United States Patent [19]

DiLullo et al.

[54] **VEHICLE STATUS MONITOR AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEM EMPLOYING SATELLITE COMMUNICATION**

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[73] Assignee: **Secura Corporation**, Bala Cynwyd, Pa.

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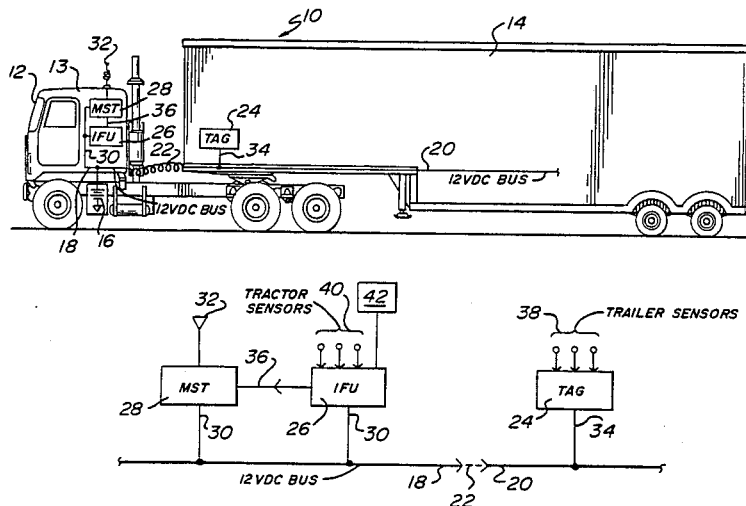|			
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Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Woodcock Washburn Kurtz Mackiewicz & Norris

[57] **ABSTRACT**

Apparatus and method for monitoring the status of a multiple part vehicle are disclosed. Apparatus according to the invention comprises a tag on a second part of the vehicle which impresses a unique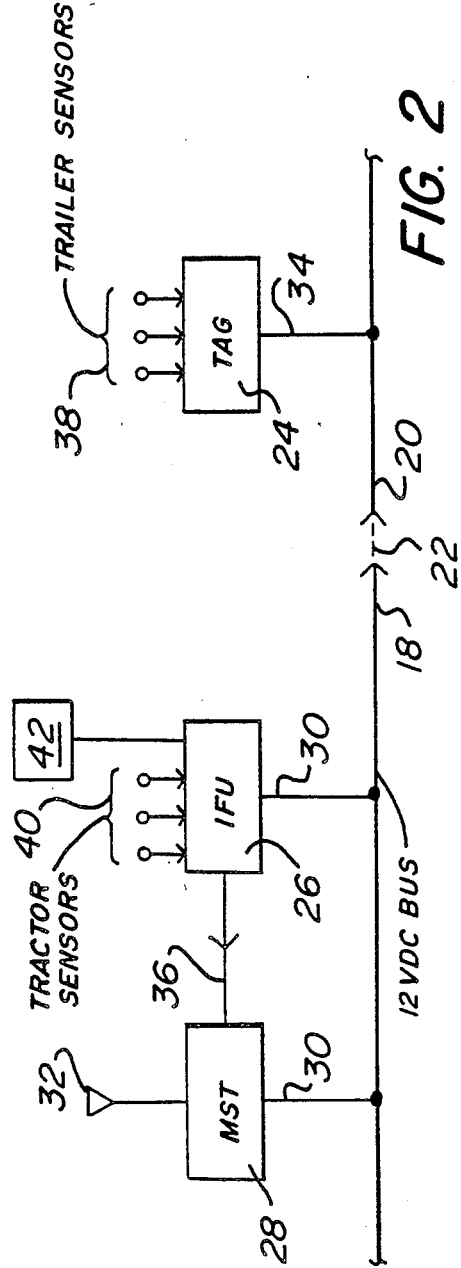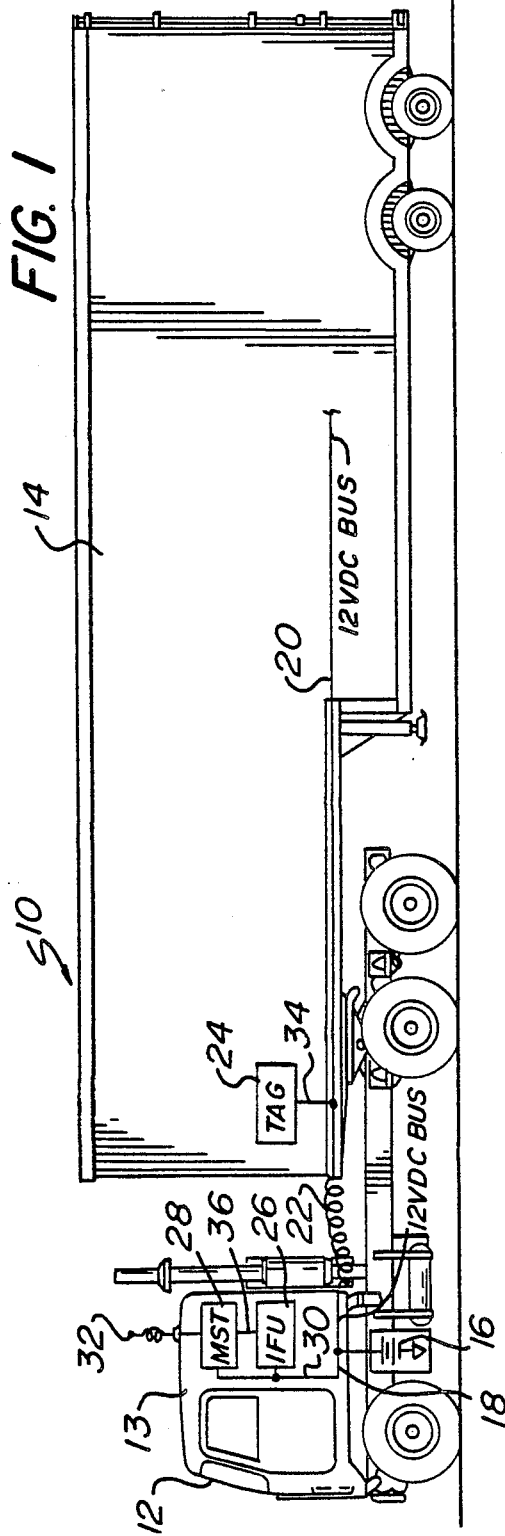 ID code of the vehicle's existing electrical system. An interface unit in a first part of the vehicle detects the presence of a valid ID code on the vehicle's electrical system and in response provides an indication that the second part of the vehicle is connected. A mobile satellite transmitter provides data indicative of the status of the vehicle to an earth station via a satellite. Vehicle position data is also provided to the earth station with each transmission.

35 Claims, 10 Drawing Sheets

FIG. 1

FIG. 2

FIG. 3

24

48

XMITTER BUFFER

MODULATED SERIALIZED CODE

34

52

POWER SUPPLY

64

TC

50

46

CLOCK

MODEM

CLK

TD

SERIAL CODE DATA

62

60

MUX

44

PARALLEL CODE DATA

66

58

ROM

54

DIVIDER

56

COUNTER
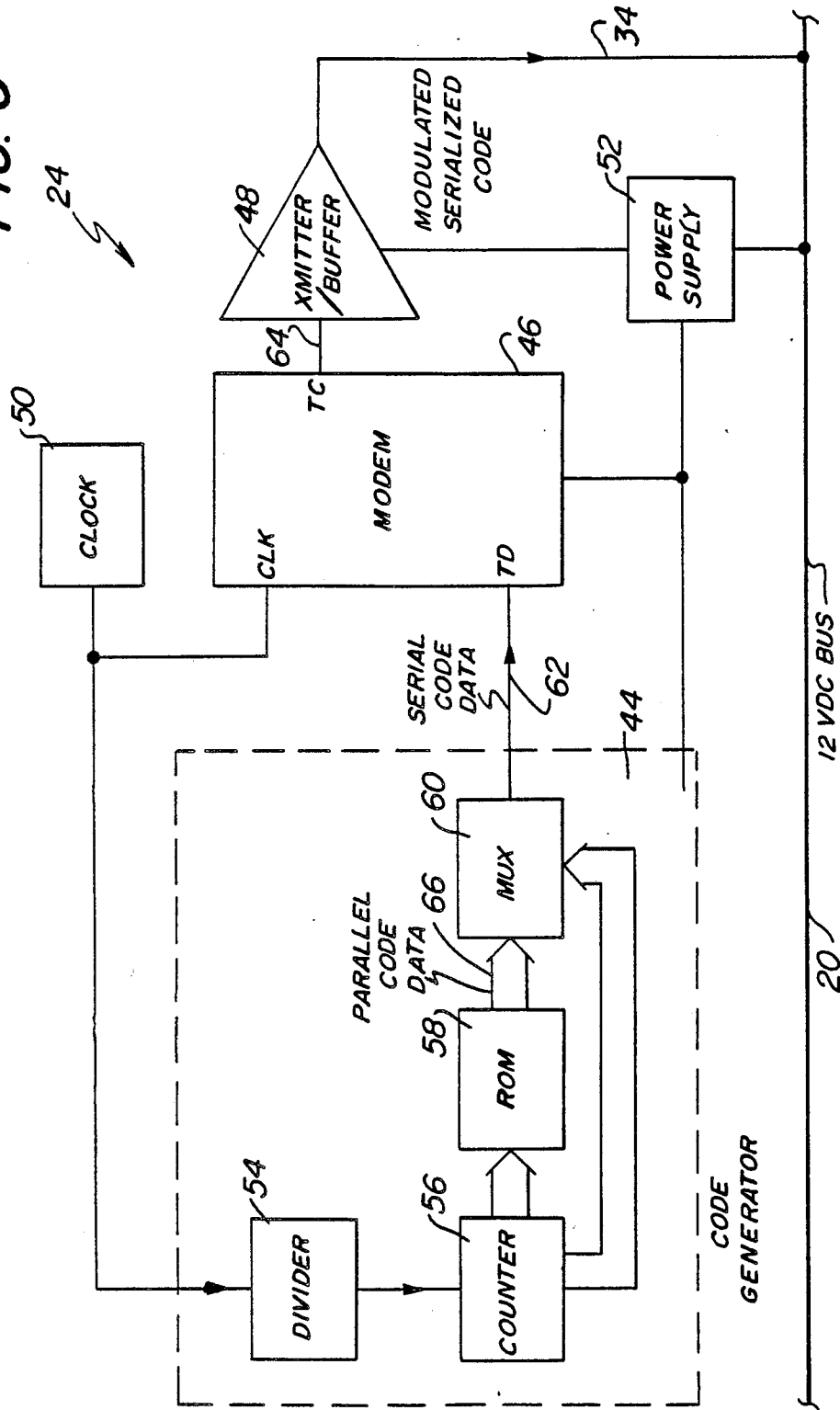
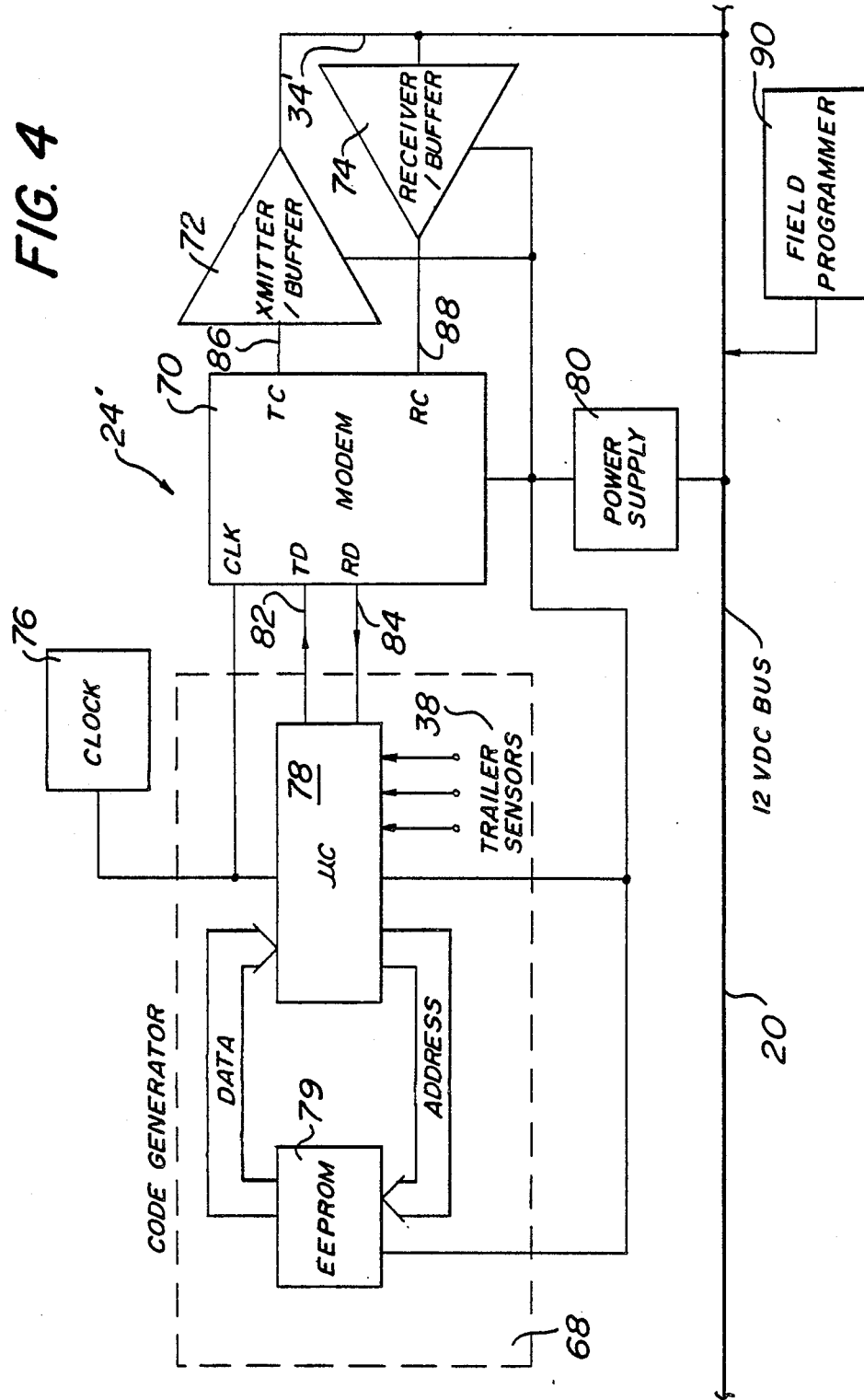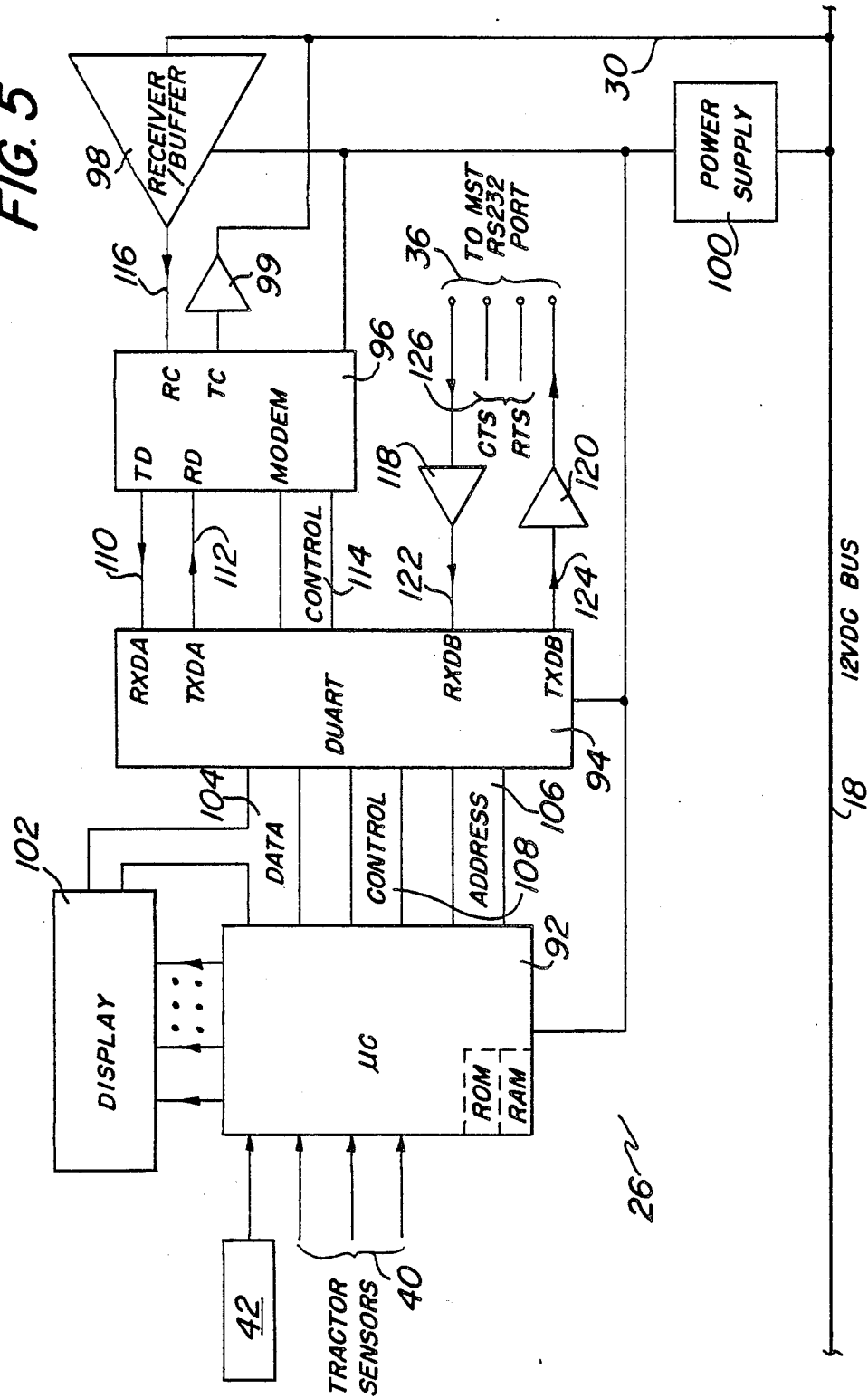CODE GENERATOR

20

12 VDC BUS

FIG. 4

FIG. 5

DOCKET ALARM

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