D et No. CISCO-0350

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: De Nicolo et al.
Serial No. 09/041,838
Filed: March 12, 1998
For: POWER MANAGEMENT FOR MODULAR SYSTEM

Art Unit : 2781
Examiner: Ayaz R. Sheikh

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
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Honorable Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

on 1/18/00 (Date) Tara Hayden

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Honorable Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This paper is responsive to the Office Action dated October 5,1999.

In the Title

Kindly amend the title of the invention to read as follows:

-- POWER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR MODULAR ELECTRONIC DEVICES--.

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In the Claims

Kindly amend claims 1, 18, 21 and 25 as follows:

1. (Once Amended) A power management system for a modular electronic system, said power management system comprising;

a backplane to which a modular component may be connected, said modular component having an associated known maximum power demand;

a query line [conductor] having a first end and a second end connected together through said backplane, a first end of said query line [conductor] adapted to connect to said modular component; and

a power supervisor attached to said backplane and to said second end of said query line [conductor], said power supervisor adapted to query said query line [conductor] and to receive therefrom an associated known maximum power demand of said modular component.

18. (Once Amended) An electronic modular component for connection to a modular electronic system including a backplane and a power supervisor, said power supervisor having information indicative of remaining uncommitted electronic power resources of said electronic system, said modular component comprising:

a query line conductor having a first end and a second end, said first end connected to said backplane, said second end connected to a query node;

a resistor having a first terminal connected to said query node and a second terminal connected to a source of a first voltage, said resistor's resistance indicative of a known maximum power demand of the electronic modular component, said resistor being able to be queried by the power supervisor while the electronic modular component is attached to the backplane; and

a2 [An electronic component according to claim 17 wherein] a zener diode having a breakdown voltage set to a second voltage, said zener diode having [has] a cathode connected to said query node and an anode operatively connected to a switch, said switch having a first state and a second state, said switch transmitting an enable signal to a power soft start circuit of the electronic modular component when in said first state and not transmitting said enable signal when in said second state, said switch being in said second state in the absence of substantial current flow through said zener diode.

a3 sub B3 21. (Once Amended) A modular electronic system according to claim 20 wherein said encoding means comprises an electrical impedance element, an electrical impedance [the value] of which is preselected to correlate with said known maximum power requirement.

25. (Once Amended) A modular electronic system, comprising:

a backplane to which an electronic module having a known maximum power requirement is attached;

a power supervisor connected to said backplane;

a query line conductor coupling a query node of said electronic module to said power supervisor through said backplane;

encoding means associated with said electronic module for providing signals to said power supervisor which are indicative of said maximum power requirement, said encoding means comprising a first resistor having a resistance preselected to correlate with said known maximum power requirement; and

a programmed microprocessor associated with said power supervisor for decoding said signals to determine said maximum power requirement, said signals being voltage signals produced by passing an electric current through said first resistor; [A modular electronic system according to claim 24 further comprising a query node,] said first resistor being connected between said query node and a source of a first voltage, said signals carried over a query conductor passing from said query node through said backplane and coupled through a second resistor to a source of a second voltage.

REMARKS

The title of the invention has been amended to more clearly indicate the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claims 1-27 are presently pending in the above-identified patent application. No claim is allowed. By this amendment claims 1 and 21 have been amended to further particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter regarded as the invention. Specifically, the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejections were addressed. Claims depending therefrom are similarly changed.

Claims 18 and 25 have been rewritten in independent form to overcome the objection based on dependency of claims 18 and 25 upon rejected base claims.

The 35 USC § 112Rejection

Claims 2-6, 14 and 21-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C § 112, second paragraph, as being allegedly indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter applicant regards as the invention. This objection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 18, 21 and 25 have been amended to overcome this rejection of claims. With this amendment it is respectfully submitted that the claims satisfy the statutory requirements.

Specifically, claim 1 was amended to change references to "query conductor" to -- query line-- in order to make it consistent with dependent claims 2-6, 14.

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