



Serial No. 08/449,097
Docket No. 05634.0208

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**

Examiner: FAILE, A.

Group Art Unit: 2737

Atty. Docket. 05634.0208

BOX: FEE AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

I. AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

This amendment is responsive to the Non-Final Office Action mailed April 2, 1998. Applicants respectfully request that the following amendments be entered into the above-captioned application:

In the Claims

Applicants request entering of the below amendments to the claims. Claims 2-4, 7, 19-21, 25-26, 33, 35, 37-38, 40-41, 46-47, 50, 52-53 & 55 are amended. 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. (Twice Amended) 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; [and communicating said selected control information to at least one register memory;]

[determining the length or format of at least one segment of said message stream on the basis of a plurality of comparisons at said at least one register memory;]

selecting and outputting [selected] 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 [reception or presentation] timing of communicating [of] television programming in accordance with said message stream; and

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

3. (Twice Amended) 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:

[1] receiving an information transmission containing a message stream at a transmission station;

[2] 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 [to enable said receiver station to control the reception or presentation of] television programming and (ii) controlling the timing of communicating [meter or monitor the availability, use or usage of] said television programming [or said message stream]; and

[3] transmitting said message stream to be received at said receiver station.

4. (Twice Amended) A method of processing signals in a network, comprising the steps of:

[(1)]receiving an information transmission to be transmitted;

[(2)]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; [or] 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;

[(3)]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

[(4)]transmitting said information transmission, said instruct signal and said transmitter control signal.

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*D1
Amended*

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.

*no
change*

7. (Once Amended) 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 [the composition] a length or format of at least a portion of said one message.

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D2

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

*no
change*

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.

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