

(19)



(11)

EP 3 786 367 A3

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(88) Date of publication A3:
09.06.2021 Bulletin 2021/23

(51) Int Cl.:
E02B 17/02 (2006.01)
E02B 17/00 (2006.01)
E02B 17/04 (2006.01)

(43) Date of publication A2:
03.03.2021 Bulletin 2021/09

(21) Application number: **20192722.5**

(22) Date of filing: **25.08.2020**

(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
KH MA MD TN**

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(30) Priority: **26.08.2019 GB 201912229**

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(54) STABILIZATION METHODS AND SYSTEM

(57) There is disclosed a method of stabilizing and/or lifting and/or separating a first structure (600) relative to a second structure, the method comprising the steps of: determining a volume of fluid required to inflate an inflatable element (630) disposed in a gap between the first and second structures to a first pressure level; based on

the volume of fluid required and characteristics of the inflatable element (630), determining a second pressure level required to provide a desired stabilizing and/or lifting and/or separating force to be applied to the structures by the inflatable element (630); and further inflating the inflatable element (630) to the second pressure level.

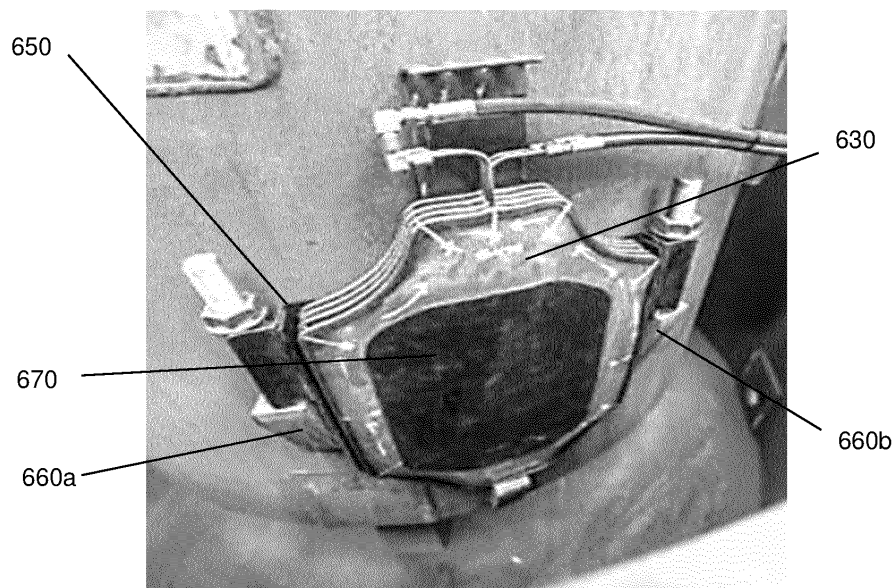


Figure 10a

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PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

under Rule 62a and/or 63 of the European Patent Convention.
This report shall be considered, for the purposes of
subsequent proceedings, as the European search report

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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	US 4 140 426 A (KNOX LLOYD C) 20 February 1979 (1979-02-20) * column 10, line 9 - column 13, line 7 * -----	1-5	INV. E02B17/02 E02B17/04
X	GB 2 548 965 A (W3G MARINE LTD [GB]; W3G MARINE LTD [GB]) 4 October 2017 (2017-10-04) * page 12, line 9 - page 20, line 20; claims 1, 14; figures 1-3, 4a-4e, 5a-5c, 6a, 6b, 7 * -----	11,12	ADD. E02B17/00
X	WO 2016/085339 A1 (IHC HOLLAND IE BV [NL]) 2 June 2016 (2016-06-02) * page 7, line 26 - page 8, line 4; figures 1-4 * -----	1-5,11, 12	
X,P	WO 2020/044025 A1 (PLANET 42 LTD [GB]) 5 March 2020 (2020-03-05) * the whole document * -----	11,12	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			E02B

INCOMPLETE SEARCH

The Search Division considers that the present application, or one or more of its claims, does/do not comply with the EPC so that only a partial search (R.62a, 63) has been carried out.

Claims searched completely :

Claims searched incompletely :

Claims not searched :

Reason for the limitation of the search:

see sheet C

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EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04E07)

Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
The Hague	29 April 2021	Zuurveld, Gerben
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		

INCOMPLETE SEARCH
SHEET C

Application Number

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Claim(s) completely searchable:
1-5, 11, 12

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Claim(s) not searched:
6-10, 13-19

Reason for the limitation of the search:

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1 Rule 62a(1) EPC

1.1 In their letter of 22-03-2021 sent in reply to the invitation pursuant to Rule 62a(1), the applicant "confirms that the search should be carried out on the claims of the first invention and that no subject-matter is thereby deleted."

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In view of this reply the search has been restricted to the first independent claim per category, i.e. method claim 1 and "system" claim 11, and their dependent claims 2 to 5, and 12 (note that in the European patent procedure, claims to a system are regarded as claims to an apparatus and not as claims to a method or process.)

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1.2 During further prosecution of the application the applicant should limit the application accordingly. Claims and relating embodiments which are not included in the search are to be excised from the claims, description and drawings if any.

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

29-04-2021

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