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(72) Inventors:
• **Nakayama, Takamitsu**
Yokohama-shi
Kanagawa-ken 223-8501 (JP)
• **Satoh, Kazuaki**
Yokohama-shi
Kanagawa-ken 223-8501 (JP)

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(74) Representative: **Strehl Schübel-Hopf & Partner**
Maximilianstrasse 54
80538 München (DE)

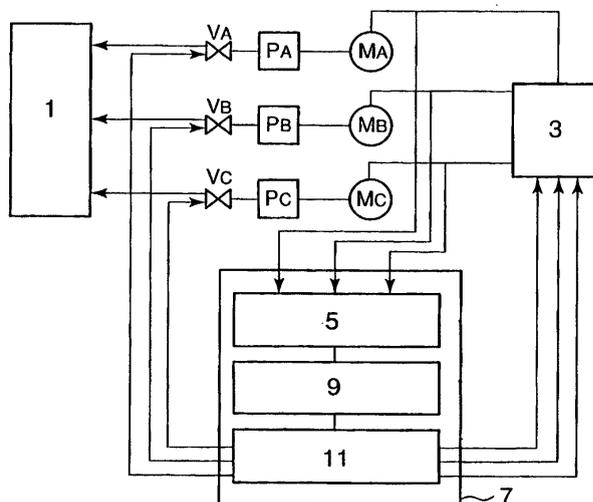
(71) Applicant: **ANEST IWATA CORPORATION**
Yokohama-shi,
Kanagawa-ken 223-8501 (JP)

(54) **Operation control device and method of vacuum pumps**

(57) An operation control devices and operation methods thereof so as to eliminate the difficulties in such a case of introduction of vacuum sensors and/or inverter control is disclosed. The disclosure relates to a control of plural sets of vacuum pumps. In order to comply with the subjects to overcome the difficulties, the disclosure proposes to utilize current detection approach instead of

direct pressure detection approach, while showing how to estimate a vacuum degree achieved under the operation of the pumps as well as presenting a method on the control of the number of pumps. It is also described how organically a current detecting device, a vacuum degree estimating device, a working pump control device and related methods to satisfy the subjects are linked.

Fig.1



EP 1 906 024 A3



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 07 01 7322

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 8 May 2012	Examiner Descoubes, Pierre
<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>			

1
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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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EP 07 01 7322

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