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# United States Patent [19] Kennedy, III et al.

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[45] Date of Patent: **\*Jun. 23, 1998**

[54] DATA MESSAGING IN A COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK USING A FEATURE REQUEST

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[\*] Notice: The term of this patent shall not extend beyond the expiration date of Pat. No. 5,539,810.

[21] Appl. No.: **573,135**

[22] Filed: **Dec. 15, 1995**

### Related U.S. Application Data

[63] Continuation of Ser. No. 175,256, Dec. 28, 1993, Pat. No. 5,539,810, which is a continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 95,166, Jul. 20, 1993, abandoned, which is a continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 826,521, Jan. 27, 1992, abandoned.

[51] Int. Cl.<sup>6</sup> ..... **H04Q 7/22**

[52] U.S. Cl. .... **455/456; 455/414; 340/992**

[58] Field of Search ..... 379/58, 59, 60, 379/63; 455/33.1, 33.2, 54.1, 456, 457, 414, 403, 422, 466, 550, 564, 404; 340/988, 989, 992, 425.5, 431, 445, 447; 342/457, 357, 385, 386, 388, 389, 450

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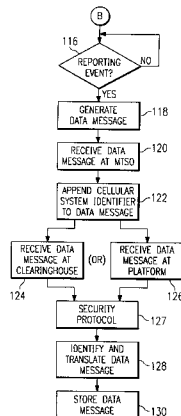
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### [57] ABSTRACT

A messaging unit (16) equipped with a cellular transceiver (38) is attached to a mobile item (12) located within a communications network (10). The messaging unit (16) issues a feature request having data digits that represent information on the mobile item (12). The cellular transceiver (38) transmits the feature request using the network (10). The feature request is received at an MTSO (20) and then routed to a platform (24), a clearinghouse (22), or the platform (24) through the clearinghouse (22). The data digits are translated into information on the mobile item (12) and stored at the platform (24) or the clearinghouse (22) for access by a host (26).

43 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets



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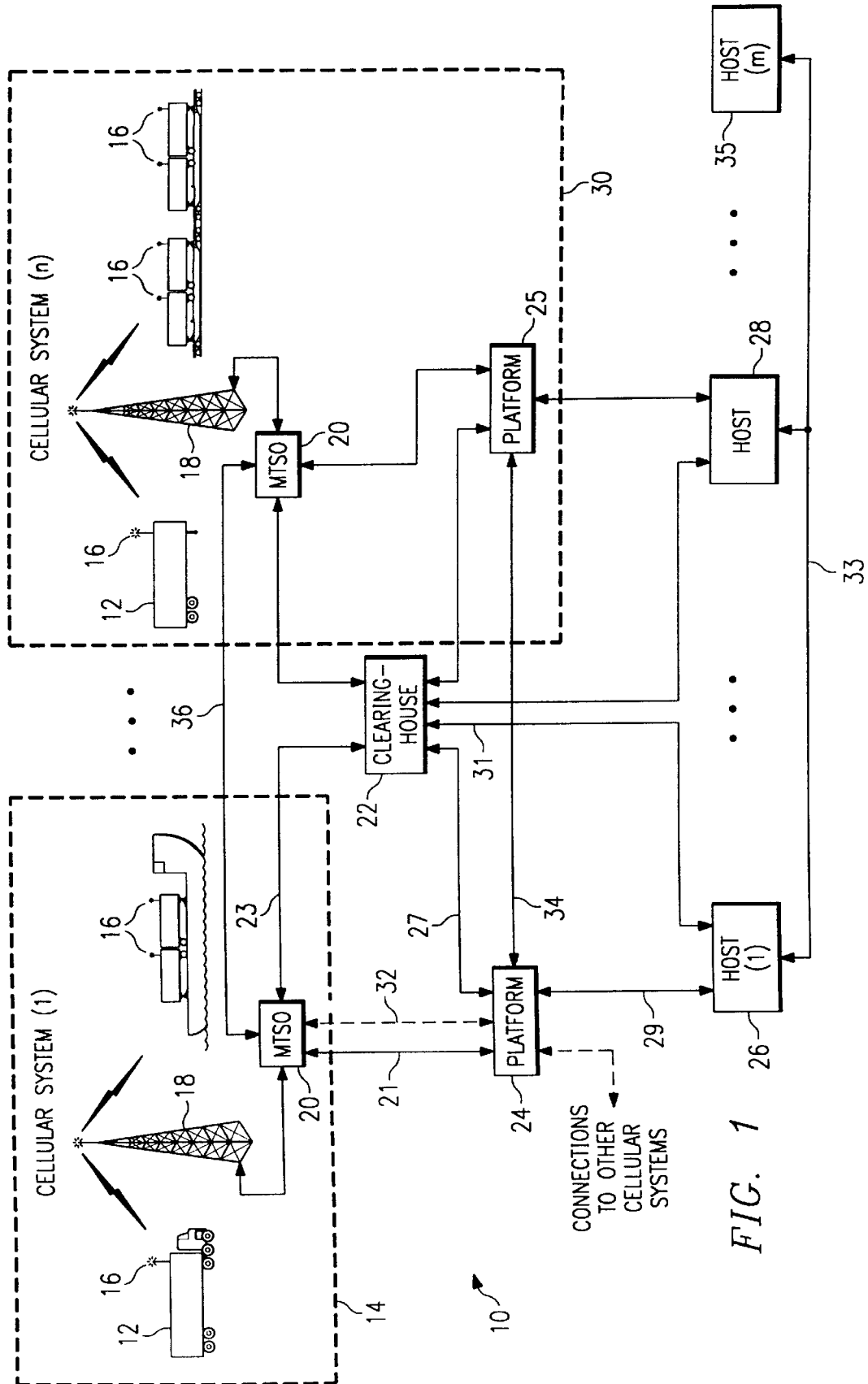


FIG. 1

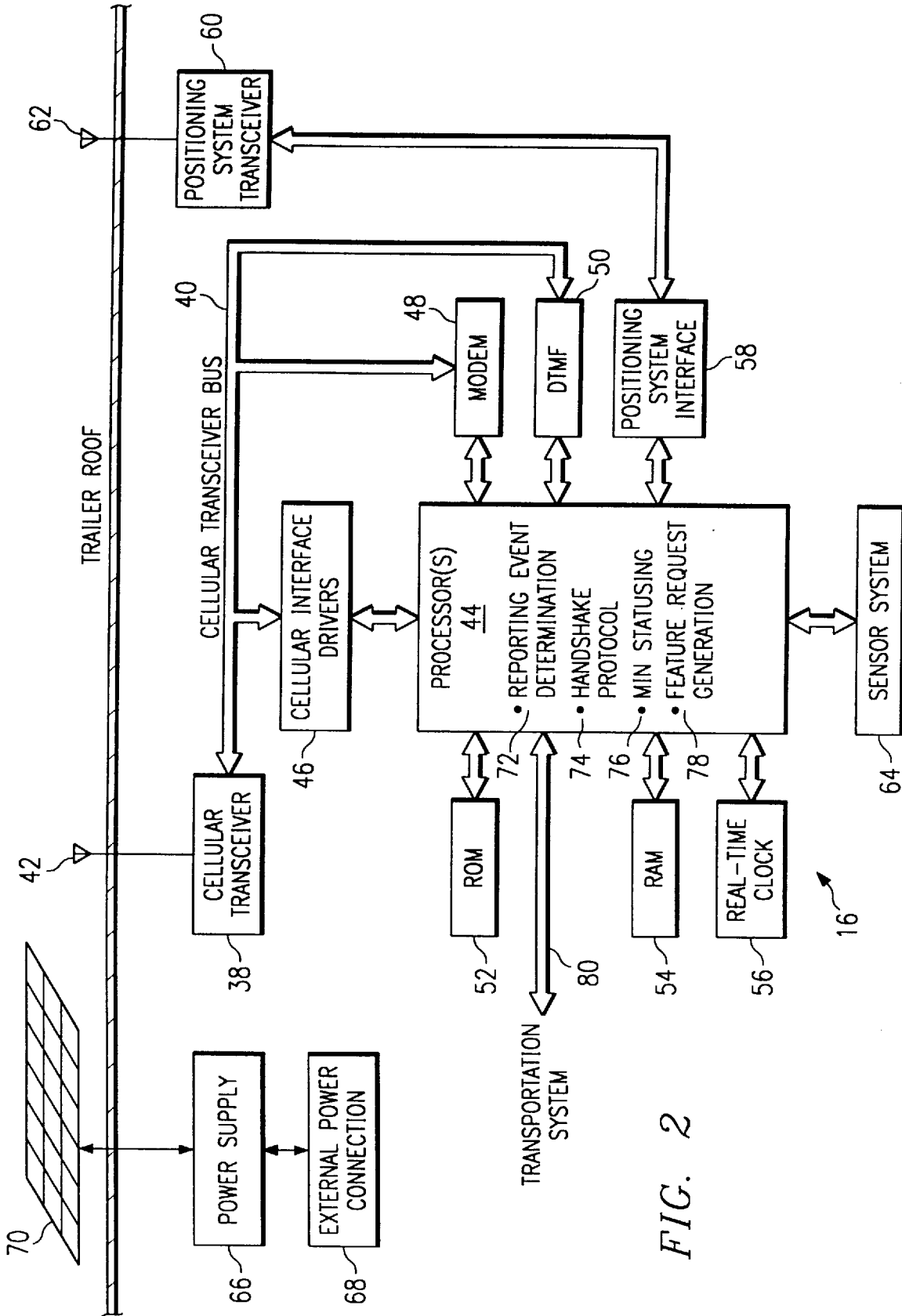


FIG. 2

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