

(19)



(11)

EP 2 189 618 A3

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(88) Date of publication A3:
07.05.2014 Bulletin 2014/19

(51) Int Cl.:
E21B 19/16 ^(2006.01) **E21B 33/16** ^(2006.01)
E21B 33/05 ^(2006.01)

(43) Date of publication A2:
26.05.2010 Bulletin 2010/21

(21) Application number: **10156425.0**

(22) Date of filing: **12.12.2006**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
**AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR
HU IE IS IT LI LT LU LV MC NL PL PT RO SE SI
SK TR**

(30) Priority: **12.12.2005 US 749451 P**

(60) Divisional application:
10188272.8 / 2 284 355
10188275.1 / 2 284 356
10188277.7 / 2 284 357
11157091.7 / 2 322 756
11157094.1 / 2 322 755

(62) Document number(s) of the earlier application(s) in
accordance with Art. 76 EPC:
06848570.5 / 1 963 612

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(54) **Apparatus for gripping a tubular on a drilling rig**

(57) Methods and apparatus for running tubulars into and out of a wellbore. A gripping apparatus is activated with an actuator having a primary actuator and a redundant safety feature. The redundant safety feature may include one or more redundant fluid operated pistons.

The gripping apparatus may include an integrated safety system adapted to prevent damage to the tubulars while making and breaking out connections between the tubulars and the tubular string.

EP 2 189 618 A3



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 10 15 6425

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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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EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

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