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(54) **Methods and apparatus for heat treatment and sand removal for castings**

(57) A method of processing a casting comprising: pouring a molten material into a mold containing a core; solidifying at least a portion of the molten material to form a casting; heat treating the casting while the casting is in

the die; and applying a fluid flow to the casting to heat treat the casting and degrade at least a portion of the core, wherein the core comprises a binder that is soluble in the fluid flow.

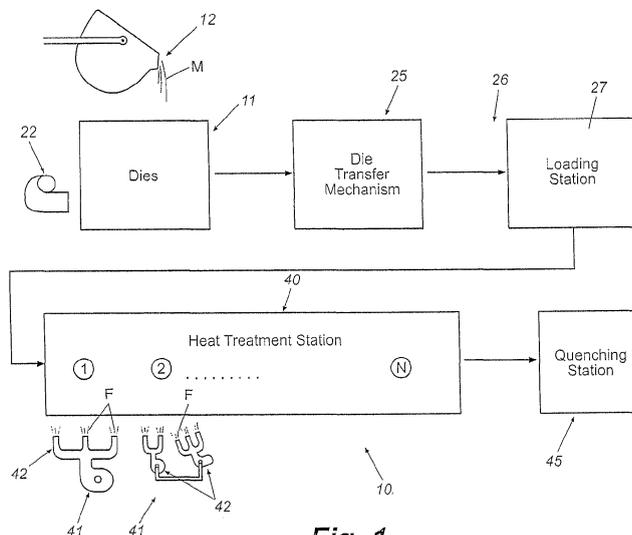


Fig. 1

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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 EP 08 16 7057

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7 The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 16 December 2009	Examiner Riba Vilanova, Marta
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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