

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:
John C. Harvey and James W. Cuddihy:

Serial No.: 08/449,097

Filed: May 24, 1995
For: **SIGNAL PROCESSING APPARATUS
AND METHODS**

Group Art Unit: 2737

Examiner: Faile, A.

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SUPPLEMENTAL AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.115

Sir:

Applicants herewith submit the following Supplemental Amendment.

In the Claims:

No Claims have been amended. Claims 56-108 have been added. Claims 2-108 remain in the application. For the PTO's convenience, claims that remain unchanged are included below in order to allow the Examiner to review all pending claims from this response in their numerical order.

2. (Unchanged) A method of processing signals at a receiver station, said receiver station having a plurality of processors, said method comprising the steps of:
 - receiving an information transmission containing a digital television signal and a message stream;
 - detecting said message stream in said information transmission;
 - selecting one message of said detected message stream;
 - inputting at least a first portion of said selected one message to a control processor;

selecting control information in said inputted first portion of said selected one message;

selecting and outputting under the control of said control processor, other portions of said message stream to said plurality of processors., based on said control information;

processing said selected other portions of said message stream simultaneously at said plurality of processors;

controlling the timing of communicating television programming in accordance with said message stream; and

storing information evidencing the availability, use or usage of said television programming or said message stream.

3. (Unchanged) A method of processing signals at a receiver station, said receiver station having a plurality of processors, said plurality of processors including a first control processor which controls a remainder of said plurality of processors based on a message stream, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving an information transmission containing a message stream at a transmission station;

generating a control portion' of said message stream at said transmission station that is effective at a receiver station to cause said first control processor to select portions of said message stream that control said control processor and said remainder of said plurality of processors to perform different functions comprising (i) processing television programming and (ii) controlling the timing of communicating said television programming; and

transmitting said message stream to be received at said receiver station.

4. (Unchanged) A method of processing signals in a network, comprising the steps of receiving an information transmission to be transmitted; receiving an instruct signal which is effective to one of:

(a) effect a transmitter station to generate at least a first message that is effective to enable a receiver station to control the reception or presentation of television programming and meter or monitor the availability, use or usage of said television programming or said at least a first message; and

(b) effect a first receiver station to generate at least a first message that is effective to enable a second receiver station to control the

reception or presentation of television programming and meter or monitor the availability, use or usage of said television programming or said at least a first message;

receiving a transmitter control signal which operates at one of said transmitter station and said first receiver station to communicate said at least a first message to a transmitter; and

transmitting said information transmission, said instruct signal and said transmitter control signal.

5. (Unchanged) The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of programming said control processor to execute a controlled function in response to said one message.

6. (Unchanged) The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of programming said control processor to compare information stored in at least a first of said at least one register memory with control function invoking information.

7. (Unchanged) The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of programming said control processor to compare information stored in at least a second of said at least one register memory with information that identifies a length or format of at least a portion of said one message.

8. (Unchanged) The method of claim 2, wherein said at least one register memory includes an input signal register memory and said step of selecting control information in said inputted first portion of said selected one message and communicating said selected control information to a plurality of registers memories comprises:

communicating said at least a first portion of said selected one message to said input signal memory;

selecting information at said input signal memory to compare or communicate;
and

communicating said control information to at least a second of said at least one register memory.

9. (Unchanged) The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of communicating at least one of said other portions of said message stream to said input signal register memory.

10. (Unchanged) The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of controlling a switch to output at least one of said selected other portions of said message stream to a specific one of said plurality of processors.

11. (Unchanged) The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of controlling said switch to communicate said at least one of said selected other portions of said message stream from one of (1) said control processor and (2) a buffer that inputs to said control processor.

12. (Unchanged) The method of claim 10, wherein said switch outputs said at least one of said selected other portions to said control processor.

13. (Unchanged) The method of claim 10, wherein said switch outputs said at least one of said selected other portions to one of a signal processor and a central processor.

14. (Unchanged) The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of programming said control processor to control said switch based on information contained in said message stream.

15. (Unchanged) The method of claim 14, further comprising the steps of:
programming said control processor with comparison information to serve as a basis for determining the length or format of said at least one segment of said message stream; and

programming said control processor to compare information stored at said at least one register memory to said comparison information.

16. (Unchanged) The method of claim 14, wherein said control processor and said switch are located on a single microchip.

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