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United States Patent

[19]

Henoch et al.**Patent Number:** 6,106,236**Date of Patent:** Aug. 22, 2000**[54] FLUID CONDUIT****[75] Inventors:** Charles W. Henoch, Providence; Peter J. Hendricks, Portsmouth, both of R.I.**[73] Assignee:** The United States of America as represented by the Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D.C.**[21] Appl. No.:** 09/285,182**[22] Filed:** Mar. 25, 1999**[51] Int. Cl.⁷** H02K 44/00; G21D 7/02**[52] U.S. Cl.** 417/50; 310/11**[58] Field of Search** 417/48, 49, 50; 310/11; 244/205; 440/6

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[57]**ABSTRACT**

A fluid conduit for flowing electrically conductive fluids includes an electrically conductive pipe, an electrically conductive rod extending axially through the pipe and centrally thereof, a first power source in electrical communication with the pipe and rod, a solenoidal electromagnet disposed around the pipe and a second power source in electrical communication with the electromagnet. Activation of the first and second power sources creates an electric and a magnetic field, respectively, within the pipe which interact and result in a circumferential force in the flow with consequent reduction in wall friction in the pipe.

10 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets**[56] References Cited****U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

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