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(71) Applicant: **Entreprenørfirmaet Østergaard A/S**
7100 Vejle (DK)

(72) Inventor: **HANSEN, Morten**
7100 Vejle (DK)

(74) Representative: **Dahlquist, Andreas Carl-Peter**
Budde Schou A/S
Hausergade 3
1128 Copenhagen K (DK)

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(54) A TUNNELING MACHINE AND A METHOD OF EXCAVATING A TUNNEL

(57) The present invention relates to a tunneling machine comprising an elongated frame for being inserted into a tunnel pipe segment. The frame defines a front end and a rear end. The tunnelling machine further comprises an actuator for moving the frame within the tunnel pipe segment, an excavating mechanism located at the front end of the frame for excavating particulate material from the tunnel pipe segment, and a buffer tank located be-

tween the front end and the rear end of the frame. A first conveyor receives the particulate material from the excavating mechanism at the front end of the frame and transports the particulate material to the buffer tank. A soil transporter receives the particulate material from the buffer tank at the rear end of the frame and transports the particulate material from the rear end of the frame to the outside of the tunnel pipe segment.

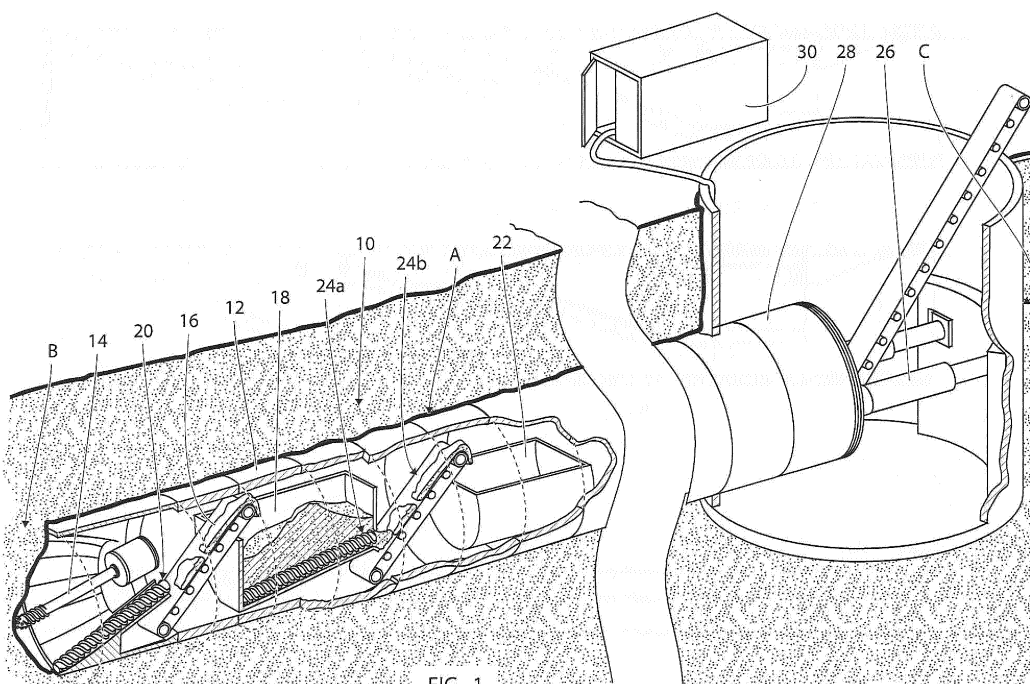


FIG. 1



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 16 17 4897

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Y	* figures 1,2 * * column 1, lines 5-7 * * column 1, lines 21-24 * * column 1, line 67 - column 2, line 7 * * column 3, line 45 - column 4, line 13 * * column 4, lines 26-31 * * claim 1 *		
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Y	* figures 1,1a,2,2a,3,4,14 * * column 1, lines 15-23 * * column 1, lines 45-55 * * column 3, lines 3-47 * * column 7, line 66 - column 8, line 43 *		
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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 13 December 2016	Examiner Pieper, Fabian
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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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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5 This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
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