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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): THE UNI-VERSITY OF TENNESSEE RESEARCH CORPORATION [US/US]; Suite 403, 1534 White Avenue, Knoxville, TN

37996-1527 (US).

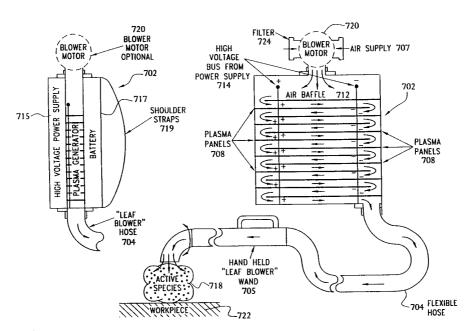
(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): ROTH, J., Reece [US/US]; 12359 Fox Den Drive, Knoxville, TN 37922-3755 (US).

(74) Agents: WEISER, Gerard, J. et al.; Weiser & Associates, P.C. Suite 500, 230 South 15th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102 (US).

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(54) Title: REMOTE EXPOSURE OF WORKPIECES USING A ONE ATMOSPHERE UNIFORM GLOW DISCHARGE PLASMA



### (57) Abstract

An OAUGD plasma is generated using, for example, paraelectric or peristaltic electohydrodynamic (EHD) techniques, in the plasma generator of a remote-exposure reactor, wherein one or more active species, especially oxidizing species in the plasma are convected away from the plasma-generation region and directed towards a workpiece that is located outside of the plasma-generation region (e.g., within an optional remote-exposure chamber configured to the plasma generator). In this way, the workpiece can be subjected to the one or more active species without directly being subjected to either the plasma or to the electric fields used to generate the plasma. The plasma generator may have a set of flat panels arranged within an air baffle to convect the active species in a serpentine manner through the plasma generator. The remote-exposure reactor can also be configured as a portable backpack unit with tubing that is used to direct the active species onto the workpiece, rather than placing the workpiece within a remote-exposure chamber of the reactor.

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#### INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No FC (/US 99/00480

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 6 H05H1/24 H013 H01J37/32 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC **B. FIELDS SEARCHED** Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) H05H H01J Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. 1,7 χ PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 015, no. 500 (C-0895), 18 December 1991 (1991-12-18) & JP 03 219082 A (SUMITOMO PRECISION PROD CO LTD; OTHERS: 02), 26 September 1991 (1991-09-26) 11,19, Υ abstract 25,28,32 Υ US 4 381 965 A (MAHER JR JOSEPH A ET AL) 11 3 May 1983 (1983-05-03) column 2, line 43 - line 60 column 5, line 67 - column 6, line 11 Α 12,13, 18,29,30 -/-χ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents "T" 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 "A" document defining the general state of the lart which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention filing date 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) "Y" 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 docu-"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "P" 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 2 September 1999 15/09/1999 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31–70) 340–2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl. Fax: (+31–70) 340–3016 Capostagno, E

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