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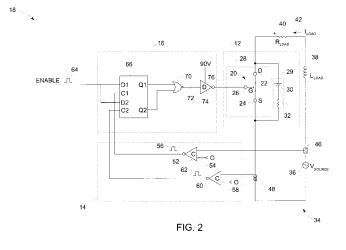
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(54) Micro-electromechanical system based soft switching

(57) A system (10) is presented. The system (10) includes detection circuitry (14) configured to detect occurrence of a zero crossing of an alternating source voltage (36) or an alternating load current (42). The system also includes switching circuitry (12) coupled to the detection circuitry (14) and comprising a micro-electromechanical

system switch (20). Additionally, the system (10) includes control circuitry (16) coupled to the detection circuitry (14) and the switching circuitry (12) and configured to perform arc-less switching of the micro-electromechanical system switch (20) responsive to a detected zero crossing of an alternating source voltage (36) or alternating load current (42).



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PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

which under Rule 45 of the European Patent Convention EP $\,07\,$ $\,11\,$ $\,0554\,$ shall be considered, for the purposes of subsequent proceedings, as the European search report

	DOCUMENTS CONSIDE	RED TO BE RELEVANT		
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				H01F H01T
The Sear		pplication, or one or more of its claims, does		-
be carried	y with the EPC to such an extent that a lout, or can only be carried out partially arched completely :	meaningful search into the state of the art or , for these claims.	annot	
Claims se	arched incompletely :			
Claims no	t searched :			
	or the limitation of the search: Sheet C			
	Place of search	Date of completion of the search		Examiner
	Munich	19 October 2007	Sir	monini, Stefano
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INCOMPLETE SEARCH SHEET C

Application Number EP 07 11 0554

Claim(s) searched completely: 1-6,8

Claim(s) not searched: 7,9,10

Reason for the limitation of the search:

Claim 7 is unclear (Art.84 EPC) as it implies that a (load or switching) contact comprises a (MEMS) switch. This is nonsense, the opposite is normally true, i.e. a switch comprises contacts.

Claim 9 is also unclear, in that at line 8 it says that a trigger signal is configured to facilitate switching (...). Facilitate in what way? This is vague and undefined.

Moreover, at line 10 reference is made to "the" MEMS switch (20), although this is not previously defined in the claim. The scope of the overall protection is therefore unclear.

Claim 10° is dependent on claim 9 and is thus also considered unclear.

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

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