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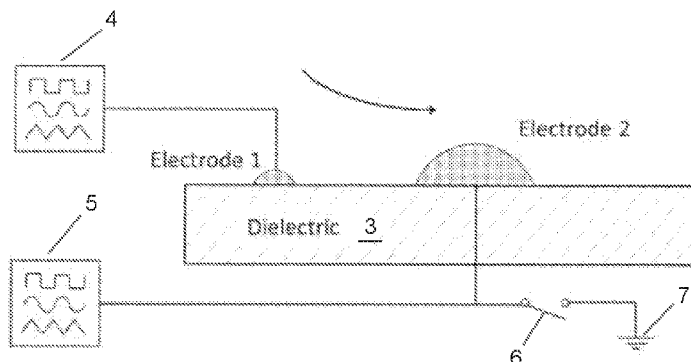


Fig. 1

(57) Abstract: Described herein are plasma generation devices and methods of use of the devices. The devices can be used for the cleaning of various surfaces and/or for inhibiting or preventing the accumulation of particulates, such as dust, or moisture on various surfaces. The devices can be used to remove dust and other particulate contaminants from solar panels and windows, or to avoid or minimize condensation on various surfaces. In an embodiment a plasma generation device is provided. The plasma generation device can comprise: a pair of electrodes (1,2) positioned in association with a surface of a dielectric substrate (3). The pair of electrodes (1,2) can comprise a first electrode (1) and a second electrode (2). The first electrode and second electrode can be of different sizes, one of the electrodes being smaller than the other of the electrodes. The first electrode and second electrode can be separated by a distance and electrically connected to a voltage source (4,5).



NON THERMAL PLASMA SURFACE CLEANER AND METHOD OF USE

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application claims the benefit of and priority to U.S. Provisional Application
5 Serial No. 62/304,482, having the title "NON THERMAL PLASMA SURFACE CLEANER
AND METHODS OF USE," filed on 7 March 2016, the disclosure of which is incorporated
herein in by reference in its entirety.

BACKGROUND

10 Dust accumulation, particle deposition due to moisture evaporation, and moisture
formation on dielectric surfaces such as windows, tubes, lamps, signboards, solar panels,
and imaging sensors is problematic for proper function. Such accumulation is usually
removed manually. Further, many dielectric surfaces are often in areas that cannot be
readily accessed for cleaning. Thus, there is a need for devices and methods that can
15 adequately clean these surfaces.

SUMMARY

Described herein is a plasma generation device and methods of use of the devices.
The methods of use include use of the devices for the cleaning of various surfaces and/or for
20 inhibiting or preventing the accumulation of particulates, such as dust, or moisture on various
surfaces. In an aspect, the devices can be used to remove dust and other particulate
contaminants from solar panels and windows. The devices can also be used to avoid or
minimize condensation on various surfaces. In an embodiment a plasma generation device
is provided. The plasma generation device can comprise: a pair of electrodes positioned in
25 association with a surface of a dielectric substrate, wherein: said pair of electrodes
comprises a first electrode and a second electrode; said first electrode and second electrode
are of different sizes, one of the electrodes being smaller than the other of the electrodes;
said first electrode and second electrode are separated by a distance; and said first
electrode and second electrode are electrically connected to a voltage source.

30 In any one or more aspects, the first and second electrodes can be provided with
separate alternating current voltage sources, and the voltage source provided to at least one
of the electrodes is switched. The first electrode and the second electrode can be
comprised of indium tin oxide. A means for canalization of airflow can be included. The

electrodes can be positioned on or a distance above the surface of the dielectric substrate. The distance between the first and second electrodes can be about 1 mm to about 10 cm. A rail can be positioned in relation to the surface and at least one of the electrodes positioned in connection with the rail, and a motor affixed directly or indirectly to said
5 electrode, wherein activation of said motor can move said electrode along an axis of said rail. The other electrode of the pair of electrodes can be connected with the rail and activation of the motor can move both of said electrodes along an axis of said rail.

In an embodiment a method of dust removal or removing moisture (e.g., water) is provided. The method can comprise the steps of: providing the plasma generation device of
10 any one or more of the above aspects; and applying a voltage to the electrodes of said plasma generation device. The method can create a plasma or corona discharge. The discharge can create ions. The ions can be accelerated by an electric field in the direction from the smaller electrode towards the larger electrode and past the larger electrode along the surface, thereby creating a flow of wind (or an ionic wind) along the surface.

In an embodiment, a plasma generation kit, is provided. The kit can comprise: a first
15 electrode and a second electrode, wherein said first electrode and second electrodes are different sizes; an AC power supply; a means for electrically connecting said first electrode and said second electrode to said AC power supply; and a means for affixing said first electrode and said second electrode to a dielectric surface.

Other systems, methods, features, and advantages of the present disclosure for a
20 nanowire fabrication device, will be or become apparent to one with skill in the art upon examination of the following drawings and detailed description. It is intended that all such additional systems, methods, features, and advantages be included within this description, be within the scope of the present disclosure, and be protected by the accompanying claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Further aspects of the present disclosure will be readily appreciated upon review of the detailed description of its various embodiments, described below, when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

30 Fig. 1 illustrates plasma generation and ionic wind flow using an embodiment of the present disclosure.

Fig. 2 illustrates a further embodiment of the present disclosure in which a pair of electrodes are positioned in association with a dielectric surface above a surface.

Fig. 3 illustrates sequence synchronization of AC voltage supplied to plasma generation devices in an array in accordance with another embodiment of the present disclosure.

Fig. 4 illustrates use of an embodiment of the present disclosure for cleaning the field
5 of view of a CCTV camera with a flat housing.

Fig. 5 illustrates an example of an embodiment of the present disclosure installed for use on a spherical surface of the housing of a CCTV camera.

Fig. 6 illustrates another example of an embodiment of the present disclosure installed for use on a spherical surface of the housing of a CCTV camera.

10 Fig. 7 illustrates use of an embodiment of the present disclosure for cleaning the glass of a vehicle.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Before the present disclosure is described in greater detail, it is to be understood that
15 this disclosure is not limited to particular embodiments described, and as such may, of course, vary. It is also to be understood that the terminology used herein is for the purpose of describing particular embodiments only, and is not intended to be limiting.

Discussion

20 Where a range of values is provided, it is understood that each intervening value, to the tenth of the unit of the lower limit unless the context clearly dictates otherwise, between the upper and lower limit of that range and any other stated or intervening value in that stated range, is encompassed within the disclosure. The upper and lower limits of these smaller ranges may independently be included in the smaller ranges and are also
25 encompassed within the disclosure, subject to any specifically excluded limit in the stated range. Where the stated range includes one or both of the limits, ranges excluding either or both of those included limits are also included in the disclosure.

Unless defined otherwise, all technical and scientific terms used herein have the same meaning as commonly understood by one of ordinary skill in the art to which this
30 disclosure belongs. Although any methods and materials similar or equivalent to those described herein can also be used in the practice or testing of the present disclosure, the preferred methods and materials are now described.

All publications and patents cited in this specification are herein incorporated by reference as if each individual publication or patent were specifically and individually
35 indicated to be incorporated by reference and are incorporated herein by reference to

disclose and describe the methods and/or materials in connection with which the publications are cited. The citation of any publication is for its disclosure prior to the filing date and should not be construed as an admission that the present disclosure is not entitled to antedate such publication by virtue of prior disclosure. Further, the dates of publication
5 provided could be different from the actual publication dates that may need to be independently confirmed.

As will be apparent to those of skill in the art upon reading this disclosure, each of the individual embodiments described and illustrated herein has discrete components and features which may be readily separated from or combined with the features of any of the
10 other several embodiments without departing from the scope or spirit of the present disclosure. Any recited method can be carried out in the order of events recited or in any other order that is logically possible.

Description

15 Presented herein are devices and methods of use of the devices for inhibiting or preventing the accumulation of particulates (such as dust) and/or moisture onto various surfaces. In one or more aspects, the devices and methods can be used for removing dust and other particulate contaminants from various surfaces and avoiding, and minimizing, if not preventing, condensation on various surfaces. In a non-limiting example the devices and
20 methods of use remove dust and other particulate contaminants from solar panels.

Solar power is the conversion of sunlight from the sun into electricity. Solar power has a variety of end uses, from powering extraterrestrial reconnaissance crafts (such as satellites, planetary probes, lunar and planetary rovers) to powering terrestrial power grids to powering individual homes to powering small personal electronics (such as calculators) to
25 powering solar/thermal panels and solar cells. In most cases this conversion is done directly by a solar panel that consists of photovoltaic cells arranged in an array. The power output of the solar panel[s] is dependent on the number and surface area of the photovoltaic cell[s] therein, and can be scaled up or down by increasing or decreasing the number of interconnected photovoltaic cells or the number of interconnected solar panels themselves
30 respectively.

Most recently, solar power has become a growing terrestrial alternative energy segment. The costs of solar panels have dropped dramatically over the last two to three decades, which encourages the deployment of solar panels for alternative energy production. While use of solar panels is on the rise, the efficiency of energy conversion by
35 solar panels is one factor preventing widespread adoption of solar energy. Over time, dust

and other contaminants can deposit and accumulate on the surface of solar panels drastically reducing their efficiency by 50% or more and ultimately preventing sunlight from reaching the photovoltaic cells.

So far, dust on solar panels is usually removed manually. However, in an area
5 where it is difficult to reach the panels, cleaning is not performed as often as necessary to obtain peak performance. Directed airflow, such as a wind, is one way to remove dust and particulate matter or contaminants from solar panels which are placed in areas not readily accessible for routine maintenance. While a directed air flow can remove particulate matter from the surface, surface charges on the panels and surface charges on the particulate
10 matter or particles can create static or ionic cling between the solar panel surface and dust (or other particulate matter) that cannot be overcome by the force of the airflow. An ionic wind can be used to remove dust and particulate matter to overcome this limitation.

Described herein are non-thermal plasma generation and/or discharge devices and methods of their use. In an aspect the devices can generate an ionic wind that can be used
15 to inhibit accumulation of particulate matter and/or moisture onto surfaces. For example the devices can be used to remove particulate matter, such as dust, from various surfaces, including the surfaces of solar panels.

In an aspect, as depicted in Fig. 1, the non-thermal plasma generation and/or discharge device can include a pair of electrodes 1, 2 positioned on or adjacent to a same
20 side of a dielectric substrate 3. Alternatively, the electrode pair can be embedded in the dielectric substrate 3 or in the surface of the substrate 3. The electrodes in the pair of electrodes (electrode 1 and electrode 2) can be of different sizes. For example, they can be of different height and length. The electrodes can be separated by a distance. The space or distance between the electrodes is herein sometimes referred to as the inter-electrode
25 space. The inter-electrode space can vary. For example, the inter-electrode space can be in the range of 1 mm to 10 cm (and any range in between).

In one or more aspects, one electrode, for example depicted as electrode 1 in the figures is smaller than electrode 2. The smaller electrode can have one dimension in the range of 30 nm (nanometer) to 5 mm, and can be as long as necessary, for example like a
30 wire. In various aspects the larger electrode can be at least 2 times larger than the small electrode and can be up to 100 times larger (and any range in between). By larger, the second electrode can be larger in terms of surface area or it can be larger in terms of volume. The length of both electrodes can be similar.

The electrodes can take any one of a number of shapes. In an embodiment the
35 electrodes can have a center or middle portion that is raised or higher than the peripheral

edges of the electrodes, thus having a middle or center portion having a greater dimension than the outer or peripheral edges in a perpendicular direction or axis from the surface of the substrate. In an aspect the outer surface of the electrodes can be concave shaped in relation to the surface of the substrate providing a middle or center portion that has a surface that is
5 a greater distance from the substrate surface than the outer or peripheral edges of the electrode, such as illustrated in Fig. 1.

The electrodes 1, 2 can be applied to the substrate 3 or the surface of the substrate 3 in any of a number of ways. For example, the electrodes can be printed, painted, slot-die coated, blade or spray coated, affixed by adhesive or vacuum deposited (e.g., E-beam
10 lithography, sputtering, and/or thermal evaporation) on the dielectric surface and can have different sizes and geometries.

The electrodes 1, 2 can be made of any material that is electrically conductive or serves as an electrical conductor. The electrodes 1, 2 can be optically transparent or opaque and can include optically transparent materials such as indium-doped tin oxide
15 (ITO), fluorine-doped tin oxide (FTO), and poly(3,4-ethylenedioxythiophene) polystyrene sulfonate (PEDOT:PSS). The electrodes 1, 2 can be formed of any type (nanoparticles, nanowires, nanoflakes, etc.) of electrically conductive elements (e.g., Ag, Cu, W, Cr) and/or alloys (e.g., Cu:Ag) and/or pristine and doped oxides (e.g., ITO, FTO, AZO, ZnO) and/or sulfides (Ag₂S, Fe_{1-x}S). The electrodes 1, 2 can be printed onto the substrate from an ink
20 formulation. The ink formulation can be any organic and inorganic compound in any ink formulation type. Examples of suitable ink formulations include nanoparticles and/or nanoflakes and/or nanowires and/or other elemental complexes including or incorporating the conductive elements, oxides or sulfides. The electrodes can have a thickness between
25 30nm-10mm (and any range in between). The thickness can be measured in a vertical dimension perpendicular to the substrate.

The electrodes 1, 2 can be deposited on any dielectric substrate/superstrate. In one or more aspects the substrate/superstrate can be a rigid dielectric material. For example, the substrate/superstrate can be formed from glass, sapphire, quartz and/or mica. In one or more aspects, the substrate/superstrate can be formed of a flexible material. Suitable flexible
30 materials include but not limited to polyimides (e.g., KAPTON), polyethylene terephthalates (PET), polyurethanes (PU), polyethylene naphthalates (PEN) (e.g., Teonex), and/or polycarbonates (e.g., LEXAN).

The electrodes can be deposited on either or both surfaces of the substrate/superstrate (asymmetrically) in order to create Dielectric Barrier Discharge (DBD)
35 actuators and/or on the same side of the surface in order to create non-thermal plasma

surface discharges, such as corona discharges. Our various plasma generating devices can generate an ionic wind. An ionic wind is defined herein as a flow of gas surrounding the electrodes by ion collision with neutral particles.

The electrodes can be connected to any power supply (including, for example, an AC/DC high voltage source). The alternating current (AC) source can be any commercial or custom made AC power supply and can provide any shape of AC voltage for example (sine, square, triangle, etc.). The AC voltage can have a peak to peak voltage in the range of 100V to 50kV. The AC voltage can have a frequency of 1Hz to 1MHz (mega Hertz). In any one or more aspects the peak to peak range, the voltage range and/or the frequency range can be any range or value within these ranges. In one or more aspects an alternating current source 4 can be provided for electrode 1 and a separate alternating current source 5 can be provided in connection with electrode 2, as depicted in Fig. 1. The current source 5 for electrode 2 can include a switch 6. The current source for electrode 2 can include a ground 7. In one or more aspects the same power source can be provided and used to power both electrodes 1, 2.

Upon voltage application to the electrodes 1, 2 of the device, a weak plasma, or corona discharge, can be created close or closest to the smaller electrode in the electrode pair and between the pair of electrodes within the inter-electrode space. The switch can allow control of the connection to the ground of the system (for example solar panel). That means the device can work with a floating potential, or between the ground and high voltages. This can be of interest for application to electrical systems, such as solar panels. The plasma discharge can be non-thermal (i.e., does not heat the dielectric surface) and may or may not be luminous. Positive and negative ions can be created by the plasma. The ions can be accelerated by an electric field in the direction from the smaller electrode towards the larger electrode of the pair of electrodes and past the larger electrode away from the pair of electrodes. During transit or flow, ions collide with neutral molecules and/or atoms and generate a flow of wind called ionic wind.

The ionic wind flow can inhibit accumulation onto and/or remove particulates (such as dust or other contaminants) from a surface, such as a dielectric surface. Additionally, ion agglomerates present on the surface in the inter-electrode space can charge particles which can be accelerated and removed from the surface. The device may not produce vibrations and can be used for vibration-sensitive applications such as optical laser techniques.

Plasma generation on the dielectric surface upon voltage application to the device can alter the hydrophilicity or hydrophobicity of the surface. In the increased hydrophilicity case air humidity in the inter-electrode space can prevent formation of droplets (such as

water droplets) or other moisture on the surface but spread evenly forming a "liquid coating" along the surface and can be repelled from the surface. The repelled humidity can drag dust or other particulate matter without leaving any stains or spots. In the case of increased hydrophobicity, our device can along the surface provide a dehumidification method in addition to another method for dust removal similar to self cleaning glass.

In an embodiment, a device of the present disclosure can be affixed to the dielectric surface of a solar panel (see, e.g., Fig. 1). The device can generate a non-thermal plasma which in turn can create an ionic wind. The non-thermal plasma generated by the device does not heat the underlying substrate or surface of the solar panel. The device can be comprised of a pair of electrodes. The pair of electrodes can be affixed to the solar panel surface and electrically connected or coupled to a voltage source. The same power source can be applied to both electrodes, or separate power sources can be used one for powering each electrode. The pair of electrodes can be affixed to the same side of the solar panel. The electrodes of the electrode pair can be affixed to the surface by a suitable means, such as: printing, painting, slot-die coating, blade or spray coating, affixed by adhesive, or vacuum depositing, E-beam lithography, sputtering, and thermal evaporation. Alternatively, one or more of the electrodes in the pair can be embedded in the solar panel. The electrodes in the electrode pair have different sizes, where one electrode is smaller in size than the other electrode of the pair of electrodes, and the electrodes can be separated by an inter-electrode space. The electrodes in the electrode pair can be made of any material that is an electrical conductor, including transparent materials such as indium-doped tin oxide (ITO). The electrodes in the electrode pair can be of any suitable geometry. One skilled in the art will be able to recognize a suitable electrode material, size, geometry, and affixation method.

Upon application of a voltage to the electrodes by the AC source, a weak plasma, called a corona discharge, can be created close to the smaller electrode of the electrode pair and towards and past the larger electrode of the electrode pair and away from the pair of electrodes. The plasma may or may not be luminous, but in any event can be non-thermal. Positive and/or negative ions can be created in the plasma. The ions can be accelerated by the electric field in the direction of the larger electrode of the electrode pair. The accelerated ions can collide with neutral molecules and/or atoms and can generate a flow of gas, an ionic wind. The ionic wind can remove particulates from the dielectric surface of the solar panel. The ions can agglomerate on the surface of the particulates present in the inter electrode space, and additionally charge small particles nearby. Once electrically charged, the particulates can be accelerated by the electric field and removed from the solar panel surface.

One skilled in the art will appreciate the need to choose and optimize parameters described herein according to environmental conditions and desired effect, such as (but not limited to): size and material of the electrodes, the distances between two electrodes of a pair, the frequency and amplitude of the AC voltage, the geometry and number of electrode pairs in an array, and the dielectric material (see for example Fig.3). The distance between two pairs of electrodes in an array should be larger than the inter-electrode space between a pair of electrodes. The pairs of electrodes can be parallel, as depicted in Fig. 3, or concentric. A single AC power source can be used for all the electrode pairs, or separate power sources can be provided to power arrays separately from each other or even electrodes within a pair of electrodes separately from each other. A controller can be provided to allow sequencing of the applied voltage. Alternatively, each pair of electrodes can be powered by a different voltage source. Further, the plasma generation device can be supplied as a kit and affixed to existing dielectric surfaces.

If the zone of influence of a single pair of electrodes 1, 2 needs to be expanded, the electrodes can be spaced apart from, but still in association with, a surface of the substrate 3. For example, the electrodes 1, 2 can be positioned from 1mm up to 10cm (and any range there between) above the surface of the substrate 3, as shown in Fig. 2. The electrodes 1, 2 can then be surrounded by gas and the gas flow or ionic wind generated by the device can be faster and with a higher flow rate than when the electrodes are affixed on or in the surface of the substrate 3. The flow produced by the ionic wind can also be canalized with the help of, for example, a housing vent 8. The geometry of the electrodes can be varied, as long as the typical size of electrode 1 remains smaller than electrode 2.

In one or more aspects the system can be placed on one or more rails and moved along the surface to be cleaned with the help of a motor, such as a step motor actuator. In order to increase the power output of a solar panel, an array of photovoltaic cells can be created and cells added to the array to increase the surface area and power output of the solar panel. Increasing the surface area of a solar panel or other dielectric surface can create a need to scale up the plasma generation device accordingly to cover the surface area of the dielectric surface area. In order to treat large surface areas, the electrodes can be organized or positioned in association with the substrate. For example as illustrated in Fig. 3 pairs of the electrodes can be placed in an array. The plurality of the pairs of electrodes can be electrically connected to an AC power supply (for example, a high-voltage AC power supply) and further connected to a controller that can synchronize the voltage application between the AC power supply and plurality of electrode pairs. In this instance of

an array application of the AC voltage can be sequenced in a synchronized manner in order to optimize the removal of dust or other contaminants.

EXAMPLES

5 Now having described the embodiments of the present disclosure, in general, the following Examples describe some additional embodiments of the present disclosure. While embodiments of the present disclosure are described in connection with the following examples and the corresponding text and figures, there is no intent to limit embodiments of the present disclosure to this description. On the contrary, the intent is to cover all
10 alternatives, modifications, and equivalents included within the spirit and scope of embodiments of the present disclosure.

Example 1

On a dielectric flat surface (polymethylmethacrylate), that can be described following two directions, X and Y, two parallel stainless steel electrodes of 5 cm length in the X
15 direction were affixed. The small electrode had a thickness (in the Z direction, perpendicular to the dielectric surface) of 0.85 mm, and the big electrode had a thickness of 2.5 mm (in the Z direction). The inter-electrode gap distance, in the Y direction, was 20 mm. The two electrodes were connected to a high-voltage power supply, and we applied AC voltage (a sine signal), at a repetition rate of 100 Hz, with a peak-to-peak voltage of 6 kV. An ionic wind
20 was generated, parallel to the surface, with a velocity of 1.5 m/s along and generally parallel to the dielectric surface, measured 20 mm behind the big electrode, by a mechanical anemometer.

Example 2

As another example, voltage application to the plasma discharge device can make
25 the underlying dielectric surface more hydrophobic, repelling water. Water droplets can be forced off of the surface in this manner. The droplets can encapsulate particulate matter and remove particulate matter from the surface. Moisture in the atmosphere in the inter-electrode space can also be repelled. Voltage application to the device can be constitutive, meaning the device is always on, which can prevent deposition of moisture and particulates
30 on the surface.

Example 3

As another example, the electrodes of the plasma generation device can be positioned in association with and above the surface of the dielectric substrate, as described above (see, Fig. 2). In this example, the electrodes can then surrounded by gas upon
35 application of a voltage from an AC voltage power supply and the gas flow generated by the

device can be faster than when the electrodes are affixed to or in the substrate surface. The voltage applied to the device can be 10 kV and the frequency can be 10 Hz.

Example 4

5 In an example, a means for canalization of the ionic wind can be coupled (such as a vent or baffle, see e.g. Fig. 2) to the present device or positioned in association with the device. This addition can cause the ionic wind generated by the plasma to be canalized, meaning the wind can be directed into a pre-designed set path with a means such as a vent or duct.

Example 5

10 As depicted in Fig. 3, the electrodes of the plasma generation device can be affixed into a system 300 including one or more rails 312 positioned about a plurality of devices, such as solar cells 314, to be cleaned (of dust humidity, etc.) and coupled (mechanically or otherwise) to motive means, such as one or more step actuator motors (not shown). Activation of the motive means (motor(s)) can move the electrodes along the one or more
15 rails 312, and can maintain a distance between the electrodes and an inter-electrode space therein. A controller 316 is provided for controlling the motive means and/or actuating the electrodes. The controller can be any conventionally available motive controller. The controller 316 can be coupled to a power supply 318.

Example 6

20 In a further example, the device of the present disclosure can be used for the cleaning of surfaces for visualization devices, and housings of visualization devices, such as CCTV cameras, safety cameras, or optical sensors. For example, the electrodes can be printed directly on the glass surface of the lens of the camera, or alternatively on the protective covering of the housing of the camera. The surfaces can be any mineral glass as
25 well as organic glass material. These surfaces can be flat or parabolic, or spherical, or any shape. The electrodes can be transparent, or not, as long as they can allow efficient cleaning of the visualization surface, without altering the field of view. The applied voltage can be either DC or AC, with a frequency in the range of 10 to 10 000 Hz.

30 Fig. 4 presents an example of use of a device 400 for cleaning the field of view of a CCTV camera 411 with a flat housing 415. One pair of electrodes 401, 402 can be printed on the protective glass of the CCTV camera 411, spaced by a distance of about 10 mm. The large electrode 402 is a line of 2 mm large and 0.1 mm thickness, connected to the ground, while the second electrode 401 consists of an array of parallel lines of 2 mm length, 0.5 mm large and 0.1 mm thickness, spaced by 2 mm, and connected together and to an AC high

voltage power supply 418. The frequency of the applied high voltage can be 1 kHz, and the maximum amplitude of the voltage can be 15 kV.

Figs. 5 and 6 present an example of the present device installed on the spherical surface 513, 613 of the housing of a CCTV camera 511, 611. Three pairs of transparent electrodes 520, 620 are printed on the spherical surface and arranged such as they allow cleaning of the entire surface of the field of view by generating ionic wind at the proximity of the surface, removing dust accumulation and organic material such as spider webs. The high voltage can be applied in sequence between each pair of electrodes by a power supply 518, 618. The applied voltage can be DC or AC, with a frequency in the range 10 Hz to 10 kHz. The applied voltage can be in the range of 500 V to 20 kV.

Example 7

In another example, the device can be used for cleaning the front and/or back windshields as well as the door windows of a vehicle. The electrodes 720 can be printed either directly on a side of the glass 703 or under a thin transparent flexible coating material. The electrodes can be printed from transparent or non-transparent materials as long as they do not affect the visualization of the driver and the passengers. The electrical circuitry 717 can either be placed inside of the door chassis or close to the electrical circuitry of the vehicle.

The electrode configuration on the interior side of the door 700 window 703 presented in **Fig. 7** can be applied on the interior glass surface of the vehicles to remove the organic particles such as fingerprints or the dust accumulated. Based on the purpose of the application, ionic wind or plasma is generated between the electrodes by applying a DC or AC voltage in the range of 100 V to 20 kV with the frequency range of 10 Hz to 10 kHz. The car battery or an external power supply can be used to generate the power with the desired specifications. The cleaning procedure can be applied either on a programmed schedule by controller 716 connected to a power supply 718 such as after the driver and the passengers get out of the vehicle or on demand of the user.

Example 8

As another example, the electrodes of the present plasma generation device can be positioned on any type of display (e.g., liquid crystal display (LCD), thin-film-transistor liquid crystal display (TFT-LCD), light emitting diode display (LED), plasma display (PDP), any touchscreen, tablet or any device with an integrated display of any type. Due to generation of plasma during operation of the plasma generation device it can be used for removing dirt, dust, oils, fingerprints, germs and other contaminants from the touchscreens of automated teller machines (ATM) and a wide range devices with an integrated display of any type and

any shape. The combination of the plasma generation device with a heating unit of any type can be used as a de-dusting, germs removing and de-icing device for cleaning of the displays of ATMs. The plasma generation device can be also positioned on biometric scanner of any design and shape.

5 **Example 9**

As another example, the electrodes of the plasma generation device can be positioned on any type of manned or unmanned aeronautical vehicle, such as an airplane. The operation of such a device can prevent dirt, dust, oil and ice formation on the plane.

10 Ratios, concentrations, amounts, and other numerical data may be expressed in a range format. It is to be understood that such a range format is used for convenience and brevity, and should be interpreted in a flexible manner to include not only the numerical values explicitly recited as the limits of the range, but also to include all the individual numerical values or sub-ranges encompassed within that range as if each numerical value and sub-range is explicitly recited. To illustrate, a concentration range of "about 0.1% to about 5%" should be interpreted to include not only the explicitly recited concentration of about 0.1 % to about 5 %, but also include individual concentrations (e.g., 1%, 2%, 3%, and 4%) and the sub-ranges (e.g., 0.5%, 1.1%, 2.2%, 3.3%, and 4.4%) within the indicated range. In an embodiment, the term "about" can include traditional rounding according to significant figure of the numerical value. In addition, the phrase "about 'x' to 'y'" includes
15 "about 'x' to about 'y'".
20

It should be emphasized that the above-described embodiments are merely examples of possible implementations. Many variations and modifications may be made to the above-described embodiments without departing from the principles of the present disclosure. All such modifications and variations are intended to be included herein within
25 the scope of this disclosure and protected by the following claims.

We claim:

1. A plasma generation device comprising:
 - a pair of electrodes positioned in association with a surface of a dielectric substrate, wherein:
 - said pair of electrodes comprises a first electrode and a second electrode;
 - said first electrode and second electrode are of different sizes, one of the electrodes being smaller than the other of the electrodes;
 - said first electrode and second electrode are separated by a distance; and
 - said first electrode and second electrode are electrically connected to a voltage source.
2. The plasma generation device of claim 1, the first and the second electrodes are provided with separate alternating current voltage sources, and the voltage source provided to the larger of the electrodes is switched.
3. The plasma generation device of claim 1 or 2, wherein said first electrode and said second electrode are comprised of indium tin oxide.
4. The plasma generation device of any of claims 1-3 further comprising a means for canalization of airflow.
5. The plasma generation device of any of claims 1-4, wherein the electrodes are positioned a distance above the surface of the dielectric substrate.
6. The plasma generation device of claim 5, wherein said distance above the surface is about 1 mm to about 10 cm.
7. The plasma generation device of any of claims 1-6, further comprising a rail positioned in relation to a surface to be cleaned and at least one of the electrodes positioned in connection with the rail, and a motor affixed directly or indirectly to said electrode, wherein activation of said motor moves said electrode along an axis of said rail.

8. The plasma generation device of any of claim 7, wherein the other of the electrode of the pair of electrodes is connected with the rail and activation of the motor moves both of said electrodes along an axis of said rail.
9. A method of dust removal or removing water, comprising the steps of:
 - providing the plasma generation device of any of claims 1 - 8; and
 - applying a voltage to the electrodes of said plasma generation device.
10. A plasma generation kit, comprising:
 - a first electrode and a second electrode, wherein said first electrode and second electrodes are different sizes;
 - an AC power supply;
 - a means for electrically connecting said first electrode and said second electrode to said AC power supply; and
 - a means for affixing said first electrode and said second electrode to a dielectric surface.
11. The plasma generation device of any of claims 1-8, the device incorporated into a camera lens, an optical sensor, or a window.

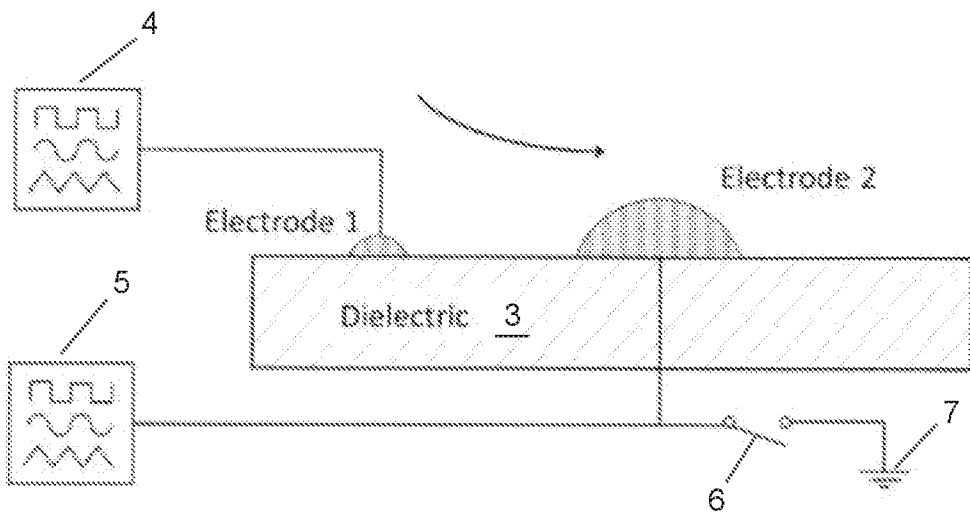


Fig. 1

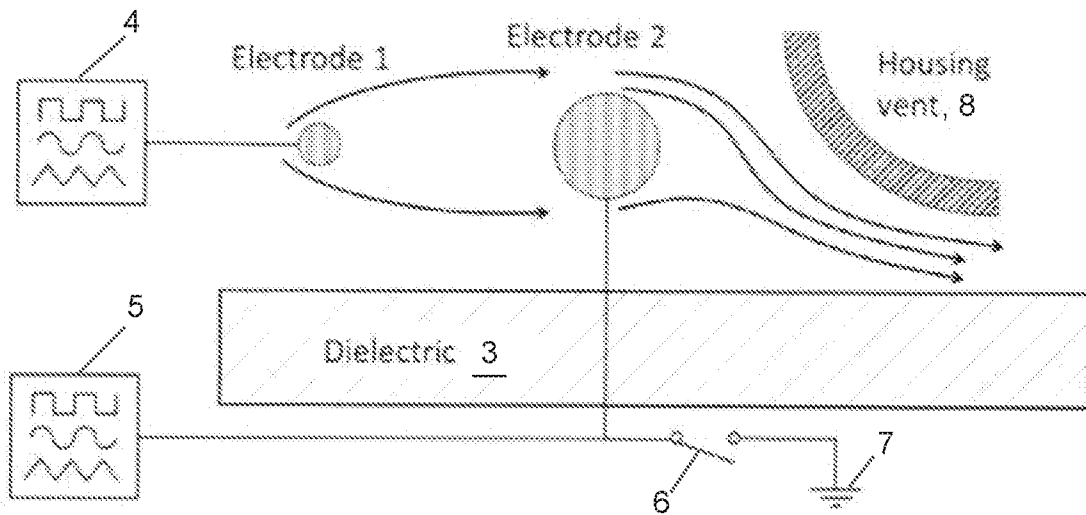


Fig. 2

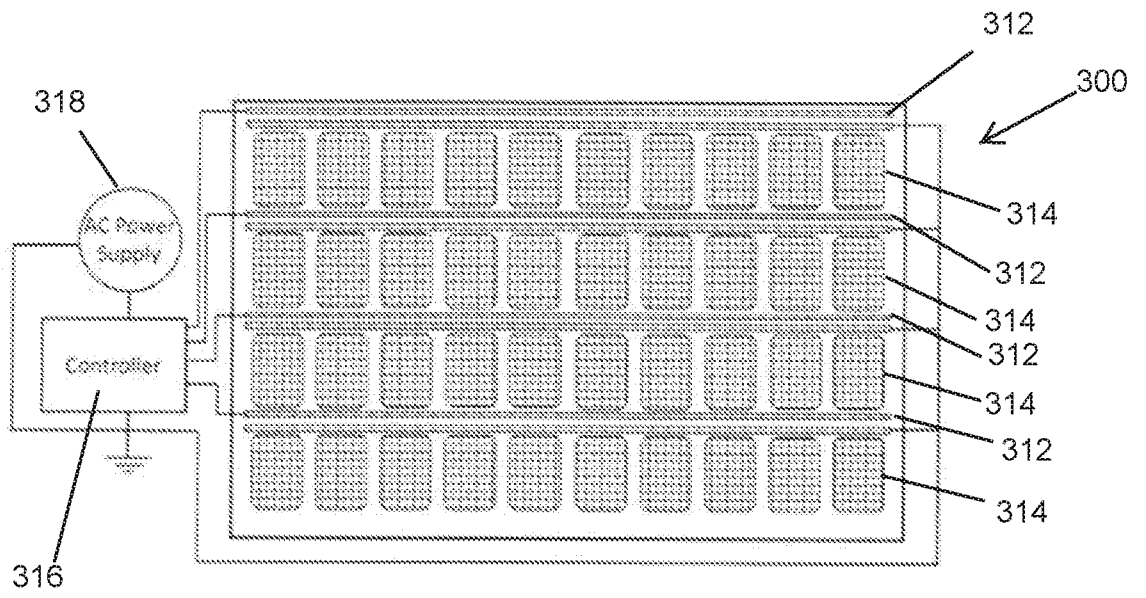


Fig. 3

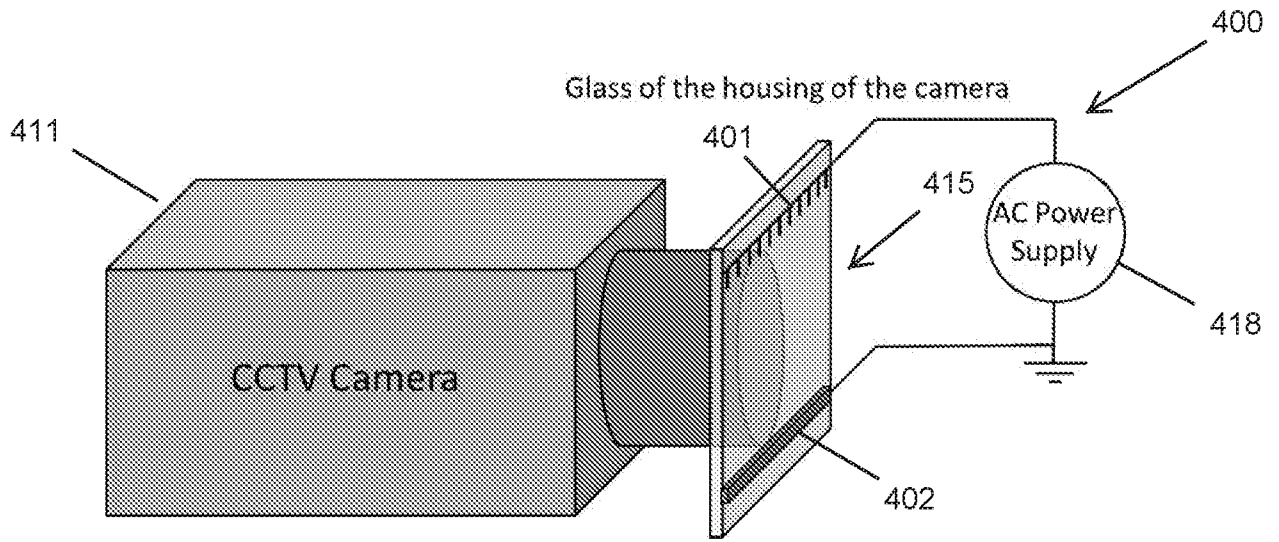


Fig. 4

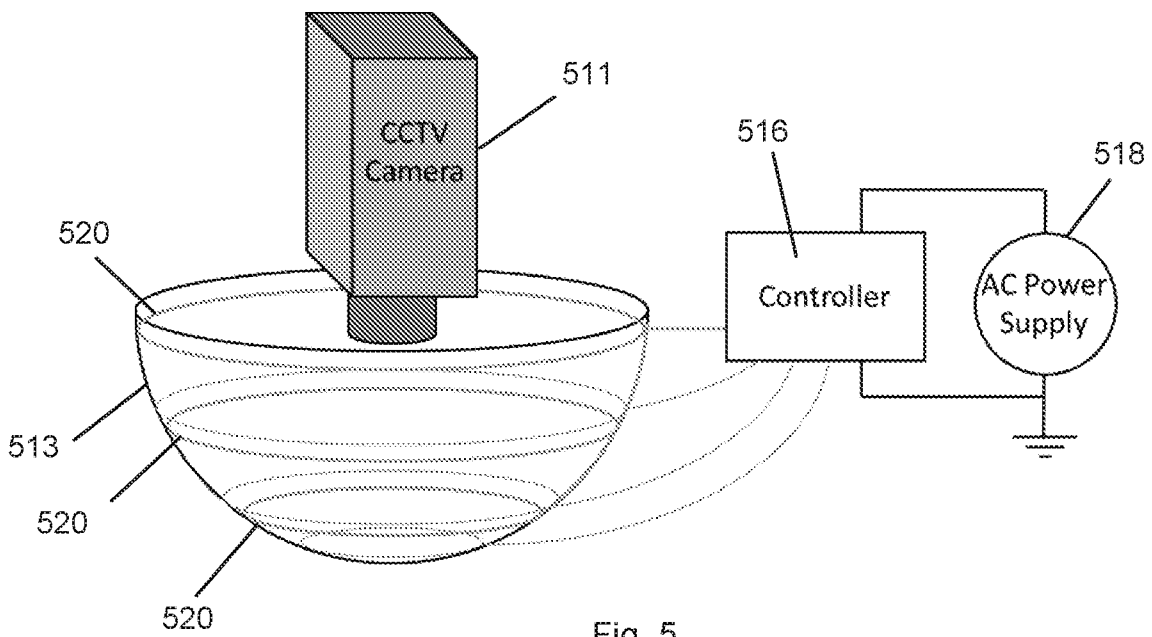
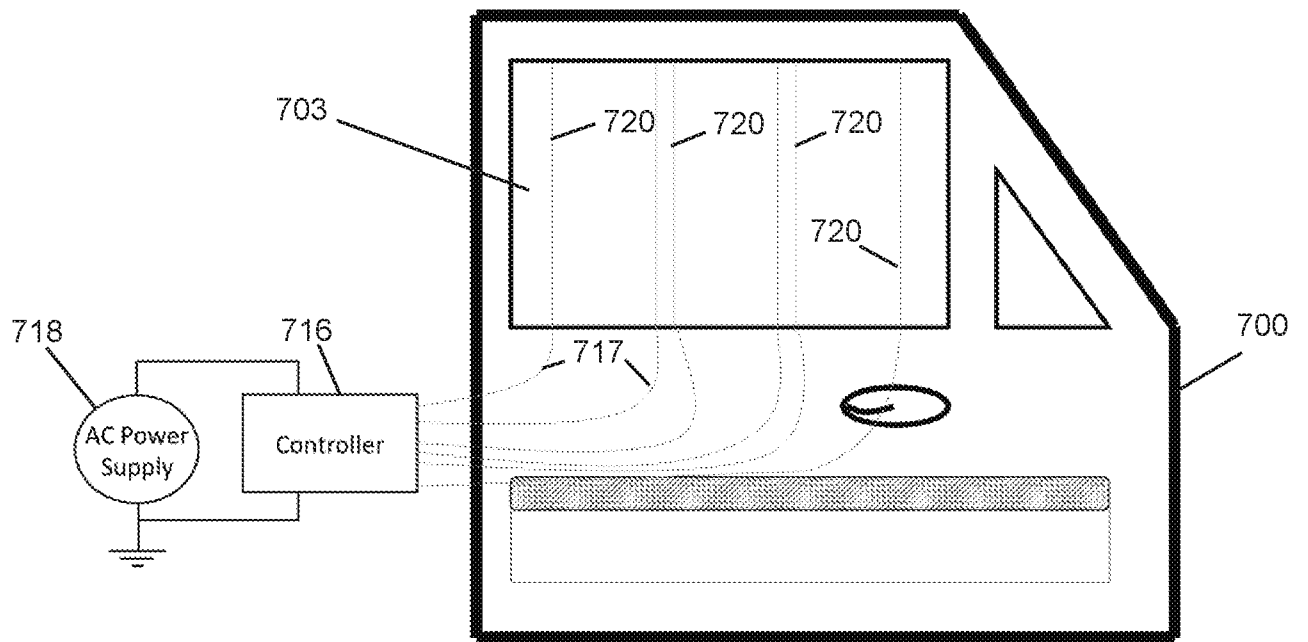
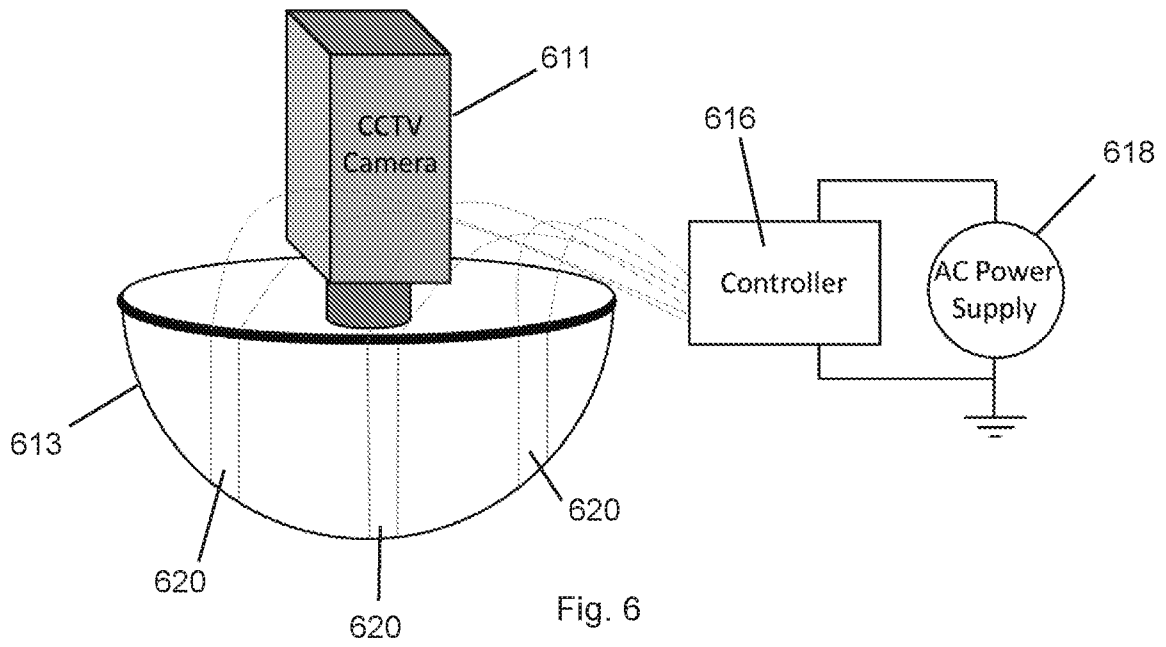


Fig. 5



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No PCT/IB2017/051303

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER INV. H01J37/32 H05H1/24 H01T19/00 H01T23/00 B08B7/00 H02S40/00 ADD. 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) H01J H05H H01T B08B H02S 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 practicable, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, COMPENDEX, IBM-TDB				
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT				
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.		
X	US 7 999 173 B1 (ASHPIS DAVID E [US]) 16 August 2011 (2011-08-16)	1-4,9,10		
Y	abstract; figures 2,2A,2B,2C,4 column 1, lines 12-54 column 5, line 66 - column 6, line 54 column 8, lines 23-50 column 11, line 25 - column 13, line 61 column 17, lines 16-41	11		
Y	----- US 2004/055632 A1 (MAZUMDER MALAY K [US] ET AL) 25 March 2004 (2004-03-25)	11		
A	abstract; figures 1-3 paragraphs [0004], [0006], [0029] - [0037] ----- -/--	1,5,6,9, 10		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.				
* Special categories of cited documents : <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border: none; vertical-align: top;"> "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date "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) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed </td> <td style="width: 50%; border: none; vertical-align: top;"> "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 invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "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 documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family </td> </tr> </table>			"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date "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) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	"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 invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "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 documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date "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) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	"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 invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "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 documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family			
Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report			
24 May 2017	02/06/2017			
Name and mailing address of the ISA/ European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer Remy, Jérôme			

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International application No
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C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
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