METHOD OF PROVIDING A CELLULAR PHONE/PDA COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

DESCRIPTION

Field of the Invention

[(Para 1]) This invention relates generally to an integrated communications system using a plurality of cellular/PDA/GPS phones for the management of a group of people through the use of a communications net and, specifically, to provide each user with a cellular/PDA/GPS/phone that has ~~features~~software application programs and databases that permit all the users to continuously know each other's locations and status, to rapidly call and communicate voice, high speed internet data, photographs and video clips among the users by touching display screen symbols and to enable the users to easily access data concerning other users and other database information.

Description of Related Art

[(Para 2]) The purpose of a communications system is to transmit information bearing signals from a source, located at one point, to a user destination, located at another point some distance away. A communications system is generally comprised of three basic elements: transmitter, information channel and receiver. One form of communication in recent years is cellular phone telephony. A network of cellular communication ~~cells~~systems set up around an area such as the United States allows multiple users to talk to each other, either on individual calls or on group calls. Some cellular phone services enable a cellular phone to engage in conference calls with a small number of users. Furthermore, cellular conference calls can be established through 800 number services. Cellular telephony also now includes systems that include Global Positioning System (GPS) navigation that utilizes satellite navigation. These devices thus unite cellular phone ~~cellular~~ technology with navigation information ~~and~~, computer information transmission and receipt of data.

[(Para 3]) Digital ~~SMS (~~Smart Message Service (SMS) and TCP/IP messages can be transmitted using cellular technology such as ~~the~~ various versions of GSM and CDMA or via a

WiFi local area

network. One implementation of these GPS location reporting cellular systems is for the data to go to a **remote** central site where the information is displayed for a person to monitor the locations of the **cellular** units that have the combined ~~GPS~~ cellular **GPS** phone. Another implementation permits the cellular phone users to also view the location of other GPS equipped units. A drawback of the current implementation is that these systems are either all on or all off. There is no way to selectively activate participants or to stop the participants from participating in the

network ~~Another drawback of the~~or for participants to set their reporting intervals that is based on time or distance traveled. The use of the current combined cellular phone/PDA technology ~~is that when~~has drawbacks when calling. When an operator makes a cellular phone call using the PDA to display a map (that also may depict ~~georeferenced~~geo-referenced businesses, homes and other facilities' locations and phone numbers), ~~and the operator wants to place a call,~~ the cellular phone/PDA operator is required to ~~obtain~~display the numeric phone number by touching the display screen at the correct location of that entity on the map ~~to obtain~~, memorize the numeric phone number, ~~then the operator has to memorize the phone number, then go to~~and select a different display to physically enter the phone number~~,~~ to make the call and then, if desired, go back to the map display. Needless to say, this is a cumbersome process. Sending a text message or an email to a location, business, home or facility that appears on a PDA map display or to another cellular phone can also be a cumbersome process as the PDA operator has to find the phone number or email address of the location on the map display, memorize the phone number or email address, then go to a different display to enter a text message, enter the text message, send the text message and then shift back to the map display program. Furthermore, for a phone to send data concerning a new entity of interest, not currently on the geo-referenced map display (car, person, tank, accident, or other entity), the operator must type in the information and the latitude and longitude of the new entity of interest.

~~[Para 4] In spite of the rapid advance in cellular phone technology, it would also be desirable to actuate a remote cellular phone to annunciate an audio message to alert the remote user that there is an emergency (or for another reason) and that the calling cellular phone should be called immediately. Furthermore, it would be desirable to cause the remote phone to display a text message, photograph, video clip or video transmission, to announce the caller's name and to be able to control a remote phone and cause the remote phone to call another phone number (as an example, to automatically establish an 800 number conference call), to vibrate, or increase the loudness of an announcement without any action by the remote phone operator.~~

~~[Para 5] The present software invention overcomes many of these problems shown in the prior art by providing a cellular phone /PDA/GPS user: a) the ability to selectively poll each of the other PDA / GPS phones to~~

~~start reporting their positions and status information directly to all or selected users equipped with cellular phone/PDA communication/GPS system in the communications net so that each of the systems that the data is transmitted to is provided a display of the location, status and other information of the other users; b) the ability to exchange other entities of interest information and to assign these entities a category (car, person, tank, accident, or other entity) by touching the display screen at their locations on the map, and selecting the appropriate category switch; c) the ability to make rapid voice and data call initiation to locations, businesses, homes and facilities whose phone number is available in a georeferenced database including the cellular phone/PDA/GPS systems in a communications net by touching the display screen at the appropriate location on the PDA display and selecting a call switch; d) the ability to make rapid voice and data conference call initiation to locations, businesses, homes and facilities whose phone~~

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