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[21] Application No.: GCC/P/2000/1062 [22] Filing Date: 28/11/2000 [30] Priority: [31] Priority No. [32] Priority date [33] State 99204023.8 29/11/1999 EP [72] Inventors: 1- Stephen Richard Braithwaite, 2- Wilhelmus Hubertus Paulus Maria Heijnen [73] Owner: Shell Internationale Research Maatschappij B. V, Carel van Bylandtlaan 30, 2596 HR The Hague, the Netherlands [74] Agent: Suleiman Ibrahim Al-Ammar	[51] Int.Cl. ⁷ : E21B 33/124, 43/14, 43/26 [56] Cited Documents: - WO 9819042 A (BAKER HUGHES INC) 07 May 1998 - US 2927638 A (JESSE E. HALL, SR) 08 March 1960 - US 3220475 A (CLARENCE W. BRANDON) 30 November 1965

[54] CREATING MULTIPLE FRACTURES IN AN EARTH FORMATION

[57] Abstract: A method of creating multiple fractures in an earth formation surrounding a wellbore formed in the earth formation, the method comprising sealing a first section of the wellbore from the remainder of the wellbore by arranging a primary seal assembly in the wellbore, the first section containing a first body of fluid and being located between the primary seal assembly and the wellbore bottom, pressurising the first body of fluid so as to fracture the earth formation surrounding the first section, sealing a second section of the wellbore from the remainder of the wellbore by arranging a secondary seal assembly in the wellbore uphole the primary seal assembly, the second section containing a second body of fluid and being located between the secondary seal assembly and the primary seal assembly, supporting the primary seal assembly by a first support member extending between the primary seal assembly and the wellbore bottom, and pressurising the second body of fluid so as to fracture the earth formation surrounding the second wellbore section.

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No. of figures: 5

