlapping scope. There are so many claims, and they are drafted in such a way that the claims as a whole are not in compliance with the provisions of clarity and conciseness of Article 84 EPC, as it is particularly burdensome for a skilled person to establish the subject-matter for which protection is sought.

Furthermore, independent claims 27 and 30 contains a reference to the description and the drawings. According to Rule 29(6) EPC, claims should not contain such references except where absolutely necessary, which is not the case here (see the Guidelines, C-III, 4.10).

Furthermore, independent claims 24-26, 28 and 29 do not appear to address the problem underlying the invention described on page 3, paragraph 1. The non-compliance with the substantive provisions is to such an extent, that a meaningful search of the whole claimed subject-matter could not be carried out (Rule 45 EPC and Guidelines B-VIII, 3). The extent of the search was consequently limited.

The search was based on the subject-matter that, as far as can be understood, could reasonably be expected to be claimed later in the procedure, and the corresponding claims, namely claims 1-23

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

EP 05 25 0859

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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23-08-2006

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