

# (11) **EP 2 886 875 A1**

(12)

# **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION** published in accordance with Art. 153(4) EPC

(43) Date of publication: **24.06.2015 Bulletin 2015/26** 

(21) Application number: 13859857.8

(22) Date of filing: 25.06.2013

(51) Int Cl.: **F04D 29/42** (2006.01) **F04D 29/66** (2006.01)

F04D 29/44 (2006.01)

(86) International application number: **PCT/JP2013/067359** 

(87) International publication number: WO 2014/087690 (12.06.2014 Gazette 2014/24)

(84) Designated Contracting States:

AL 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 RS SE SI SK SM TR

Designated Extension States: **BA ME** 

(30) Priority: 07.12.2012 JP 2012268402

(71) Applicant: Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. Tokyo 108-8215 (JP)

(72) Inventor: SUGIMOTO, Koichi Tokyo 108-8215 (JP)

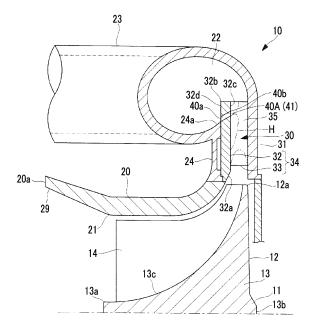
(74) Representative: Hoffmann Eitle
Patent- und Rechtsanwälte PartmbB
Arabellastraße 30
81925 München (DE)

#### (54) **CENTRIFUGAL COMPRESSOR**

(57) In order to suppress surging and to increase operational efficiency while expanding the operational range, a high-pressure compressed fluid is fed from a volute part (22) through connecting parts (40A) and into a diffuser flow path (35), said diffuser flow path (35) being

formed between an annular disk part (31) and an annular disk (32) in a diffuser part (30). Thus, it is possible to prevent a reverse flow region (H) from extending toward the rear edge of the diffuser part (30) due to detachment occurring from the annular disk (32).

FIG. 2



EP 2 886 875 A1

# Technical Field

**[0001]** The present invention relates to a centrifugal compressor which increases a pressure of a fluid to generate a compressed fluid, and particularly, relates to a centrifugal compressor which includes a diffuser part provided on a discharge side of the compressor fluid.

1

#### **Background Art**

**[0002]** A centrifugal compressor is mainly configured of an impeller which includes a rotating hub and a plurality of centrifugal blades attached to the outer peripheral surface of the hub, and a casing which accommodates the impeller and forms a flow path for a fluid.

[0003] In the flow path for the fluid, there are provided a suction flow path through which the fluid is sucked from the outside by rotation of the impeller and the fluid is introduced into the impeller, a diffuser part which is approximately annularly formed on the outer peripheral side of the impeller and recovers a static pressure by decreasing the speed of airflow discharged from the impeller, and a spiral volute part and a discharge pipe which are provided on the outer peripheral side of the diffuser part, are formed so that the cross-sectional areas are enlarged along the peripheral directions, decrease the speed of the airflow, and increase the static pressure of the airflow. [0004] In this centrifugal compressor, when the impeller is rotated, the impeller compresses the fluid such as gas, air, or the like introduced from the outside. The flow (airflow) of the fluid formed in this way is discharged from the outer peripheral end of the impeller to the outside through the discharge pipe via the diffuser part and the volute part.

**[0005]** Meanwhile, in the centrifugal compressor, the compressed air is discharged during a specific period, and thus, the pressure and the flow rate are changed, and a phenomenon such as surging which generates self-excitation vibration occurs. The pressure and the flow rate generated by the surging determine an operation limit of a small flow rate side.

**[0006]** On the other hand, if the flow rate is increased, occlusion of the fluid referred to as choking occurs in the impeller or the diffuser part, and thus, the flow rate range of a large flow rate side is limited.

**[0007]** Accordingly, in order to realize a stable operation in the centrifugal compressor, it is necessary to operate an operational range so that the surging does not occur in the small flow rate side and the choking does not occur in the large flow rate side.

**[0008]** Then, in the diffuser part, seperation occurs on the low flow rate condition, a reverse flow from the volute part reaches the impeller when a reverse flow region generated due to the seperation reaches the rear edge of the diffuser part, and thus, surging occurs.

[0009] Accordingly, for example, in the technology dis-

closed in PTL 1, a circulation passage is provided on a rear side of a wall surface of a diffuser along the flow direction of a fluid, a first opening of the circulation passage is formed on a fluid outlet side of an impeller of the wall surface of the diffuser, and a second opening is formed on a discharge port side of the wall surface of the diffuser.

[0010] In this configuration, the fluid, which flows in the vicinity of the wall surface of the diffuser and in which the reverse flow easily occurs, becomes a circulation flow in which the fluid enters from the second opening to the circulation passage and is discharged from the first opening, and thus, an apparent flow rate of the diffuser is increased. Accordingly, the flow in the vicinity of the wall surface is smooth, occurrence of the reverse flow of the fluid is suppressed, and thus, it is possible to increase a flow rate range up to the surge. As a result, it is possible to suppress occurrence of the surging with certainty, due to the reverse flow of the fluid during a low flow rate without damaging the functionality of the diffuser.

**[0011]** In addition, a technology disclosed in PTL 2 includes a configuration in which a circulation flow path is provided, through which a part of a fluid flowing in a diffuser flow path is returned as a circulation fluid from a downstream side region to an upstream side region in the diffuser flow path, and the fluid flowing in the circulation flow path is cooled by cooling means.

**[0012]** Accordingly, the fluid flowing in the circulation flow path is cooled, and is returned to the upstream side region of the diffuser flow path. Therefore, compression performance of the centrifugal compression is improved.

Citation List

Patent Literature

#### [0013]

40

45

[PTL 1] Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 2005-240680

[PTL 2] Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 2010-151034

Summary of Invention

**Technical Problem** 

**[0014]** However, it is constantly necessary to further expand an operational range of a centrifugal compressor, and thus, there is still needs for improvement.

[0015] In the technologies disclosed in PTL 1 and PTL 2, occurrence of the reverse flows of the fluid is suppressed by circulating a part of the fluid flowing in the diffuser flow path and increasing the flow rate of the appearance, and thus, operational efficiency is substantially decreased.

[0016] The present invention is made in consideration of the above-described circumstances, and an object

thereof is to provide a centrifugal compressor capable of increasing the operational efficiency while suppressing occurrence of the surging and further expanding the operational range.

#### Solution to Problem

[0017] According to the present invention, a centrifugal compressor including: an impeller which includes a hub and a plurality of blades attached to the outer peripheral surface of the hub; and a casing which rotatably accommodates the impeller, in which the casing includes: a suction flow path through which a fluid sucked from the outside by rotation of the impeller is introduced to the impeller; a diffuser part which is annularly formed on an outer peripheral side of the impeller, and decelerates the flow of the fluid discharged to the outer peripheral side by the rotation of the impeller; a spiral volute part which is formed on an outer peripheral side of the diffuser part and in which a cross-sectional area is gradually increased along a circumferential direction; a discharge pipe which extends from a part having the largest crosssection area of the volute part toward the outer peripheral side; and a connecting part which is formed on a side wall surface of a diffuser flow path through which the fluid flows in the diffuser part, and causes the inner portion of the volute part and the inner portion of the diffuser flow path to communicate with each other, in which an opening part of the diffuser flow path side of the connecting part is formed on a downstream side of the diffuser flow path.

**[0018]** In the centrifugal compressor, the fluid sucked from the outside by the rotation of the impeller is discharged to the diffuser part of the outer peripheral side of the impeller via the suction flow path and is decelerated, and thus, the fluid flows into the volute part. In the volute part, the fluid flows from the side in which the cross-sectional area is small to the side in which the cross-sectional area is large, and is discharged from the discharge pipe to the outside as a high-pressure compressed fluid.

**[0019]** In this case, in the diffuser part, the high-pressure compressed fluid inside the volute part is discharged into the diffuser flow path through the connecting part. Accordingly, a flow rate in which a reverse flow region due to seperation occurring on the diffuser wall surface reaches a rear edge of the diffuser part is further decreased, and thus, it is possible to increase the flow rate range up to the surge. In addition, since the high-pressure compressed fluid passing through the diffuser part is circulated from the volute part, efficiency in the diffuser part is not decreased.

**[0020]** Preferably, a plurality of the connecting parts are formed at set intervals along the circumferential direction of the diffuser part. The connecting part may be a through hole, and may be a slit which is continuous in the circumferential direction of the diffuser part.

[0021] Then, in many cases, an axially asymmetrical

structure such as a volute part in which the cross-sectional area is spirally increased along the circumferential direction, may exist in the downstream side of the diffuser. According to this influence, a non-uniform static pressure distribution in the circumferential direction exists in the downstream side of the diffuser. According to the non-uniform static pressure distribution, lengths in a radial direction of the reverse flow region with respect to the diffuser flow path wall are different from each other in the circumferential direction. In addition, it is considered that the surging is generated from a location at which the reverse flow region reaches the rear edge the earliest. [0022] Accordingly, preferably, the connecting part is formed at least on an inner peripheral side of the part having the largest cross-section area of the volute part. [0023] In addition, preferably, in the connecting part, at least an end part of the side wall surface side is formed so as to be inclined from the inner peripheral side of the diffuser part toward the outer peripheral side. Accordingly, the high-pressure compressed fluid discharged into the diffuser flow path from the connecting part can flow along the diffuser wall surface, and thus, it is possible to effectively suppress occurrence of the reverse flow of the fluid.

25 [0024] Moreover, in the connecting part, at least the end part of the side wall surface side may be formed so as to be parallel with an outer peripheral side end part of the centrifugal blade.

#### O Advantageous Effects of Invention

**[0025]** According to a centrifugal compressor of the present invention, occurrence of the surging is suppressed, and it is possible to increase the operational efficiency while further expanding the operational range.

**Brief Description of Drawings** 

#### [0026]

40

45

50

Fig. 1 is a view showing a component configuration of a centrifugal compressor according to a first embodiment of the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a half cross-sectional view along an axis of the centrifugal compressor according to the first embodiment.

Fig. 3 is a view showing an aspect of the flow of a fluid in a diffuser part of the centrifugal compressor according to the first embodiment of the present invention.

Fig. 4 is a view showing configurations of main portions of a centrifugal compressor according to a second embodiment of the present invention.

#### Description of Embodiments

[0027] Hereinafter, embodiments of a centrifugal compressor according to the present invention will be de-

20

25

30

40

45

50

scribed with reference to the drawings.

[First Embodiment]

[0028] A centrifugal compressor 10 according to a first embodiment of the present invention will be described. [0029] As shown in Figs. 1 and 2, the centrifugal compressor 10 includes a rotary shaft 11 which is rotationally driven by a driving device such as a motor (not shown) or a turbine (not shown), an impeller 12 which is rotated around the rotary shaft 11, and a casing 20 which accommodates the rotary shaft 11 and the impeller 12 and forms a flow path for the fluid.

[0030] The impeller 12 includes a hub 13 which is integrally provided with the rotary shaft 11 and a plurality of blades 14 which are provided on an outer peripheral surface of the hub 13. In the hub 13, a curved surface 13c in which the outer diameter is gradually increased from an end part 13a of one end side of the rotary shaft 11 toward an end part 13b of the other end side is formed. The plurality of blades 14 are disposed on the curved surface 13c of the hub 13 in the circumferential direction. Here, as shown in Fig. 1, the blades 14 are configured of inner peripheral blades 14A provided on the inner peripheral side of the hub 13 and outer peripheral blades 14B provided on the outer peripheral side of the hub 13, and thus, may be a multiple configuration.

[0031] The casing 20 includes a suction flow path 21 which is continuous along an axial direction of the rotary shaft 11 from a suction port 29 formed on one end 20a side toward the impeller 12, a diffuser part 30 which is annularly formed on the outer peripheral side of the impeller 12, a spiral volute part 22 which is continuously formed in the circumferential direction on the outer peripheral (downstream) side of the diffuser part 30 and in which a cross-sectional area in a cross-section orthogonal to the circumferential direction is gradually increased along the circumferential direction, and a discharge pipe 23 which is connected to a maximum area part 22b of the volute part 22 and extends in a tangential direction. [0032] Here, a minimum area part 22a and the discharge pipe 23 are adjacent to the maximum area part 22b in the circumferential direction of the volute part 22. In addition, a tongue 28 is formed between the minimum area part 22a of the volute part 22 and the discharge pipe 23.

[0033] The diffuser part 30 is opened to the inner peripheral side (impeller 12 side) and the outer peripheral side (volute part 22 side) over the entire circumference of the outer peripheral part of the impeller 12. The diffuser part 30 includes an annular disk part 31 which is formed on a part of the casing 20, an annular disk 32 which is disposed to oppose the annular disk part 31 at a set interval, and diffuser vanes 33 which are integrally formed with the annular disk 32 and provided at equal intervals in the circumferential direction of the annular disk 32. The diffuser vanes 33 are formed so as to be inclined in the radial direction of the annular disk 32. Accordingly, the

interval between the diffuser vanes 33 and 33 adjacent to each other in the circumferential direction of the annular disk 32 is gradually increased from the inner peripheral side toward the outer peripheral side.

**[0034]** In the diffuser part 30, the diffuser flow path 35 is formed between the annular disk part 31 and the annular disk 32.

[0035] In the present embodiment, a diffuser member 34 which includes the annular disk 32 and the diffuser vanes 33 is separately formed with the casing 20, and the diffuser member is provided to be interposed between the annular disk part 31 which forms a part of the casing 20 and a holding part 24 of the casing 20 which is formed to oppose the annular disk part 31. Moreover, an inner peripheral side end part 32a of the annular disk 32 is formed in a curved surface shape in which the interval between the inner peripheral side end part 32a and the annular disk part 31 is gradually decreased from an outer peripheral part 12a of the impeller 12 toward the outer periphery.

[0036] In addition, an outer peripheral side end part 32b of the annular disk 32 extends the outer peripheral side from the outer peripheral side end part 24a of the holding part 24 and is formed to protrude in the volute part 22. In the annular disk 32, a connecting part 40A through which a side wall surface 32c facing the diffuser flow path 35 and a backface 32d opposite to the side wall surface 32c communicate with each other is formed on the outer peripheral side from the outer peripheral side end part 24a of the holding part 24. A plurality of the connecting parts 40A are formed at set intervals in the circumferential direction of the annular disk 32, and each of the connecting parts 40A is formed of a slit 41 which is continuous in the circumferential direction.

[0037] Here, preferably, the connecting part 40A configured of the slit 41 or the like is formed so as to be inclined from the inner peripheral side of the diffuser part 30 to the outer peripheral side, from an opening end 40a of the backface 32d side toward an opening end (opening part) 40b of the side wall surface 32c side.

**[0038]** Moreover, in the connecting part 40A, preferably, the opening end 40b of the diffuser flow path 35 side is formed on the downstream side of the diffuser flow path 35. More preferably, the opening end 40b is formed in the outer peripheral side from a position which is positioned 75% from the center side of the diffuser part 30 with respect to the radius of the outer peripheral part of the diffuser part 30. In the inner peripheral side, since a static pressure difference between the opening end 40a and the opening end 40b is increased, a speed of the flow introduced from the connecting part 40A to the diffuser part 30 is increased, and thus, the flow inside the diffuser deteriorates.

**[0039]** An operation of the centrifugal compressor 10 configured in this way will be described below.

**[0040]** The centrifugal compressor 10 rotationally drives the impeller 12 around the rotary shaft 11 by the driving device such as the motor (not shown) or a turbine

(not shown). By the rotation of the impeller 12, the fluid taken in the casing 20 through the suction port 29 from the outside flows toward the impeller 12 in the suction flow path 21.

[0041] Centrifugal force is applied to the fluid introduced into the casing 20 by the rotation of the blades 14 integrally rotated with the hub 13, and is compressed. The compressed fluid flows from the outer peripheral end of the impeller 12 into the diffuser part 30 of the outer peripheral side. In the diffuser part 30, airflow discharged from the impeller 12 to the outer peripheral side passes between the diffuser vanes 33 and 33 adjacent to the each other in the circumferential direction, and thus, the airflow is decelerated, and the static pressure is recovered. In addition, the fluid flowing in the volute part 22 of the outer periphery from the diffuser part 30 flows from the minimum area part 22a toward the maximum area part 22b, and is discharged from the discharge pipe 23 as a high-pressure compressed fluid.

[0042] Here, as shown in Fig. 3, the high-pressure compressed fluid flowing in the volute part 22 through the diffuser part 30 is drawn into the diffuser flow path 35 between the annular disk part 31 and the annular disk 32 through the connecting part 40A. In the diffuser part 30, according to the decreased flow rate, seperation occurs from the annular disk 32 in the diffuser flow path 35, and a reverse flow region H due to the seperation extends toward the rear edge (the edge part in the outer peripheral side) of the diffuser part 30. In this case, it is possible to increase the flow rate of the fluid in the part along the annular disk 32 through a flow R of the high-pressure compressed fluid which flows from the volute part 22 into the diffuser flow path 35 through the connecting part 40A. Accordingly, it is possible to prevent the reverse flow region H, due to large-scale detachment generated from the annular disk 32, from extending toward the rear edge of the diffuser part 30.

**[0043]** Therefore, it is possible to prevent occurrence of surging in the diffuser part 30, and it is possible to increase the operational range of the centrifugal compressor 10.

**[0044]** In addition, the diffuser member 34 including the annular disk 32 in which the connecting part 40A is formed and the diffuser vanes 33 may be separately formed with the casing 20. Accordingly, it is possible to easily process the connecting part 40A as a single body of the diffuser member 34.

**[0045]** Then, the plurality of slits 41 configuring the connecting part 40A may be formed over the entire circumference of the diffuser part 30. However the slits may be formed on only a part in the circumferential direction.

**[0046]** On the downstream side of the diffuser part 30, it is known that static pressure distribution which is non-uniform in the circumferential direction exists in the vicinity of the tongue 28 in the volute part 22 in which the cross-sectional area is increased along the circumferential direction.

[0047] Accordingly, the slits 41 configuring the con-

necting part 40A may be formed only within a range from the tongue 28 to within 30° of the upstream side based on the tongue 28.

**[0048]** In addition, the slits 41 configuring the connecting part 40A may be formed only in an area from within 30° of the upstream side to within 30° of the downstream side based on the tongue 28 in which the pressure distribution exists.

#### 0 [Second Embodiment]

**[0049]** Next, a second embodiment of the present invention will be described. In the second embodiment described below, in the drawings, the same reference numerals are assigned to the configurations common to the first embodiment, descriptions thereof are omitted, and differences between the first embodiment and the second embodiment are mainly described.

[0050] As shown in Fig. 4, in the present embodiment, the connecting part 40B is formed of through holes 42 instead of slits 41, and the connecting part 40B including the through holes 42 is formed so as to be parallel with the outer peripheral side end part 33b of the diffuser vane 33 and to be inclined approximately at the angle in the radial direction of the annular disk 32, from the opening end 40a of the backface 32d side of the annular disk 32 toward the opening end 40b of the side wall surface 32c side

[0051] Accordingly, the high-pressure compressed fluid flowing into the diffuser flow path 35 from the opening end 40b through the connecting part 40B can suppress turbulence in the flow between the diffuser vanes 33 and 33 adjacent in the circumferential direction. Therefore, it is possible to more certainly prevent occurrence of the surging in the diffuser part 30, and it is possible to further increase the operational range of the centrifugal compressor 10.

**[0052]** Also in this case, the connecting part 40B may be formed in only the range up to within 30° of the upstream side with respect to the tongue 28.

**[0053]** Moreover, the present invention is not limited to the above-described embodiments, and may be appropriately modified within a range which does not depart from the gist of the present invention.

**[0054]** For example, the cross-sectional shapes, sizes, dispositions, or the like of the connecting parts 40A and 40B are not limited.

**[0055]** In addition, a plurality of rows (a plurality of plies) of the connecting parts 40A and 40B may be disposed on the inner peripheral side and the outer peripheral side. **[0056]** Moreover, the diffuser vanes 33 may be removed, and the casing 20 and the holding part 24 may be an integral structure.

Reference Signs List

[0057]

45

10

15

20

25

30

35

40

50

9 10: centrifugal compressor 11: rotary shaft 12: impeller 12a: outer peripheral part 13: hub 13a: end part 13b: end part 13c: curved surface 14: blade (centrifugal blade) 14A: inner peripheral blade 14B: outer peripheral blade 20: casing 20: one end 21: suction flow path 22: volute part 22a: minimum area part 22b: maximum area part 23: discharge pipe 24: holding part 24a: outer peripheral side end part 28: tongue 29: suction port 30: diffuser part 31: annular disk part 32: annular disk 32a: inner peripheral side end part 32b: outer peripheral side end part 32c: side wall surface 32d: backface 33: diffuser vane 33b: outer peripheral side end part 34: diffuser member 35: diffuser flow path 40A and 40B: connecting part 40a: opening end

Claims

41: slit

42: through hole

1. A centrifugal compressor comprising:

40b: opening end (opening part)

an impeller which includes a hub and a plurality of blades attached to the outer peripheral surface of the hub; and a casing which rotatably accommodates the impeller. wherein the casing includes:

a suction flow path through which a fluid sucked from the outside by rotation of the impeller is introduced to the impeller; a diffuser part which is annularly formed on an outer peripheral side of the impeller, and decelerates the flow of the fluid discharged to the outer peripheral side by the rotation

of the impeller:

a spiral volute part which is formed on an outer peripheral side of the diffuser part and in which a cross-sectional area is gradually increased along a circumferential direction; a discharge pipe which extends from a part having the largest cross-section area of the volute part toward the outer peripheral side;

a connecting part which is formed on a side wall surface of a diffuser flow path through which the fluid flows in the diffuser part, and causes the inner portion of the volute part and the inner portion of the diffuser flow path to communicate with each other, and wherein an opening part of the diffuser flow path side of the connecting part is formed on a downstream side of the diffuser flow path.

2. The centrifugal compressor according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of the connecting parts are formed at set intervals along the circumferential direction of the diffuser part.

3. The centrifugal compressor according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the connecting part is formed at least on an inner peripheral side of the part having the largest cross-section area of the volute part.

4. The centrifugal compressor according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein in the connecting part, at least an end part of the side wall surface side is formed so as to be inclined from the inner peripheral side of the diffuser part toward the outer peripheral side.

5. The centrifugal compressor according to any one of claims 1 to 4. wherein in the connecting part, at least the end part of the side wall surface side is formed so as to be parallel with an outer peripheral side end part of the

Amended claims under Art. 19.1 PCT

compressor wheel.

1. (amended) A centrifugal compressor comprising:

an impeller which includes a hub and a plurality of centrifugal blades attached to the outer peripheral surface of the hub; and a casing which rotatably accommodates the impeller, wherein the casing includes:

> a suction flow path through which a fluid sucked from the outside by rotation of the

30

35

40

45

50

55

impeller is introduced to the impeller; a diffuser part which is annularly formed on an outer peripheral side of the impeller, and decelerates the flow of the fluid discharged to the outer peripheral side by the rotation of the impeller;

a spiral volute part which is formed on an outer peripheral side of the diffuser part and in which a cross-sectional area is gradually increased along a circumferential direction; a discharge pipe which extends from a part having the largest cross-section area of the volute part toward the outer peripheral side; and

a connecting part which is formed on a side wall surface of a diffuser flow path through which the fluid flows in the diffuser part, and causes the inner portion of the volute part and the inner portion of the diffuser flow path to communicate with each other, and wherein an opening part of the diffuser flow path side of the connecting part is formed on a downstream side of the diffuser flow path, and is formed in only a region from within 30° of a upstream side of the diffuser part to within 30° of a downstream side thereof based on a tongue which is formed between a minimum area part of the volute part and the discharge pipe.

2. The centrifugal compressor according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of the connecting parts are formed at set intervals along the circumferential direction of the diffuser part.

**3.** The centrifugal compressor according to claim 1 or 2,

wherein the connecting part is formed at least on an inner peripheral side of the part having the largest cross-section area of the volute part.

**4.** The centrifugal compressor according to any one of claims 1 to 3,

wherein in the connecting part, at least an end part of the side wall surface side is formed so as to be inclined from the inner peripheral side of the diffuser part toward the outer peripheral side.

**5.** The centrifugal compressor according to any one of claims 1 to 4,

wherein in the connecting part, at least the end part of the side wall surface side is formed so as to be parallel with an outer peripheral side end part of the centrifugal blade.

**6.** added) The centrifugal compressor according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the opening part of the diffuser flow path

side of the connecting part is formed in only a region from the tongue to within 30° of the upstream side of the diffuser part based on the tongue.

7

FIG. 1

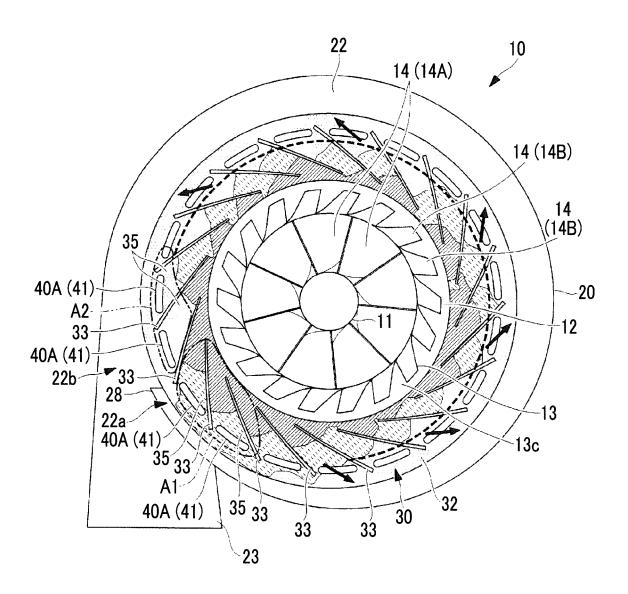


FIG. 2

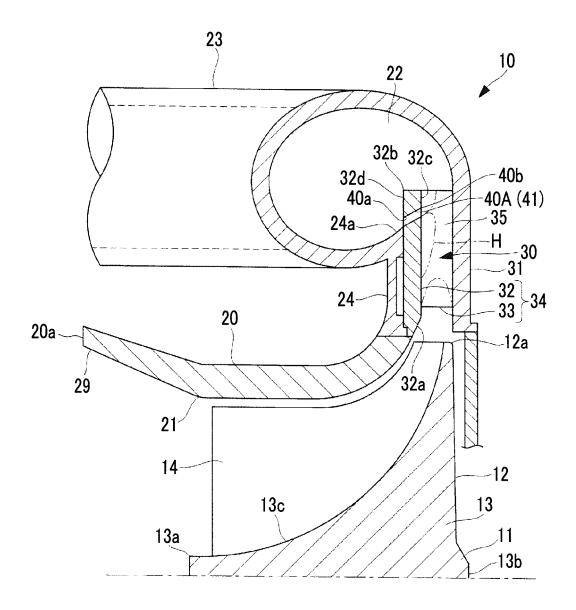


FIG. 3

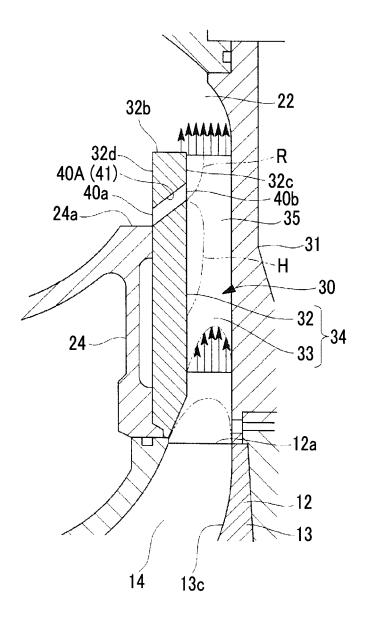
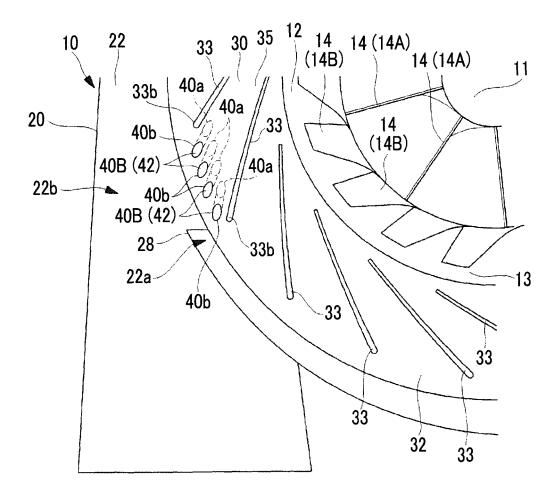


FIG. 4



#### EP 2 886 875 A1

#### INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT International application No. PCT/JP2013/067359 A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER 5 F04D29/42(2006.01)i, F04D29/44(2006.01)i, F04D29/66(2006.01)i According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC 10 Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) F04D29/42, F04D29/44, F04D29/66 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched 15 Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1922-1996 Jitsuyo Shinan Toroku Koho 1996-2013 1971-2013 Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho Toroku Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1994-2013 Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) 20 C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to claim No. Category\* Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages JP 2007-211717 A (Toyota Mo 23 August 2007 (23.08.2007), (Toyota Motor Corp.), 1-5 paragraphs [0005], [0012] to [0018]; fig. 1 to 25 (Family: none) Υ JP 5-263796 A (Daikin Industries, Ltd.), 1 - 512 October 1993 (12.10.1993), 30 paragraphs [0004], [0012]; fig. 1 (Family: none) JP 2003-13895 A (Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Υ 4-5 Ltd.), 15 January 2003 (15.01.2003), paragraph [0023]; fig. 1 35 (Family: none) Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex. 40 Special categories of cited documents: later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) 45 document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 50 06 August, 2013 (06.08.13) 30 July, 2013 (30.07.13) Name and mailing address of the ISA/ Authorized officer Japanese Patent Office Telephone No. Facsimile No 55 Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (July 2009)

# EP 2 886 875 A1

#### REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

This list of references cited by the applicant is for the reader's convenience only. It does not form part of the European patent document. Even though great care has been taken in compiling the references, errors or omissions cannot be excluded and the EPO disclaims all liability in this regard.

# Patent documents cited in the description

• JP 2005240680 A **[0013]** 

• JP 2010151034 A [0013]