

EXHIBIT 6

TO COMPLAINT

(12) **United States Patent**
Petite et al.

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 7,468,661 B2**
 (45) **Date of Patent:** ***Dec. 23, 2008**

(54) **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR MONITORING AND CONTROLLING REMOTE DEVICES**

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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 306 days.

This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

(21) Appl. No.: **11/395,685**

(22) Filed: **Mar. 31, 2006**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

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Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation of application No. 10/139,492, filed on May 6, 2002, now Pat. No. 7,053,767, which is a continuation of application No. 09/439,059, filed on Nov. 12, 1999, now Pat. No. 6,437,692, and a continuation-in-part of application No. 09/412,895, filed on Oct. 5, 1999, now Pat. No. 6,218,953, which is a continuation-in-part of application No. 09/271,517, filed on Mar. 18, 1999, now abandoned, and a continuation-in-part of application No. 09/172,554, filed on Oct. 14, 1998, now Pat. No. 6,028,522, and a continuation-in-part of application No. 09/102,178, filed on Jun. 22, 1998, now Pat. No. 6,430,268.

(60) Provisional application No. 60/146,817, filed on Aug. 2, 1999.

(51) **Int. Cl.**
G08B 21/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** 340/540; 340/531; 340/539.17; 340/3.1; 340/521; 340/870.01; 340/870.03; 340/870.07; 340/870.08; 340/870.16; 340/870.17; 700/108; 702/56

(58) **Field of Classification Search** 340/540, 340/539.17, 539.26, 531, 521, 870.01, 870.03, 340/870.07, 870.08, 870.16, 870.17, 988; 700/108; 702/56; 455/7; 370/238; 343/711, 343/700 R, 720

See application file for complete search history.

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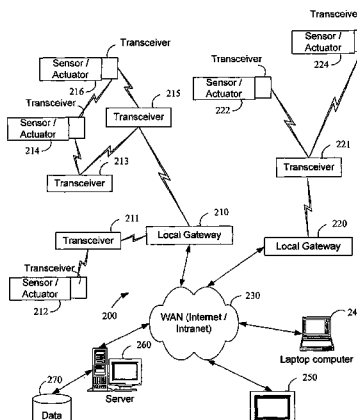
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

The present invention is generally directed to a system for monitoring a variety of environmental and/or other conditions within a defined remotely located region. In accordance with one aspect of the invention, a system is configured to monitor utility meters in a defined area. The system is implemented by using a plurality of wireless transmitters, wherein each wireless transmitter is integrated into a sensor adapted to monitor a particular data input. The system also includes a plurality of transceivers that are dispersed throughout the region at defined locations. The system uses a local gateway to translate and transfer information from the transmitters to a dedicated computer on a network. The dedicated computer, collects, compiles, and stores the data for retrieval upon client demand across the network. The computer further includes means for evaluating the received information and identifying an appropriate control signal, the system further including means for applying the control signal at a designated actuator.

14 Claims, 18 Drawing Sheets



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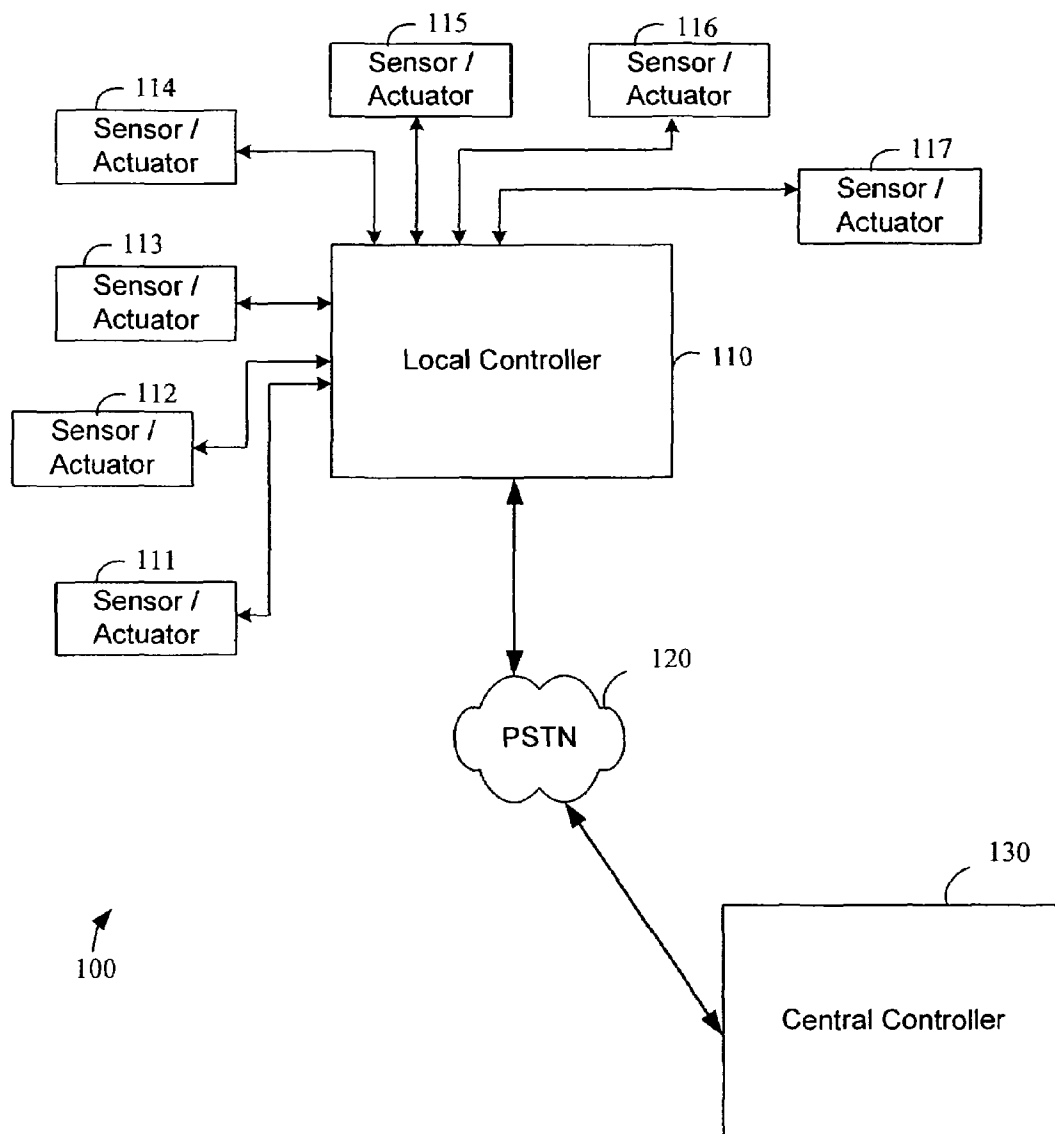


FIG. 1
(PRIOR ART)

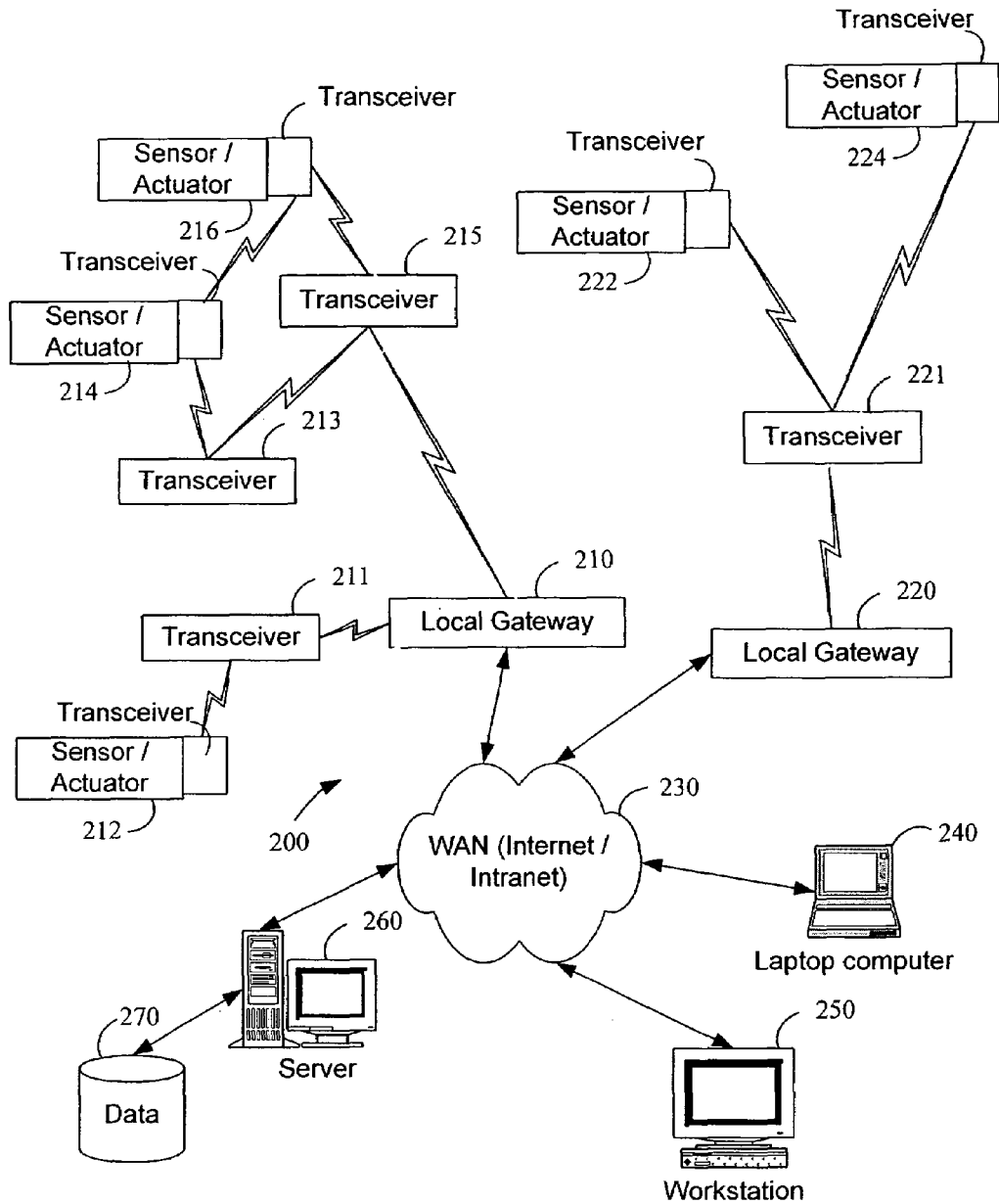


FIG. 2

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