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(54) **DEVICES AND METHODS FOR STARTING STRIP MATERIAL IN A SUBSTRATE PROCESSING MACHINE**

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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

Systems and methods are disclosed for starting a strip material in a substrate processing machine wherein the machine is not stopped and operators do not have to reach into the running machine to start the strip material. Exemplary systems include a strip material guide apparatus including at least one guide arm and at least one gas stream generator configured to direct strip material from the guide arm into a nip point of a substrate processing machine to join the strip material with the running substrates. The gas stream generator is operable to cause a leading end of a strip material dispensed from the guide arm to be conveyed via a gas stream toward the nip point or toward the running substrates, such that the leading end of the strip material becomes engaged by the substrate processing machine at the nip point and the strip material joins with the running substrates.

11 Claims, 27 Drawing Sheets

