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## (12) United States Patent

#### Lerche et al.

#### (54) SECURE ACTIVATION OF A DOWNHOLE DEVICE

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- (\*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 179 days.
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#### **Related U.S. Application Data**

- (63) Continuation-in-part of application No. 10/076,993, filed on Feb. 15, 2002, which is a continuation-in-part of application No. 09/997,021, filed on Nov. 28, 2001, now Pat. No. 6,938,689, which is a continuation-inpart of application No. 09/179,507, filed on Oct. 27, 1998, now Pat. No. 6,283,227.
- (60) Provisional application No. 60/498,729, filed on Aug. 28, 2003.
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- (52) U.S. Cl. ..... 175/4.55; 102/215

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#### (57) **ABSTRACT**

A system includes a well tool for deployment in a well, a controller, and a link coupled between the controller and the well tool. The well tool comprises plural control units, each of the plural control units having a microprocessor and an initiator coupled to the microprocessor. Each microprocessor is adapted to communicate bi-directionally with the controller. The controller is adapted to send a plurality of activation commands to respective microprocessors to activate the respective control units. Each activation command containing a unique identifier corresponding to a respective control unit.

#### 17 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets



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FIG. 1



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FIG. 3

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