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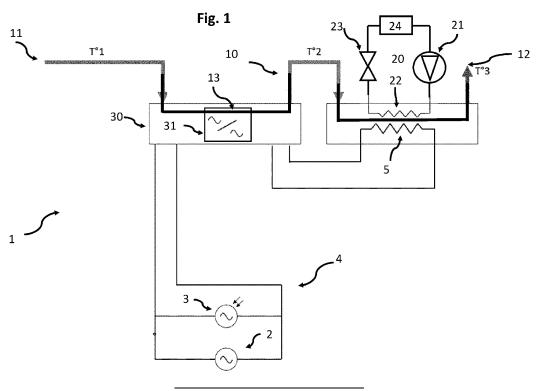
(54) HEAT PUMP SYSTEM AND METHOD OF OPERATING A HEAT PUMP SYSTEM

- (57) The invention relates to a heat pump system (1) for heating water, comprising:
- a heat pump (20), comprising a condenser (22) configured to transfer heat to the water,
- a water flow system (10) configured to receive water to be heated by the condenser (22) and discharge heated

water,

- an electronic control system (30) to control the heat pump system (1).

The water flow system (10) comprises a cooling section (13), which passes the electronic control system (30) to cool the electronic control system (30).



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Description

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001] The invention relates to a heat pump system for heating water and a method for operating such a heat pump system. The invention further relates to an electronic control system configured to perform such a method and the use of such a heat pump system and electronic control system.

BACKGROUND

[0002] Heat pump systems are often used to produce hot water using electricity, whether for heating purposes or for domestic hot water (tap water, shower), or both. Heat pump systems comprise multiple electronic boards or cards comprising electronic components and circuits for controlling the functioning of the heat pump system. [0003] Heat pump systems may comprise a supplemental heating system to assist the heat pump with heating water. The supplemental heating system may comprise resistive electrical elements for heating water in the event the heat pump cannot meet the customer's needs alone (peak consumption, climatic conditions outside the field of use, product failure, etc.) or in the event that more power is available than can be consumed by the heat pump.

[0004] Such resistive electrical elements (or electric resistances) generate heat when an electrical current passes through the resistive electrical element due to the resistive nature of the element (Joule heating). These elements are positioned in the flow of water or in a water storage tank containing the water to be heated. The supplemental heating system ensures sufficient warm water can be produced.

[0005] Any kind of electronics in the heat pump system that consumes energy will dissipate heat. With the increasing complexity of the electronics required to efficiently operate the heat pump system, the heat generated by the electronics also increases.

[0006] This is in particular be the case when a supplemental heating system is used. The power to be supplied to the resistive electrical elements of the supplemental heating system may not be constant, in particular in situations where the power is (partially) produced by renewable energy sources, such as solar or wind. Therefore, more complex electronics are needed to efficiently distribute the available power over the resistive electronic elements. These electronics used for this distribution consume significant power and thus generate significant heat.

[0007] The electronics may therefore require cooling, such as with a fan, to ensure the electronics do not overheat. However, such cooling costs extra energy, which reduces the efficiency of the heat pump system.

[0008] In order to ensure reliable and efficient functioning of the heat pump system, it is an object to provide a

heat pump system which cools the electronics in a reliable and energy efficient manner.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0009] The object is solved by a heat pump system for heating water, comprising:

- a heat pump, comprising a condenser configured to transfer heat to the water,
- a water flow system configured to receive water to be heated by the condenser and discharge heated water.
- an electronic control system to control the heat pump system,

wherein the water flow system comprises a cooling section, which passes the electronic control system to cool the electronic control system.

[0010] Actual cooling is provided when in use water is flowing through the cooling section. The cooling section is in thermal contact with the electronic control system.

[0011] The object is thus achieved by transmitting the energy lost by the electronic regulation to the water that is to be heated by providing means of heat transfer between the electronic elements and the water to be heated.

[0012] The water to be heated may be domestic water

or water used for heating, such as heating a building. **[0013]** The object is achieved by transmitting the energy lost by the electronic regulation to the water that is to be heated by allowing heat transfer between the elec-

tronic elements and the water to be heated.

[0014] Such a heat pump system improves the overall efficiency, as it provides cooling to the electronic control system and heating to the water to be heated. By letting the water to be heated pass the electronic control, the water may be (pre-) heated by the electronic control system, while cooling the electronic control system, while cooling the electronics is at least partially recovered and the electronics can operate optimally and at full capacity when required. Depending on the amount of heat generated by the electronics, the (pre-) heated water may even be of such a temperature that less heating is required by the condenser.

or outside a building. The heat pump system may be installed inside or outside a building. The heat pump system extracts energy from a source fluid, such as air (outside air, inside air or air extracted from ventilation of a building) or water (e.g. ground water or waste water.

[0016] The heat pump system may be powered by a variable renewable power source.

[0017] According to an embodiment, the heat pump comprises a heat exchanging circuit configured to circulate a heat transfer fluid through a compressor, the condenser, an expander and an evaporator subsequently and repeatedly to transfer heat from a source fluid to the water to be heated (water-base destination medium).

[0018] In use, the heat transfer fluid is compressed and

thereby heated by the compressor. From the compressor, the compressed and heated heat transfer fluid flows to the condenser to transfer heat to the water to be heated. Next, the cooled down heat transfer fluid flows to the expander, where the pressure is reduced, thereby further cooling the heat exchange fluid. The decompressed and cooled down heat exchange fluid then flows to the evaporator to be heated by the source fluid (air or water-base solution) before it is returned to the compressor.

[0019] According to an embodiment, the cooling section of the water flow system is positioned in the water flow system upstream of the condenser. This has the advantage that the water to be heated that reaches the condenser (condenser) is already heated to a certain extent, thereby reducing the heating duty required from the heat pump. This results in energy savings.

[0020] According to an embodiment the heat pump system comprises a supplemental heating system, comprising a plurality of resistive electronic elements, and wherein the electronic control system is configured to determine a supplemental power to be supplied to the supplemental heating system and distribute at least part of the supplemental power over the respective resistive electrical elements.

[0021] Supplemental power is to be supplied to the supplemental heating system in case the heat pump is unable to meet the required heating demand and/or in case the heat pump is not in operating condition, which may be the case if the temperature of the source fluid is not in a desired range (i.e. too cold or too warm).

[0022] The supplemental heating system may comprise a plurality of resistive electrical elements, which may be opened or closed in different combinations by the electronic control system to make best use of the available power. The plurality of resistive electrical elements may have the same or different powers.

[0023] Such resistive electrical elements (or electric resistances) generate heat when an electrical current passes through the resistive electrical element due to the resistive nature of the element (Joule heating).

[0024] According to an embodiment the resistive electrical elements are fixed resistive electrical elements, meaning they are suited for a fixed, non-variable, electrical power.

[0025] The electronic control system may comprise switches, e.g. voltage trigger switches, for instance TRI-ACS (bidirectional triode thyristor or bilateral triode thyristor), connected to the resistive electronic elements, which are controlled by the electronic control system to distribute at least part of the power over the respective fixed resistive electrical elements. Such switches are preferably used in combination with fixed resistive electrical elements.

[0026] So, according to an example, three fixed resistive electrical elements are provided of 500W, 1000W and 1500W respectively. These may be used in different combinations depending on the supplemental power to be supplied to the supplemental heating system. If

2000W is available, the first and third fixed resistive electrical elements may be provided with power by means of the switches. Depending on the supplemental power available, the power may be distributed over the three fixed resistive electrical elements and may be used over the range of 0 - 3000W in steps of 50 to 500W, in particular500W. This distribution requires effort from the electronic control system and thus generates heat. Also, preferably, the supplemental power to be supplied to the supplemental heating system is monitored on a continuous basis, as it may vary over time, in particular when renewable energy sources are used.

[0027] However, as power can only be used in steps of 50 to 500W, in particular 500W, this means that often some residual power remains unused. Taking the above described example, in case 2250W is available, the fixed resistive electrical element with a power of 500W and 1500W may be used, which in combination use 2000W, but this still leaves 250W unused.

[0028] According to an embodiment the supplemental heating system comprises one or more fixed resistive electronic elements and a variable resistive electrical element, wherein the electronic control system comprises a convertor associated with the variable resistive electrical element.

wherein the electronic control system is configured to distribute at least part of the supplemental power over the fixed resistive electrical elements and control the converter to provide a modulated residual power to the variable resistive electrical element.

[0029] The provided heat pump system provided according to this embodiment is in particular advantageous, as the convertor generates significant heat. Preferably, the cooling section passes the convertor.

[0030] The input power of the variable resistive electrical element is modulated by the convertor, preferably being an AC/AC convertor. The convertor converts a voltage to a lower voltage. This may be referred to as power modulation. The convertor may also be referred to as a power modulator or power convertor.

[0031] The convertor is associated with the variable resistive electrical element which means that the convertor is connected to the variable resistive electrical element such that it can provide modulated power to the variable resistive electrical element.

[0032] The provided heat pump system applies a logic control that manages and uses the power for the supplemental heating system in an optimal manner. Within the logic of control, power is directed to the one or more fixed resistive electrical elements based on threshold values defined by the fixed power of the respective fixed resistive electrical elements. In most situations, this means that a substantial portion of the available power is consumed in the most efficient manner, i.e. by means of fixed resistive electrical elements. Only the remainder of the power, i.e. the power that is not directed to the fixed resistive electrical elements is directed to the slightly less efficient variable resistive electrical element, instead of being

wasted.

[0033] The residual power is thus equal to the power minus the power provided to the fixed resistive electrical elements. The supplemental power may be zero. Also, the residual power may occasionally be zero.

[0034] Again referring to the above described example, in case 2250W is available, the first and third fixed resistive electrical elements with a respective power of 500W and 1500W may be used, which in combination use 2000W, and the residual power of 250W may be provided to the variable resistive electrical element by the convertor.

[0035] According to an embodiment, the electronic control system comprises one or more electronic boards or cards on which electronic components and circuits are positioned.

[0036] In particular in situations where a supplemental heating system is provided to support the heat pump, electronic boards or cards may be provided dedicated to the supplemental heating system, which may be located on a different position then the main electronic boards or cards dedicated to the heat pump.

[0037] According to an embodiment, the cooling section of the water flow system which passes the electronic control system may pass electronic boards or cards dedicated to the supplemental heating system. Preferably, the cooling section of the water flow system passes the convertor to cool the convertor.

[0038] According to an embodiment the cooling section comprises one or more cooling conduits which pass the electronic control system.

[0039] The cooling conduits may be a plurality of parallel conduits. This increases the heat transfer between the electronic control system and the cooling section.

[0040] The cooling conduits may be a plurality of channels having a typical diameter in the range of 1 - 10 mm. This further increases the heat transfer between the electronic control system and the cooling section.

[0041] The cooling conduits may have a circular or angular cross-section.

[0042] According to an embodiment the heat pump system comprises one or more thermal conducting elements positioned between the electronic control system and the cooling section of the water flow system.

[0043] This provides for efficient transfer of heat and ensures good cooling of the electronic control system and (pre-)heating of the water to be heated.

[0044] The term thermal conducting element is used to refer to elements which are designed to conduct heat from the electronic control system and the cooling section of the water flow system. It refers in particular to elements which comprise or are made of a material with a high thermal conductivity. A material is considered to have a high thermal conductivity if the thermal conductivity is higher than the thermal conductivity of the surrounding materials and environment, such as for instance the material of the electronic control system or the ambient air of the installation site. Examples of suitable materials are

steel, copper, aluminium or thermal paste. The thermal conducting elements may be solid or pasty. The thermal conductivity of the thermal conducting element may be at least 0,5 W/m•K.

[0045] For instance, thermal paste may be applied having a thermal conductivity of 0,7W/m•K. Copper may be used having a thermal conductivity of approximately 400W/m•K. To compare, the thermal conductivity of the air at atmospheric pressure is about 0,026 W/m•K.

[0046] Preferably, the thermal conducting elements are in physical contact with both the electronic control system and the cooling section of the water flow system.

[0047] There may be provided a plurality of thermal conducting elements, which may be made of different materials.

[0048] According to an embodiment, the thermal conducting elements are provided as a conductive film or as a paste.

[0049] The thermal conducting elements may be formed by a conductive film provided between the electronic control system and the cooling section of the water flow system. Alternatively, the thermal conducting elements may be formed by a thermal paste provided between the electronic control system and the cooling section of the water flow system.

[0050] Furthermore, the thermal conducting elements may be in the form of a container comprising a liquid having a suitable thermal conductivity. The liquid may be water.

[0051] According to an embodiment the cooling section is part of a by-pass conduit, which by-pass conduit is configured to flow part of the water to be heated past the electronic control system.

[0052] The water flow system may comprise an inlet to receive water to be heated and an outlet to discharge heated water.

[0053] The main conduit may fluidly connect an inlet of the water flow system to the condenser. The by-pass conduit may with an inlet be fluidly connected to the main water conduit of the water flow system to receive water for cooling the electronic control system and with an outlet be fluidly connected to the main water conduit of the heat pump system to discharge water that has been used for cooling the electronic control system.

5 [0054] The inlet is positioned upstream of the outlet with respect to the water flow direction in the main water conduit. Preferably, both the inlet and the outlet are positioned upstream of the condenser.

[0055] Preferably, there is provided a flow control element, e.g. a valve, which is configured to regulate the amount of water flowing through the by-pass conduit to match the cooling duty provided to the electronic control system to the cooling requirement. There may be provided means to regulate the amount of water flowing through the by-pass conduit based on the temperature of the electronic control system or an associated parameter. In particular, the flow may be regulated by an expansion bulb containing a fluid that expands as a function of the tem-

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perature of the electronic system. Alternatively, there may be provided a thermometer to measure the temperature of the electronic control system to determine the cooling requirement and control the flow control element. [0056] According to an embodiment the heat pump system is powered by a renewable electrical energy source and/or by a variable electrical energy source. As such energy source by nature vary in the amount of power supplied, more sophisticated control systems are required, which thus generate more heat and require better cooling.

[0057] According to a further aspect there is provided an electronic control system configured to be cooled using water to be heated by the heat pump.

[0058] Preferably, the electronic control system comprises one or more cooling conduits, configured to be connected to and be part of the water flow system.

[0059] Preferably, the electronic control system comprises one or more thermal conducting elements positioned between the electronic boards and cards of the electronic control system and the one or more cooling conduits.

[0060] According to a further aspect there is provided a method for operating a heat pump system according to the above, the method comprising

- controlling operating parameters of the heat pump system,
- controlling the flow of water through the cooling section to provide cooling to the electronic control system.

[0061] The flow of water through the cooling section may be controlled to meet a cooling duty required to keep the temperature of the electronic control system below a predetermined threshold temperature. The flow of water may for instance be controlled by determining an actual or predicted temperature of the electronic control system (e.g. by measuring or using prediction software), a current temperature and adjust the flow of water through the cooling section based on a difference between the actual or predicted temperature and the current temperature. In addition, the temperature of the water flowing into the cooling section may also be taken into account.

[0062] The operating parameters of the heat pump system may comprise the power to be provided to the heat pump and optionally the supplemental power to be provided to the supplemental heating system. In particular when the heat pump system is powered by a renewable electrical energy source and/or by a variable electrical energy source more sophisticated control is required, which generates more heat and thus requires cooling.

[0063] According to an embodiment the method comprises

- obtaining a temperature of the water discharged by the cooling section, and
- adjusting the operating parameters of the heat pump

system based on the determined temperature.

[0064] The water discharged by the cooling section may have a relatively high temperature, which may influence the operating parameters of the heat pump system, as less heating is required by the heat pump system.

[0065] According to a further aspect there is provided a method of installing thermal conducting elements between an electronic control system of a heat pump system and a cooling section of a water flow system of the heat pump system, wherein the cooling section passes the electronic control system to cool the electronic control system.

[0066] According to a further aspect there is provided the use of a heat pump system according to the above.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0067] In the figures, the subject-matter of the invention is schematically shown, wherein identical or similarly acting elements are usually provided with the same reference signs:

Figure 1 schematically shows a heat pump sys-

tem according to an embodiment,

Figures 2a-c schematically shows an electronic con-

trol system with a cooling part according to an embodiment.

DESCRIPTION

[0068] Fig. 1 schematically shows an embodiment of a heat pump system 1 for heating water. The heat pump system 1 comprises a water flow system 10, having an inlet 11 to receive water to be heated and an outlet to discharge heated water 12.

[0069] Further depicted is a heat pump 20. The heat pump comprises a compressor 21, a condenser 22, an expander 23 and an evaporator 24 forming a cycle through which a heat transfer fluid can be cycled. The heat transfer fluid transfers heat to the water to be heated by means of the condenser 22. The condenser 22 is thus in thermal contact with part of the water flow system 10. [0070] Fig. 1 further depicts an electronic control system 30. The electronic control system 30 may comprise a plurality of electronic circuits and elements. As an example a convertor 31 is shown.

[0071] According to the example shown, the heat pump system comprises a supplemental heating system 4 having one or more fixed resistive electronic elements (not shown) and one variable resistive electrical element 5. The electronic control system 30 is configured to distribute at least part of the supplemental power over the fixed resistive electrical elements and control the converter 31 to provide a modulated residual power to the variable resistive electrical element 5.

[0072] As schematically depicted in Fig. 1, part of the water flow system referred to as the cooling section 13

is in thermal contact with the electronic control system 30 and in particular with the convertor 31.

[0073] The electronic control system 30 is depicted as a single unit but may in fact be formed by more than one different units and may be provided on a plurality of electronic boards or cards.

[0074] The cooling section 13 is depicted schematically but may be formed by a plurality of cooling conduits passing the electronic control system.

[0075] Further shown is a grid power source 2 and a renewable power source 3, e.g. solar panels, power the heat pump system 1, in particular the electronic control system 30 and the compressor 21 of the heat pump (connection not shown).

[0076] When the renewable power source 3 produces more energy than is needed to meet power requirements of the heat pump, the additional energy is used to heat the water by means of resistive electrical elements, including the variable resistive electrical element according to the embodiment shown in Fig. 1.

[0077] To adjust the heating power of the supplemental heating system to the available production, the electronic control system is implemented to optimize the use of the overproduction of electricity. As the electronic control system 30 comprises elements that do not have a 100% efficiency, heat is generated. To re-use this waste heat, it is transmitted to the water in the cooling section 13.

[0078] To optimize heat transfer to the water to be heated, thermal conducting elements 32 may be provided. This is shown in more detail in Fig.'s 2a-c.

[0079] Fig. 2a shows a side view of part of an electronic control system 30, i.e. an electronic board or card and part of the cooling section 13 configured to transport water to be heated.

[0080] Fig. 2b shows a cross sectional view of Fig. 2a, as indicated by the dashed line and references IIB in Fig. 2a. Fig. 2b also shows the water inside the cooling section 13.

[0081] Fig. 2c shows a bottom view of Fig. 2a, as indicated by the arrow and reference IIC in Fig. 2a.

[0082] As can be seen in Fig.'s 2a - c, a thermal conducting element 32 is provided connecting the electronic control system 30, i.e. the electronic board or card, to the cooling section 13.

[0083] In use, water to be heated by the heat pump system 1 circulates in a network of pipes, tanks and various heat exchangers. Heat exchange between the electronic control system 30 and the water to be heated is preferably achieved by thermal conductivity between the electronic control system 30 and at least one of the elements of the water flow system 10. Thermal conductive materials are therefore installed between the electronic control system 30 and the cooling section 13, with the objective of having a surface and an efficiency of exchange allowing to transmit thermal energy lost by the electronic control system 30 to the water. Different components such as a thermally conductive film, thermally conductive paste or thermally conductive materials (cop-

per, aluminium etc...) can be used.

[0084] The embodiment described make it possible to re-use the energy lost during the electronic regulation. This significantly improves the overall efficiency of the heating solution.

[0085] For a certain heat pump system, the electronic control system is known and so is the power consumption and associated heat loss. This allows the heat pump system and the cooling part to be optimally dimensioned to exploit as much of the energy as possible in an efficient manner.

[0086] This allows to cool the electronic components without consuming more energy, i.e. without the need for additional fans or cooling circuits around the electrical components, which would add to the energy consumption. According to the embodiments, the energy losses of the electronic control system are exploited without consuming additional energy.

[0087] Hereby the global performance of the heat pump system can be increased, as the water to be heated is heated by cooling the electronic control system.

[0088] If the electronic control system does not produce significant heat, for instance when the supplemental heating system, comprising a plurality of resistive electronic elements, does not work, there is no loss to compensate and therefore no counter-performance. The system always works only in the desired direction.

[0089] Finally, the use of renewable energies as an energy source is made more efficient and interesting.

[0090] The invention is not limited to the embodiments shown in the drawings and described hereinbefore, which may be varied in different manners within the scope of the claims and their technical equivalents.

5 Reference Signs

[0091]

- Heat pump system
- 40 2. Grid power source
 - Renewable power source
 - 4. Supplemental heating system
 - 5. Variable resistive electric element
 - 10. Water flow system
- 45 11. Inlet
 - 12. Outlet
 - 13. Cooling section
 - 20. Heat pump
 - 21. Compressor
 - 22. Condenser
 - 23. Expander
 - 24. Evaporator
 - 30. Electronic control system
 - 31. Convertor
 - 5 32. Thermal conducting element

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Claims

- 1. Heat pump system (1) for heating water, comprising:
 - a heat pump (20), comprising a condenser (22) configured to transfer heat to the water,
 - a water flow system (10) configured to receive water to be heated by the condenser (22) and discharge heated water,
 - an electronic control system (30) to control the heat pump system (1),

wherein the water flow system (10) comprises a cooling section (13), which passes the electronic control system (30) to cool the electronic control system (30).

- 2. Heat pump system (1) according to claim 1, wherein the heat pump (20) comprises a heat exchanging circuit configured to circulate a heat transfer fluid through a compressor (21), the condenser (22), an expander (23) and an evaporator (24) subsequently and repeatedly to transfer heat from a source fluid to the water to be heated.
- 3. Heat pump system (1) according to any one of the claims 1 2, wherein the cooling section (13) of the water flow system (10) is positioned in the water flow system (10) upstream of the condenser (22).
- 4. Heat pump system (1) according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the heat pump system (1) comprises a supplemental heating system (4), comprising a plurality of resistive electronic elements, and wherein the electronic control system (30) is configured to determine a supplemental power to be supplied to the supplemental heating system (4) and distribute at least part of the supplemental power over the respective resistive electrical elements.
- 5. Heat pump system according to claim 4, wherein the supplemental heating system (4) comprises one or more fixed resistive electronic elements and a variable resistive electrical element (5), wherein the electronic control system comprises a convertor (31) associated with the variable resistive electrical element (5),

wherein the electronic control system (30) is configured to distribute at least part of the supplemental power over the fixed resistive electrical elements and control the converter (31) to provide a modulated residual power to the variable resistive electrical element (5).

6. Heat pump system (1) according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the electronic control system (30) comprises one or more electronic boards or cards on which electronic components and circuits

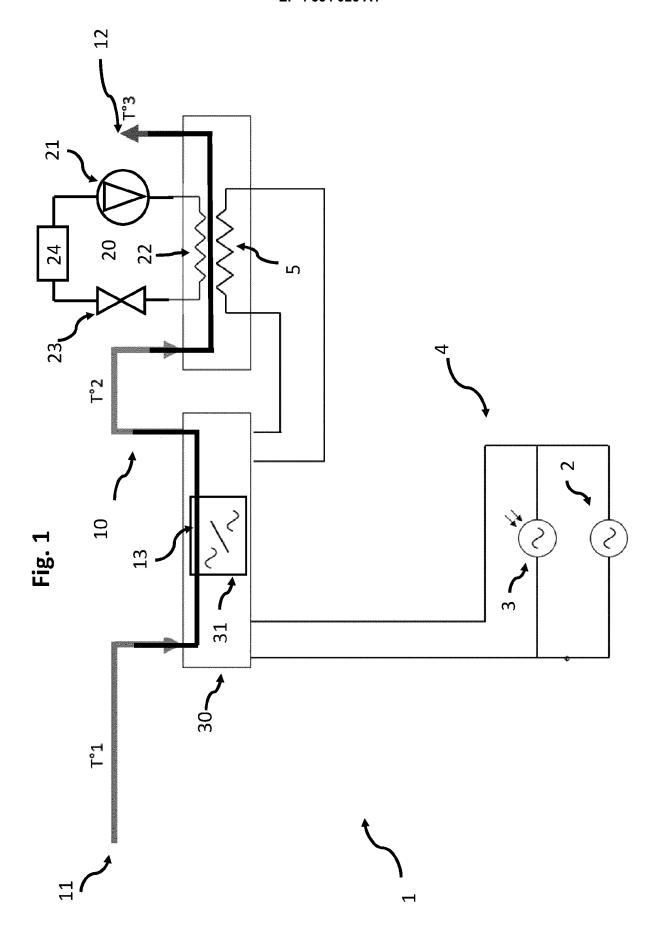
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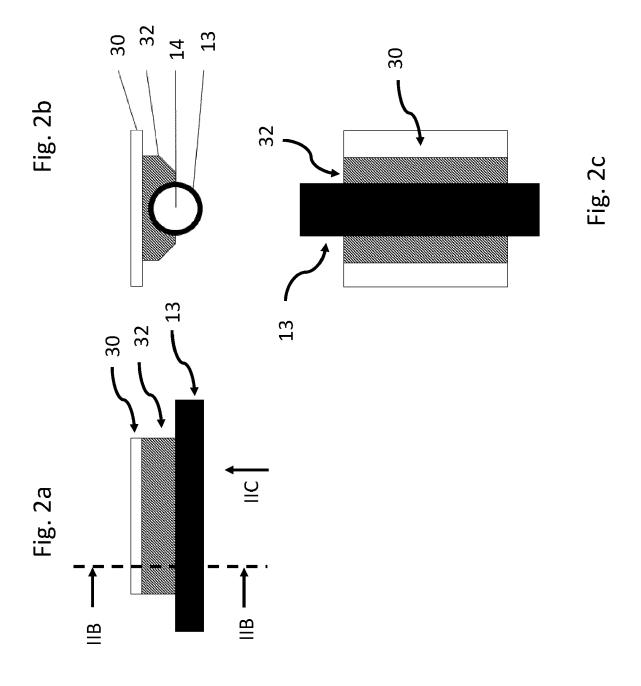
- 7. Heat pump system (1) according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the cooling section (13) comprises one or more cooling conduits which pass the electronic control system (30).
- 8. Heat pump system (1) according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the heat pump system (1) comprises one or more thermal conducting elements (32) positioned between the electronic control system (30) and the cooling section (13) of the water flow system (10).
- **9.** Heat pump system (1) according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the thermal conducting elements (32) are provided as a conductive film or as a paste.
- 10. Heat pump system (1) according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the cooling section (13) is part of a by-pass conduit, which by-pass conduit is configured to flow part of the water to be heated past the electronic control system (30).
 - **11.** Heat pump system (1) according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the heat pump system (1) is powered by a renewable electrical energy source and/or by a variable electrical energy source.
- **12.** Electronic control system (30) configured to be cooled using water to be heated by the heat pump (20).
- 13. Method for operating a heat pump system (1) according to any one of the claims 1 11, the method comprising
 - controlling operating parameters of the heat pump system (1),
 - controlling the flow of water through the cooling section (13) to provide cooling to the electronic control system (30).
- 45 14. Method according to claim 11, wherein the method comprises
 - obtaining a temperature of the water discharged by the cooling section (13), and
 - adjusting the operating parameters of the heat pump system (2) based on the determined temperature.
 - **15.** Method of installing thermal conducting elements (32) between an electronic control system (30) of a heat pump system (1) and a cooling section (13) of a water flow system (10) of the heat pump system (1), wherein the cooling section (13) passes the elec-

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tronic control system (30) to cool the electronic control system (30).





DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 22 20 0956

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- Y: particularly relevant if combined document of the same category A: technological background O: non-written disclosure P: intermediate document

- L : document cited in the application
- & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document

Category	Citation of document with indicat of relevant passages	ion, where appropriate,	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
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				TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
				F24D
	The present search report has been	drawn up for all claims		
Place of search		Date of completion of the search		Examiner
	Munich	13 March 2023	Rie	sen, Jörg
X : part Y : part docu A : tech O : non	ATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS icularly relevant if taken alone icularly relevant if combined with another ument of the same category inological background -written disclosure rmediate document	T: theory or principle E: earlier patent doc after the filing dat D: document cited in L: document cited for services and the services and the services and the services are services are services and the services are services are services are services and the services are services are services are services and the services are services and the services are servic	cument, but publise en the application or other reasons	shed on, or

EP 4 354 026 A1

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