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(54) **An apparatus for converting waste heat from a production process into electrical energy**

(57) An apparatus for converting the waste heat from a production process into electrical energy, whereby the production process comprises a number of sub-processes, in which the waste heat from at least two sub-processes is simultaneously extracted from the production process by a single closed work-producing cooling circuit (1), and in which there is at least one heat exchanger (3,4) for each sub-process in the form of an evaporator, with a primary section incorporated into the closed cooling circuit (1) and a secondary section through which a fluid is taken from the sub-process concerned to evaporate the coolant in the closed cooling circuit (1), whereby

at least one of the aforementioned heat exchangers (3,4) has its secondary section incorporated into a cooling circuit of a sub-process that uses the same coolant, and such that after cooling in the heat exchanger concerned the coolant is mixed with the coolant in the closed cooling circuit by means of a mixer (11) followed by a closed mixing vessel (12) in which the fluid and gas phases of the coolant are separated, and there is a closed mixing vessel (12) in the closed cooling circuit (1) after the mixer (11) in which the liquid and gas phases of the coolant are separated, and coolant is tapped off from this for use in the aforementioned cooling circuit of the sub-process.

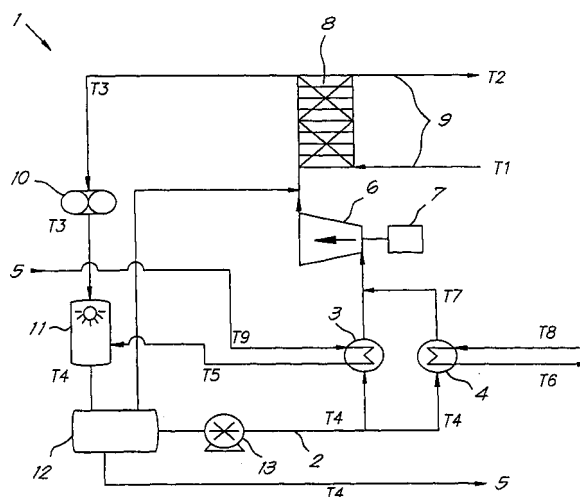


Fig. 1



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 10 00 8824

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 22 March 2011	Examiner Henkes, Roeland
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2

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
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