



(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:  
**19.09.2012 Bulletin 2012/38**

(43) Date of publication A2:  
**27.10.2010 Bulletin 2010/43**

(21) Application number: **10250813.2**

(22) Date of filing: **22.04.2010**

(51) Int Cl.:  
**B65B 9/04** (2006.01) **B65B 9/08** (2012.01)  
**B65B 61/18** (2006.01) **B65B 9/20** (2012.01)  
**B65D 33/25** (2006.01) **B65B 47/04** (2006.01)  
**B65B 7/16** (2006.01)

(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 MK MT NL NO PL PT RO SE SI SK SM TR**  
Designated Extension States:  
**AL BA ME RS**

(30) Priority: **24.04.2009 US 429855**

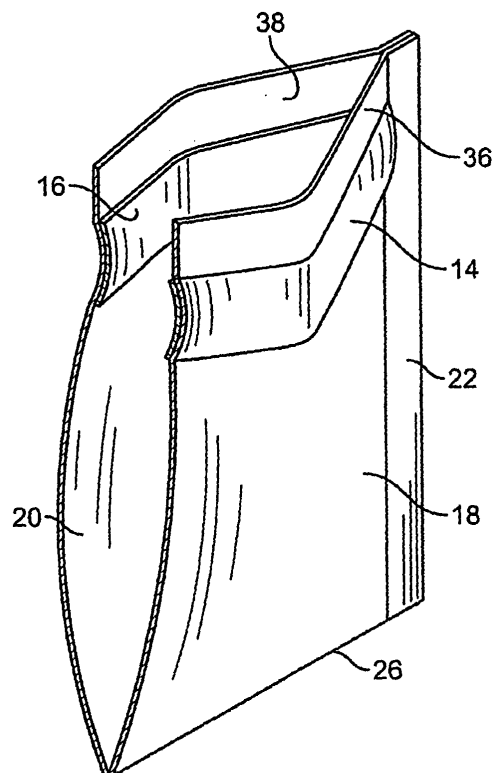
(71) Applicant: **Kraft Foods Global Brands LLC**  
**Northfield, IL 60093 (US)**

(72) Inventors:  
• **Zerfas, Paul Anthony**  
**Verona,**  
**Wisconsin 53593 (US)**  
• **Jones, Robert C**  
**Aurora,**  
**Illinois 60504 (US)**

(74) Representative: **Bucks, Teresa Anne**  
**Boult Wade Tennant**  
**Verulam Gardens**  
**70 Gray's Inn Road**  
**London WC1X 8BT (GB)**

(54) **Apparatus and method of producing flexible packages having an automatic closure feature**

(57) A reclosable flexible package (10) is suitable for retail sale of food products and is comprised of a film material. The reclosable flexible packages (10) are suitable for mass production on high-speed form-fill-seal equipment. The flexible package includes a pair of semi-rigid strips (14,16) attached to the walls of the flexible pouch and positioned parallel to the package opening. The semi-rigid strips (14,16) are configured and arranged to nest together and bias toward one another. Upon opening of the package, the semi-rigid strips (14,16) are moveable between a closed position and an open position. Further, the semi-rigid strips (14,16) are configured such that they automatically reclose the package when the strips are released from the open position.



**FIG. 3**



## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 10 25 0813

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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search <b>Munich</b>		Date of completion of the search <b>19 July 2012</b>	Examiner <b>Schmitt, Michel</b>
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 03/02 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
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