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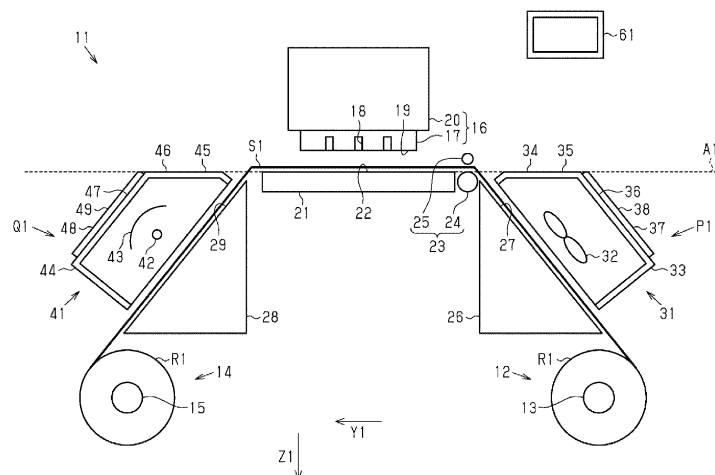
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(54) **PRINTING APPARATUS**

(57) A printing apparatus (11) includes a printing unit (16) configured to perform printing by ejecting liquid to a medium (S1) conveyed, a supporting part (21) facing the printing unit (16), and including a supporting surface (22) configured to support the medium (S1), a downstream supporting part (28) located downstream of the supporting part (21) in a medium conveyance direction, and including a downstream supporting surface (29) obliquely extending with respect to the supporting surface (22),

and a heating unit (41) facing the downstream supporting part (28). The heating unit (41) includes: a heating part (42) configured to heat the medium (S1), and a heating case (44) configured to house the heating part (42), the heating case (44) includes a heating top portion (45) located at an uppermost position in the heating case (44), and the heating top portion (45) is located at a position below the supporting surface (22).



**FIG. 1**



## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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EP 23 21 7623

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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
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A	* paragraphs [0002], [0027] - [0041]; figure 1 *	5-9	ADD. B41J3/407
X	US 2018/004143 A1 (SASAKI TSUNEYUKI [JP]) 4 January 2018 (2018-01-04)	1-4	
A	* paragraphs [0001], [0024] - [0037]; figure 1 *	5-9	
A	US 2004/179077 A1 (SAMII MOHAMMAD M [US] ET AL) 16 September 2004 (2004-09-16) * paragraphs [0001], [0034] - [0038]; claims 1-34; figure 1 *	1-9	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			B41J
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search <b>The Hague</b>		Date of completion of the search <b>21 May 2024</b>	Examiner <b>Bacon, Alan</b>
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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EP 23 21 7623

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**CLAIMS INCURRING FEES**

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing claims for which payment was due.

☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):

☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due.

**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION**

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

☒ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.

☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.

☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:

☐ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:

☐ The present supplementary European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims (Rule 164 (1) EPC).



# **LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION** **SHEET B**

Application Number

EP 23 21 7623

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

## **1. claims: 1-8**

A printing apparatus comprising (a) a printing unit configured to perform printing by ejecting liquid to a medium conveyed, (b) a supporting part facing the printing unit, and including a supporting surface configured to support the medium, (c) a downstream supporting part located downstream of the supporting part in a medium conveyance direction, and including a downstream supporting surface obliquely extending with respect to the supporting surface, and (d) a heating unit facing the downstream supporting part, wherein the heating unit includes a heating part configured to heat the medium and a heating case configured to house the heating part, said heating case including a heating top portion located at the uppermost position in the heating case, and the heating top portion is located at a position below the supporting surface.

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## **2. claim: 9**

A printing apparatus comprising (a) a printing unit configured to perform printing by ejecting liquid to a medium conveyed, (b) a supporting part facing the printing unit and including a supporting surface configured to support the medium, (c) an upstream supporting part located upstream of the supporting part in the medium conveyance direction and including an upstream supporting surface obliquely extending with respect to the supporting surface, and (d) an air blowing unit facing the upstream supporting part, wherein the air blowing unit includes an air blowing part configured to blow air toward the upstream supporting surface and an air blowing case configured to house the air blowing part, said air blowing case including an air blowing top portion located at an uppermost position in the air blowing case, wherein the air blowing top portion is located at a position below the supporting surface.

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

EP 23 21 7623

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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  
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