US 20240044217A1

(19) **United States**

(12) **Patent Application Publication** (10) **Pub. No.: US 2024/0044217 A1**

McCabe et al. (43) **Pub. Date: Feb. 8, 2024**

(54) **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR HANDLING TOOLS AT A WELLSITE**

(71) Applicant: **Schlumberger Technology Corporation**, Sugar Land, TX (US)

(72) Inventors: **Jeffrey Conner McCabe**, Sugar Land, TX (US); **Rod William Shampine**, Sugar Land, TX (US)

(21) Appl. No.: **18/550,034**

(22) PCT Filed: **Feb. 16, 2022**

(86) PCT No.: **PCT/US2022/016544**

§ 371 (c)(1),
(2) Date: **Sep. 11, 2023**

Related U.S. Application Data

(60) Provisional application No. 63/160,139, filed on Mar. 12, 2021.

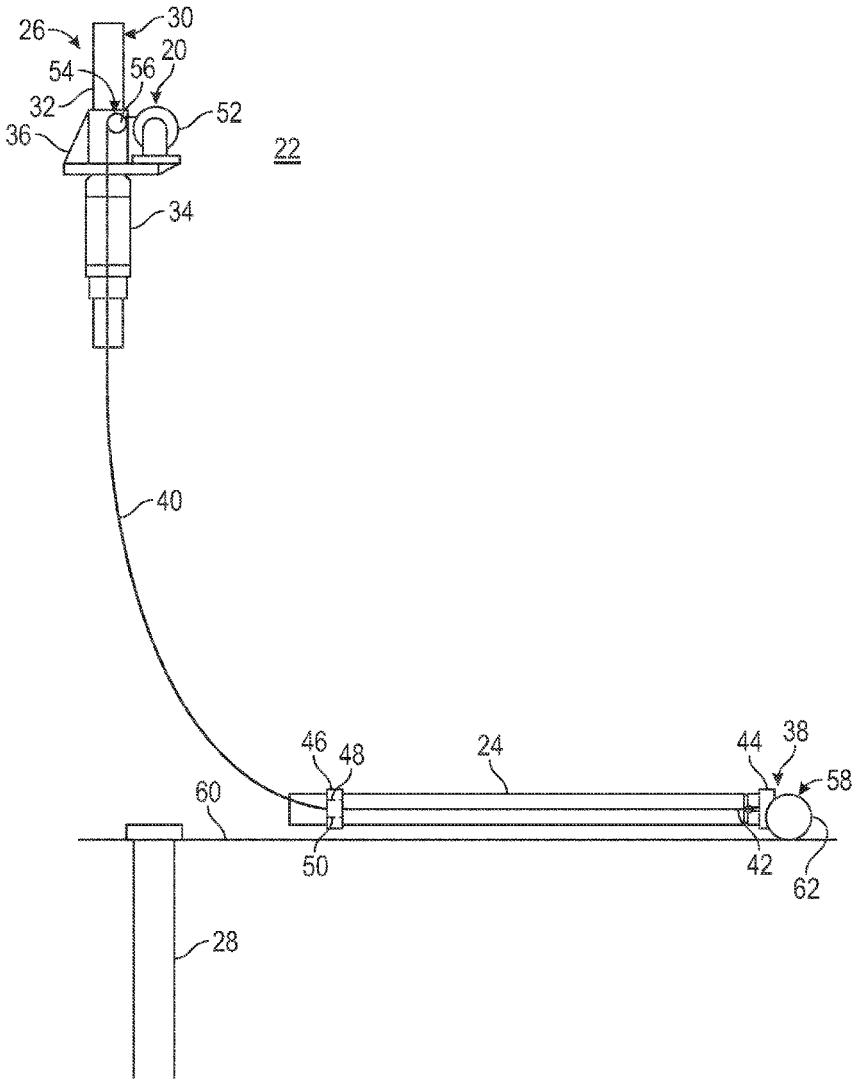
Publication Classification

(51) **Int. Cl.**
E21B 19/22 (2006.01)
E21B 19/24 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC ***E21B 19/22*** (2013.01); ***E21B 19/24*** (2013.01)

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A technique facilitates assembly of well equipment at a wellsite. To help lift certain types of well tools, a mounting frame may be releasably coupled to a well string, e.g. a coiled tubing string. A cable guide and a cable attachment member may be releasably coupled to a well tool which is to be moved into engagement with the well string. A cable may be routed from the cable attachment member, through the cable guide, to a cable mounting feature of the mounting frame, and to a winch. The winch is operable to draw in the cable so as to move the well tool into alignment with and up into engagement with a connector of the well string.



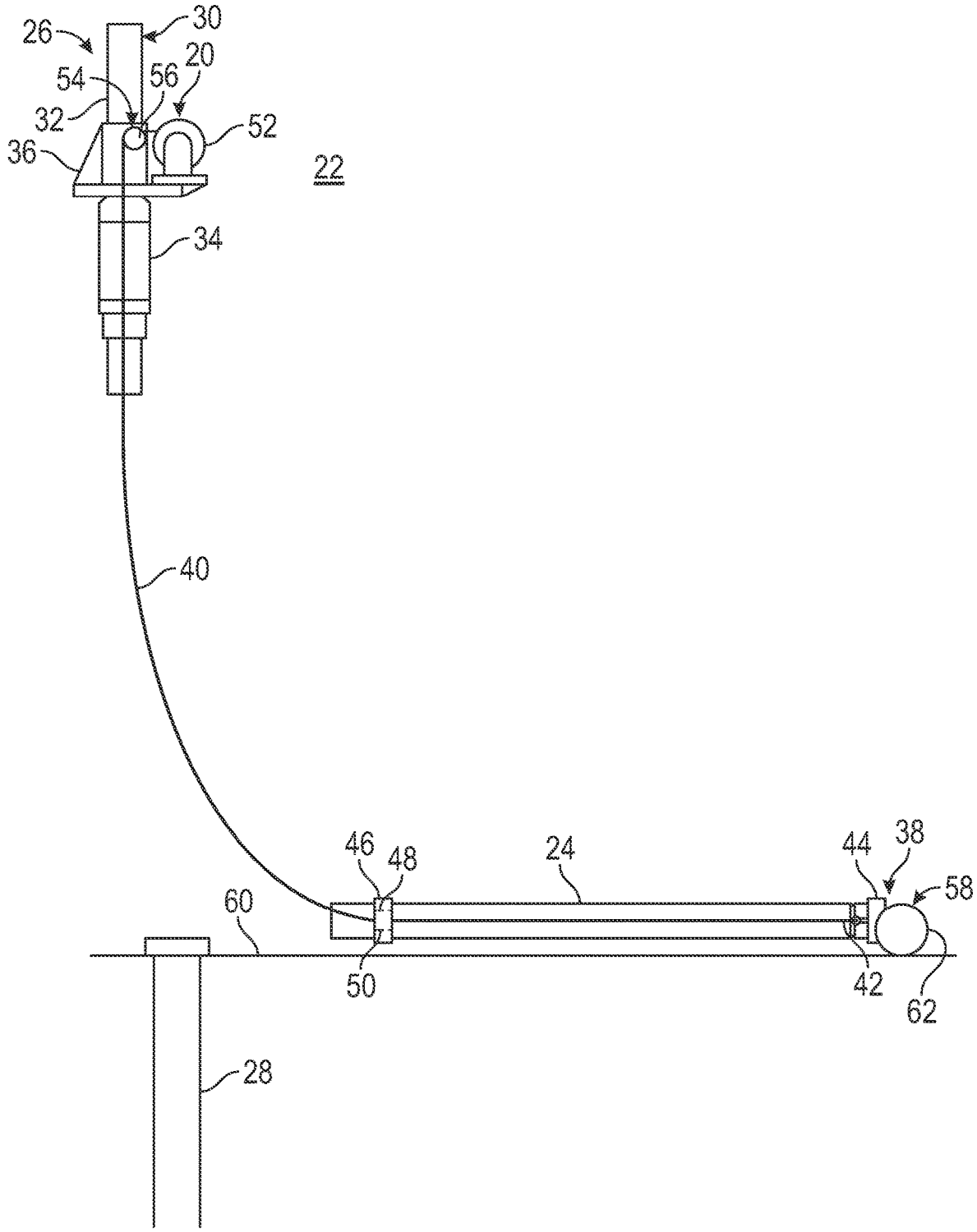


FIG. 1

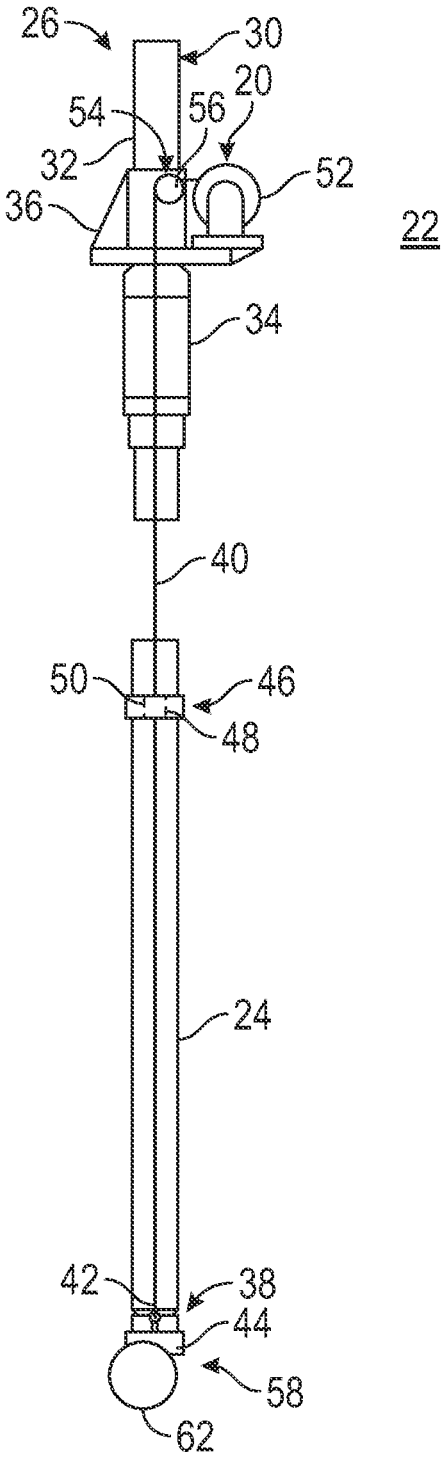


FIG. 2

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR HANDLING TOOLS AT A WELLSITE

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

[0001] The present document is based on and claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application Ser. No. 63/160,139, filed Mar. 12, 2021, which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

BACKGROUND

[0002] In many well applications, various well tools are assembled into a well string at the surface for deployment down into a wellbore. For example, well tools may be assembled into a bottom hole assembly and deployed downhole via coiled tubing. Generally, the individual well tools are lifted and assembled into the well string before being lowered down into the wellbore. However, some well tools may have substantial weight or may otherwise be difficult to handle. This creates complications in lifting such well tools into position for assembly into the well string.

SUMMARY

[0003] In general, a system and methodology facilitate assembly of well equipment at a wellsite. To help lift certain types of well tools, a mounting frame may be releasably coupled to a well string, e.g. a coiled tubing string. A cable guide and a cable attachment member may be releasably coupled to a well tool which is to be moved into engagement with the well string. A cable may be routed from the cable attachment member, through the cable guide, to a cable mounting feature of the mounting frame, and to a winch. The winch is operable to draw in the cable so as to move the well tool into alignment with and up into engagement with a connector of the well string.

[0004] However, many modifications are possible without materially departing from the teachings of this disclosure. Accordingly, such modifications are intended to be included within the scope of this disclosure as defined in the claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0005] Certain embodiments of the disclosure will hereafter be described with reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein like reference numerals denote like elements. It should be understood, however, that the accompanying figures illustrate the various implementations described herein and are not meant to limit the scope of various technologies described herein, and:

[0006] FIG. **1** is a schematic illustration of an example of a system for moving a well tool into position for engagement into a well string at a wellsite, according to an embodiment of the disclosure; and

[0007] FIG. **2** is a schematic illustration of the well tool suspended below a well string connector during assembly into the well string, according to an embodiment of the disclosure.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0008] In the following description, numerous details are set forth to provide an understanding of some embodiments of the present disclosure. However, it will be understood by those of ordinary skill in the art that the system and/or methodology may be practiced without these details and that numerous variations or modifications from the described embodiments may be possible.

[0009] The disclosure herein generally involves a system and methodology which facilitate assembly of well equipment at a wellsite. A variety of well tools may be heavy and/or awkward to lift into engagement with a well string, e.g. a coiled tubing string. To help lift this type of well tool into engagement with the well string prior to deploying the well tool downhole into a borehole, e.g. a wellbore, a mounting frame may be releasably coupled to the well string. Additionally, a cable guide and a cable attachment member may be releasably coupled to the well tool which is to be moved into engagement with the well string. In this example, a cable is routed from the cable attachment member, through the cable guide, to a cable mounting feature of the mounting frame, and to a winch. The winch is operable to draw in the cable so as to move the well tool into alignment with and up into engagement with a connector, e.g. a coil connector, of the well string.

[0010] Referring generally to FIG. **1**, an example of a well system **20** is illustrated as employed at a wellsite **22** to facilitate assembly of well equipment. In this example, the well equipment may comprise a well tool **24** which is to be lifted into engagement with a well string **26** at a surface location of wellsite **22**. It should be noted the well site **22** may be located onshore or offshore depending on the location of a corresponding borehole **28**, e.g. wellbore. In the specific example illustrated, well string **26** is in the form of a coiled tubing string **30** having, for example, coiled tubing **32** coupled with a coil connector **34**. However, the well system **20** may be utilized with a variety of other types of well strings **26**.

[0011] In the example illustrated, well system **20** comprises a mounting frame **36** releasably attachable to the well string **26**. For example, the mounting frame **36** may be constructed for releasable attachment to the coiled tubing string **30**. As illustrated, the mounting frame **36** may be constructed to rest on or otherwise be mounted to an upper end of the coil connector **34**. However, the mounting frame **36** may be constructed for releasable mounting to various other components or features of the well string **26**. In some embodiments, the mounting frame **36** may be constructed for clamping engagement with a corresponding ridge or groove formed on a component of the coiled tubing string **30** or other type of well string **26**.

[0012] The mounting frame **36** may be constructed with a plurality of frame sections, e.g. two frame sections, which may be positioned around the coiled tubing **32** and secured together via threaded fasteners or other suitable fasteners. In some embodiments, the frame sections of mounting frame **36** may be pivotably attached to one another for easy opening and closing about the coiled tubing **32** or other component or feature of well string **26**. Once the frame sections of mounting frame **36** are closed about the corresponding feature of well string **26**, the frame sections of mounting frame **36** may be secured together via suitable threaded fasteners, latches, or other appropriate fasteners. The mounting frame **36** may be sized to enable rotation of the mounting frame **36** about the well string **26**/coiled tubing **32** to facilitate rotational alignment of well tool **24** with the well string **26**, e.g. with coil connector **34**.

[0013] With additional reference to FIG. **1**, the well system **20** also may comprise a cable attachment member **38** to

which a winch cable **40** may be attached. For example, a distal end **42** of the winch cable **40** may be connected to the cable attachment member **38** via a hook or other suitable connector. Additionally, the cable attachment member **38** may be releasably coupled to the downhole well tool **24** by fasteners, latches, or other fastening mechanisms. The cable attachment member **38** may be in the form of a collar **44** having collar sections releasably connected or pivotably connected to each other to enable clamping of the collar about the outer surface of well tool **24**. In the embodiment illustrated, the cable attachment member **38** is releasably coupled to the well tool **24** at a lower or downhole end of the well tool **24** although the cable attachment member **38** may be mounted at other locations along the well tool **24**.

[0014] It should be noted the winch cable **40** may be constructed in various forms and from various materials. For example, the winch cable **40** may be made from metal materials, non-metal materials, or various composite materials. Additionally, the winch cable **40** may be constructed as a single-strand or a multi-strand cable of suitable sizes to lift many types of well tools **24** having various weights.

[0015] The well system **20** also may comprise a cable guide **46** which may be releasably coupled to the downhole well tool **24** by suitable fasteners, latches, or other fastening mechanisms. The cable guide **46** may be in the form of a cable guide collar **48** having collar sections releasably connected or pivotably connected to each other to enable clamping of the collar **48** about the outer surface of well tool **24**. In the embodiment illustrated, the cable guide **46** is releasably coupled to the well tool **24** at an upper or uphole end of the well tool **24** although the cable guide **46** may be mounted at other locations along the well tool **24**. By way of example, the cable guide **46** and the cable attachment member **38** may generally be mounted at opposite ends of the well tool **24**. In some embodiments, the cable guide **46** may have a suitable opening **50** through which the winch cable **40** is slidably received therethrough.

[0016] According to the embodiment illustrated, the well system **20** also comprises a winch **52** which is coupled to the winch cable **40**. The winch **52** may be selectively operated to wind up the winch cable **40** or to release, i.e. spool out, the winch cable **40**. As illustrated, the winch cable **40** is routed from the cable attachment member **38**, through the cable guide **46**, to a cable mounting feature **54** of mounting frame **36**, and to the winch **52**. In the example illustrated, the cable mounting feature **54** is in the form of a pulley **56**, e.g. a cable alignment pulley, over which the winch cable **40** moves during operation of winch **52**. The pulley **56** or other type of cable mounting feature **54** may be positioned to help align the well tool **24** with the coiled tubing string **30** (or other well string **26**) as the winch **52** is operated to draw the well tool **24** up into engagement with, for example, the coil connector **34** of coiled tubing string **30**.

[0017] By way of example, the winch **52** may be in the form of a worm drive winch which is electrically powered to selectively wind up or spool out the winch cable **40**. However, winch **52** may comprise other types of winches which are electrically powered, pneumatically powered, hydraulically powered, or otherwise powered. In some applications, the winch **52** may be hand powered via a suitable handcrank or other operator. Additionally, the winch **52** may be positioned at various wellsite locations. In the illustrated example, the winch **52** is mounted directly on the mounting frame **36**.

[0018] As further illustrated in FIG. **1**, the well system **20** comprises a transition member **58** releasably coupled to the downhole well tool **24**. The transition member **58** is constructed to facilitate transition of the well tool **24** across a surface **60** as the well tool **24** is moved toward engagement with the well string **26**, e.g. the coiled tubing string **30**, via the winch **52**. For example, the transition member **58** facilitates lateral movement of the well tool **24** as the well tool **24** is drawn from a lateral position along surface **60** (see FIG. **1**) to a generally vertical position beneath the well string **26**, e.g. beneath coil connector **34** of coiled tubing string **30** (see FIG. **2**). Surface **60** may be the surface of an offshore facility, an onshore facility, a ground surface, or another type of lateral surface on which the well tool **24** is initially positioned.

[0019] The transition member **58** may be constructed in a variety of forms depending on the parameters of a given well operation. By way of example, the transition member **58** may comprise a wheel **62** positioned to help the well tool **24** transition to the engagement position by rolling across surface **60** until well tool **24** is suspended. In some embodiments, the wheel **62** may be in the form of a plurality of wheels positioned side-by-side or at different locations along well tool **24**.

[0020] However, the transition member **58** also may comprise rollers, sliders, sacrificial components, or other types of components able to help transition the well tool **24** along surface **60** without damaging the well tool **24**. In the illustrated example, the transition member **58** is positioned proximate cable attachment member **38** at a lower or downhole end of the well tool **24**. However, the transition member **58** may be located at other positions along well tool **24** or at multiple positions along well tool **24**. The transition member **58** also can be integrally formed with cable attachment member **38** or constructed as an entirely separate component from cable attachment member **38**.

[0021] In an operational example, the mounting frame **36** is releasably coupled to the coiled tubing string **30** or other type of well string **26**. For example, the mounting frame **36** may be releasably coupled along the top of coil connector **34** in a manner which allows rotation of the mounting frame **36** about coiled tubing **32** to a desired rotational position. Additionally, the cable guide **46** and the cable attachment member **38** are releasably connected to the well tool **24**. In some embodiments, the transition member **58**, e.g. at least one wheel **62**, also is releasably mounted to the well tool **24**. In this operational example, the winch **52** is secured to the mounting frame **36**. The winch cable **40** is routed through opening **50** of cable guide **46** and secured to the cable attachment member **38**. Consequently, the cable **40** is effectively routed from the cable attachment member **38**, through the cable guide **46**, to the cable mounting feature **54**, and to the winch **52**. For example, the cable **40** may be routed over pulley **56** which facilitates movement of cable **40** and alignment of well tool **24** during operation of winch **52**.

[0022] Once winch cable **40** is appropriately routed between winch **52** and cable attachment member **38** as illustrated in FIG. **1**, the winch **52** may be operated to wind up winch cable **40**. As the cable **40** is drawn in via winch **52**, the well tool **24** is drawn laterally along surface **60**. This lateral movement of well tool **24** is facilitated via the transition member **58** to ensure the well tool **24** is protected against damage. The winch **52** is continually operated to move the well tool **24** into a generally vertical position

beneath well string **26**, as illustrated in FIG. **2**. In the specific example illustrated, the well tool **24** is transitioned to a vertical position beneath coil connector **34**. Continued operation of winch **52** draws the well tool **24** into engagement with coil connector **34** so that well tool **24** may be secured into the coiled tubing string **30**.

[0023] After securing the well tool **24** into the coiled tubing string **30** (or other well string **26**), the well system **20** may be removed. For example, the transition member **58**, cable attachment member **38**, and cable guide **46** may be removed from well tool **24**. Similarly, the mounting frame **36**, and thus winch **52** along with winch cable **40**, may be released and removed from the coiled tubing string **30**. The well tool **24** may then be lowered down into wellbore **28** by unspooling the coiled tubing **32** according to, for example, a conventional coiled tubing deployment operation.

[0024] Depending on the parameters of a given environment and/or well string deployment operation, the size, configuration, and location of various components of well system **20** may be adjusted. For example, the mounting frame **36** may have various configurations and mounting features to facilitate mounting to various components and at various locations along the well string **26**. Similarly, the cable attachment member **38** and cable guide **46** may have various releasable attachment mechanisms and may be positioned at various locations along well tool **24**. In some embodiments, the cable attachment member **38** and cable guide **46** may simply be clamped to the well tool **24** while in other applications they may be secured to corresponding attachment features positioned along well tool **24**.

[0025] Additionally, the winch **52** may comprise various types of winches powered via different energy sources. The winch **52** may be mounted directly to mounting frame **36** or it may be positioned at other suitable locations of wellsite **22**. The transition member **58** also may have various forms and configurations to facilitate use of the winch **52** in transitioning the well tool **24** from a generally lateral position along surface **60** to an engagement position beneath the well string **26**. The winch cable **40** also may be made from various materials and in various configurations to facilitate the lifting and/or alignment of well tool **24** during connection of the well tool **24** into the well string **26**.

[0026] Although a few embodiments of the disclosure have been described in detail above, those of ordinary skill in the art will readily appreciate that many modifications are possible without materially departing from the teachings of this disclosure. Accordingly, such modifications are intended to be included within the scope of this disclosure as defined in the claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A system for facilitating assembly of well equipment at a wellsite, comprising:
- a mounting frame releasably attachable to a coiled tubing string;
- a winch cable movably engaged with the mounting frame via a cable mounting feature;
- a winch coupled to the winch cable to selectively windup and release the winch cable;
- a cable guide releasably attachable to a well tool, the cable guide slidably receiving the winch cable therethrough; and
- a cable attachment member releasably attachable to the well tool, the cable attachment member also being connectable to a distal end of the winch cable.

2. The system as recited in claim **1**, wherein the cable mounting feature is positioned to help align the well tool with the coiled tubing string as the winch is operated to draw the well tool up into engagement with the coiled tubing string.

3. The system as recited in claim **1**, wherein the cable mounting feature comprises a pulley.

4. The system as recited in claim **1**, further comprising a transition member releasably coupleable to the well tool to facilitate transition of the well tool across a surface as the well tool is moved laterally toward a position of alignment with the coiled tubing string via the winch.

5. The system as recited in claim **4**, wherein the transition member comprises at least one wheel.

6. The system as recited in claim **1**, wherein the winch is mounted on the mounting frame.

7. The system as recited in claim **1**, wherein the mounting frame is releasably attachable to the coiled tubing string directly above a coil connector coupled to coiled tubing of the coiled tubing string.

8. The system as recited in claim **5**, wherein the at least one wheel and the cable attachment member are located proximate each other.

9. The system as recited in claim **1**, wherein the winch cable comprises a metal cable.

10. A method, comprising:
- releasably coupling a mounting frame to a well string;
- releasably connecting a cable guide and a cable attachment member to a well tool;
- routing a cable from the cable attachment member, through the cable guide, to a cable mounting feature of the mounting frame, and to a winch; and
- operating the winch to move the well tool into alignment with and up into engagement with a connector of the well string.

11. The method as recited in claim **10**, further comprising releasably mounting a transition member to the well tool to facilitate transition of the well tool from a lateral position to a vertical position beneath the connector.

12. The method as recited in claim **11**, wherein releasably mounting the transition member comprises releasably mounting at least one wheel to the well tool.

13. The method as recited in claim **11**, further comprising connecting the well tool to the connector; and releasing the transition member, the cable attachment member, the cable guide, and the mounting frame so as to facilitate movement of the well tool downhole into a wellbore.

14. The method as recited in claim **10**, further comprising mounting the winch to the mounting frame.

15. The method as recited in claim **10**, wherein releasably connecting comprises connecting the cable guide and the cable attachment member to generally opposite ends of the well tool.

16. The method as recited in claim **10**, wherein releasably coupling the mounting frame to the well string comprises coupling the mounting frame to a coiled tubing string.

17. A system for facilitating assembly of well equipment at a wellsite, comprising:
- a mounting frame releasably attachable to a well string;
- a winch cable movably engaged with the mounting frame via a cable mounting feature;
- a winch coupled to the winch cable to selectively windup and release the winch cable;

a cable attachment member releasably attachable to a well tool, the cable attachment member also being connectable to a distal end of the winch cable; and

a transition member releasably coupleable to the well tool to facilitate transition of the well tool across a surface as the well tool is moved laterally toward a position of alignment with the well string via the winch.

18. The system as recited in claim **17**, further comprising a cable guide releasably attachable to the well tool, the cable guide slidably receiving the winch cable therethrough.

19. The system as recited in claim **17**, wherein the cable attachment member and the transition member are combined to enable collective attachment and release with respect to the well tool.

20. The system as recited in claim **17**, wherein the well string comprises a coiled tubing string.

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