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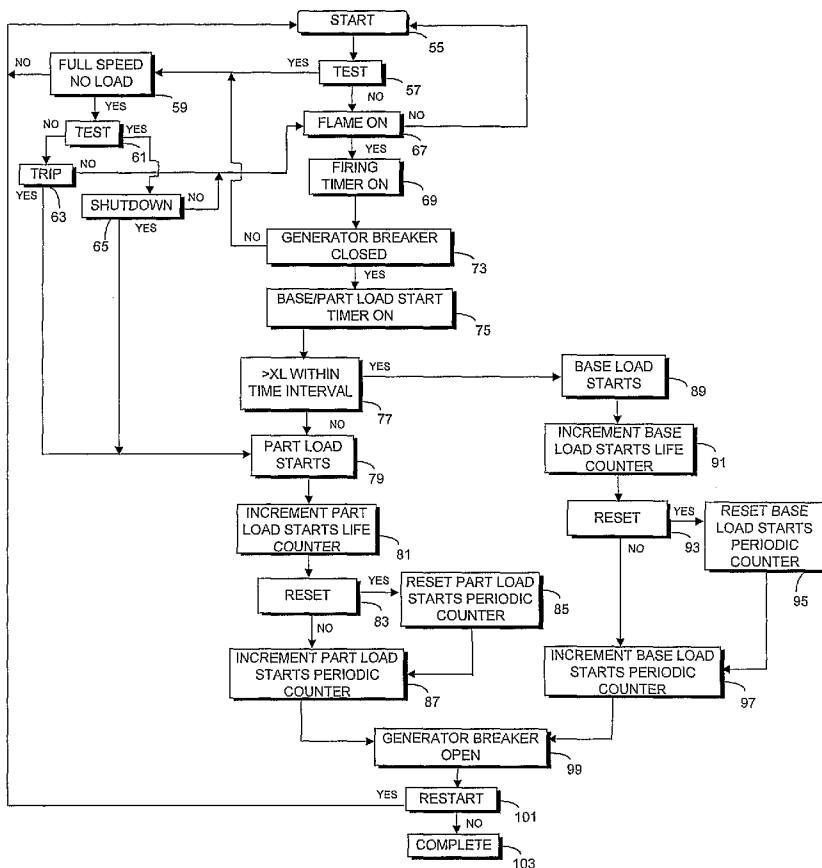
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Declarations under Rule 4.17:

— as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD FOR TURBINE MAINTENANCE



(57) Abstract: A turbine and method for determining turbine maintenance. The method for determining hot gas path turbine maintenance comprises recording a number of part load starts (79), base load starts (89), fast starts (141), full speed no load trips (231), and load trips (237); forming a weighted equivalent starts as a weighted summation of part load starts, base load starts, fast starts, full speed no load trips, and load trips; comparing the weighted equivalent starts to a predetermined threshold; and initiating the maintenance procedure. The method for determining rotor parts turbine maintenance comprises recording the number of fast starts, normal starts (143), and elapsed time starts (135) from shutdown to restart; forming a weighted equivalent starts as a weighted combination of fast starts, normal starts, and elapsed time starts from shutdown to restart; comparing the weighted equivalent starts to a predetermined threshold; and if a weighted equivalent starts exceeds the predetermined threshold, initiating the maintenance procedure.

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- *as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))*
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**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**

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USPC: 702/182

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)

U.S. : 702/182,183,184,185; 700/286,287,290; 60/239,735,805

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)

USPTO EAST; USPTO PLUS

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A,P	US 6,907,381 B2 (HAYASHI et al) 14 June 2005 (14.06.2005), whole document.	1-26
P,A	US 6,909,960 A (VOLPONI et al) 21 June 2005 (21.06.2005), whole document.	1-26
A	Us 2003/0083827 A1 (CHOW et al) 01 May 2003 (01.05.2003), whole document.	1-26
A	US 2004/0148129 A1 (GOTOH et al) 29 July 2004 (29.07.2004), whole document.	1-26
A,P	US 2005/0131656 A1 (IKEDA et al) 16 June 2005 (16.06.2005), whole document.	1-26
E,A	Us 2005/0246068 A1 (HAYASHI et al) 03 November 2005 (03.11.2005), whole document.	1-26
E,A	US 2006/01009515 A1 (FUJIYAMA et al) 11 May 2006 (11.05.2006), whole document.	1-26

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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

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