



(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:
15.02.2012 Bulletin 2012/07

(51) Int Cl.:
F25B 1/10 (2006.01) **F25B 5/00 (2006.01)**
F25B 31/00 (2006.01) **F25B 5/02 (2006.01)**

(43) Date of publication A2:
10.06.2009 Bulletin 2009/24

(21) Application number: **08020972.9**

(22) Date of filing: **03.12.2008**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR HR HU IE IS IT LI LT LU LV MC MT NL NO PL PT RO SE SI SK TR
Designated Extension States:
AL BA MK RS

(30) Priority: **05.12.2007 JP 2007314484**

(71) Applicants:
• **Hitachi Ltd.**
Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100-8280 (JP)
• **Hitachi Plant Technologies, Ltd.**
Tokyo 170-8466 (JP)

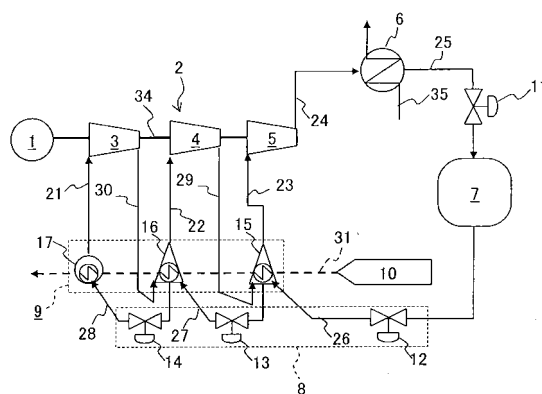
(72) Inventors:
• **Shibata, Takanori**
Tokyo 100-8220 (JP)
• **Bannai, Masaaki**
Tokyo 100-8220 (JP)
• **Fukushima, Yasuo**
Tokyo 170-8466 (JP)
• **Horitsugi, Mutsumi**
Tokyo 100-8220 (JP)

(74) Representative: **MERH-IP**
Matias Erny Reichl Hoffmann
Paul-Heyse-Strasse 29
80336 München (DE)

(54) **Refrigeration cycle system, natural gas liquefaction plant, heat pump system, and method for retrofitting refrigeration cycle system**

(57) A refrigeration cycle system is provided, comprising a plurality of compressors (3,4,5) for compressing a refrigerant that is used to cool a medium (10), one of the compressors being a low pressure compressor (3), another one of the compressors being a high pressure compressor (5); a condenser (6) for cooling and condensing the refrigerant compressed by the plurality of compressors (3,4,5); a reservoir (7) for receiving the refrigerant condensed by the condenser (6); an expansion mechanism (9) for expanding and cooling the refrigerant supplied from the reservoir (7); an evaporator (9) for evaporating the refrigerant cooled by the expansion mechanism (8) by means of the medium (10) to generate a refrigerant to be supplied to the plurality of compressors (3,4,5); and an intercooler (15,15A,61) that is provided between the low pressure compressor (3) and the high pressure compressor (5) and adapted to cool the refrigerant supplied from the low pressure compressor (3) by means of the refrigerant supplied from the expansion mechanism (8) so as to generate a refrigerant to be supplied to the high pressure compressor (5).

FIG. 1





EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 08 02 0972

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	US 2002/050149 A1 (KAWADA AKIHIRO [JP]) 2 May 2002 (2002-05-02)	1-3,5, 10,11,14	INV. F25B1/10
A	* paragraph [0004] - paragraph [0010]; figure 3 * * paragraph [0033] - paragraph [0049]; figures 1,2 *	4,6-9, 12,13,15	F25B5/00 F25B31/00
	-----		ADD. F25B5/02
X	EP 1 347 251 A2 (CARRIER CORP [US]) 24 September 2003 (2003-09-24)	1,2,4,5, 14	
	* paragraph [0009] - paragraph [0023]; figures 2,4 *		

A	HEINRICH ET AL: "KAELTEERZEUGUNG", LEHRBUCH DER KALTETECHNIK, MULLER VERLAG, HEIDELBERG, DE, 1 January 1997 (1997-01-01), pages 131-135,575, XP002143605, * page 131 - page 133 *	1-5,10, 11,14	

A	WO 03/019085 A1 (MAERSK CONTAINER IND AS [DK]; LODAM ELEKTRONIK AS [DK]; RAUN NIELS PET) 6 March 2003 (2003-03-06) * page 8, line 1 - page 16; figures 1-11 *	1-15	

			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			F25B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 10 January 2012	Examiner Szilagyi, Barnabas
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	

1
EPO FORM 1503 03 02 (P04C01)

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

EP 08 02 0972

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.

10-01-2012

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 2002050149	A1	02-05-2002	CN 1349079 A 15-05-2002
			KR 20020029597 A 19-04-2002
			SG 89409 A1 18-06-2002
			TW 542891 B 21-07-2003
			US 2002050149 A1 02-05-2002

EP 1347251	A2	24-09-2003	DE 60314559 T2 07-02-2008
			DK 1347251 T3 24-09-2007
			EP 1347251 A2 24-09-2003
			ES 2287416 T3 16-12-2007
			US 2003177782 A1 25-09-2003

WO 03019085	A1	06-03-2003	NONE
