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(54) **Cable water-ski track**

(57) A cable water-ski track installation (1) is described, comprising a cable water-ski track installation (1), comprising an endless towing cable (10), closed in itself, that extends in a substantially horizontal plane and is tightened on an assembly of cable wheel systems (40), wherein each cable wheel system (40) is attached to a corresponding pylon (4), wherein each cable wheel system (40) has guiding wheels (141, 142; 41, 42) for guiding the towing cable (10), and wherein at least one of these guiding wheels is driven by a motor (M) also attached to the corresponding pylon (4) and wherein at least one of

the cable wheel systems (40) is driven by a motor (M) also attached to the corresponding pylon (4). According to an aspect of the invention, at least two of those cable wheel systems (40), preferably all cable wheel systems, are driven by respective motors (M). According to an aspect of the invention, at each coupling member (60), the towing cable (60) is provided with a spotlight (63) or the like.

According to an aspect of the invention, at least one cable wheel system (40) comprises an assembly of multiple cable guiding wheels (41) arranged in series.

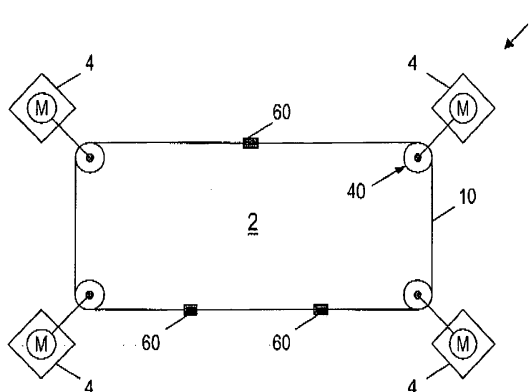


FIG. 1A



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 06 01 7900

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
Y	FR 1 325 878 A (RIXEN B.) 3 May 1963 (1963-05-03) * page 1, paragraph 1 - page 3, paragraph 4 * * page 7, paragraph 5 - page 8, paragraph 2; figures *	1-11, 21-28	INV. A63B69/00 B61B11/00
Y	US 3 071 083 A (SEPP HOCHMUTH) 1 January 1963 (1963-01-01) * column 1, line 37 - column 2, line 12; figures *	1-11	
Y	FR 2 338 829 A1 (KUPFER L ET P [CH]) 19 August 1977 (1977-08-19) * the whole document *	21-28	
A	DE 196 14 992 A1 (RIXEN BRUNO [DE]) 23 October 1997 (1997-10-23)		
A	US 4 523 525 A (FOSTER RICHARD L [US]) 18 June 1985 (1985-06-18)		
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			A63B B61B E04H B63B A63G
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 1 October 2007	Examiner Squeri, Michele
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		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	
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			

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EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

**CLAIMS INCURRING FEES**

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- ☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):
- ☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

- ☐ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.
- ☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:
- ☒ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:
- see annex
- ☐ The present supplementary European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims (Rule 164 (1) EPC).



The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. claims: 1-11,21-28

The dependency of the claims 12 and 21 is given after the word "preferably" and, as such, does not limit the scope of these claims (Guidelines, Section C-III, 4.6). These claims, therefore, are independent claims.

Document FR-A1325878 describes a cable water-ski track installation, comprising an endless towing cable 110, 111, closed in itself, that extends in a substantially horizontal plane and is tightened on an assembly of cable wheel systems 116-119 wherein each cable wheel system is attached to a corresponding pylon, wherein each cable wheel system has guiding wheels for guiding the towing cable, and wherein two of these guiding wheels 116, 117 are driven by a motor 131 also attached to the corresponding pylon.

This document discloses all the common features of the claims 1, 12, 21 and 29 which, therefore, lack unity a posteriori (Art. 82 EPC, GL-III,7.6).

The claims contain the following groups of inventions:

Claims 1-11

The special technical features of claim 1 is at least one more motor driving a guiding wheel, thereby avoiding the need of a differential gear, to reduce the weight on the pylon.

Claims 21-28

The special technical features of claim 21 are the multiple cable guiding wheels, to reduce the weight on the pylon.

2. claims: 12-20

The special technical features of claim 12 are the coupling members with the spotlights, to provide an illumination on each coupling location, thereby enabling the use of the installation also under dark conditions.

A second motor is not comprised in claim 12.

3. claims: 29-31

The special technical features of claim 29 are the coupling members with loudspeakers to provide for entertainment or information for the users.

A second motor or a lightspot are not comprised in claim 29.

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

EP 06 01 7900

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
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

01-10-2007

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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