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Vleugels et al.

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(54) **APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR INTEGRATING SHORT-RANGE WIRELESS PERSONAL AREA NETWORKS FOR A WIRELESS LOCAL AREA NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 30 days.

This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

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(51) **Int. Cl.**
H04W 40/00 (2009.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **370/338**

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
USPC 370/338, 509, 349, 401; 455/1, 41.2, 455/426, 562

See application file for complete search history.

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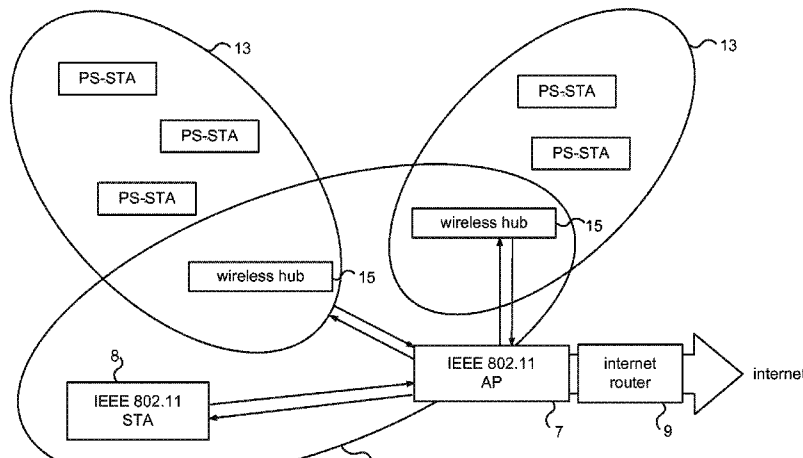
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A network system comprises a first logic block providing a link to a first network via an access point of a WLAN and a second logic block communicating with a node of a second network (such as a WPAN) and configured to provide a link between the node and the first network via the access point. The network system is configured to maintain continuous connections to both the access point and the node while receiving power. The second logic block can communicate with the node using a modified communication protocol that is only partially compliant with an 802.11x communications protocol. A wireless hub can integrate a WPAN with a WLAN including, in part, a wireless circuit compliant with the WLAN standard (such as an 802.11x standard), a processor, and a memory. The wireless circuit can connect to the WPAN without losing connectivity (such as association and synchronization) to the WLAN.

29 Claims, 12 Drawing Sheets



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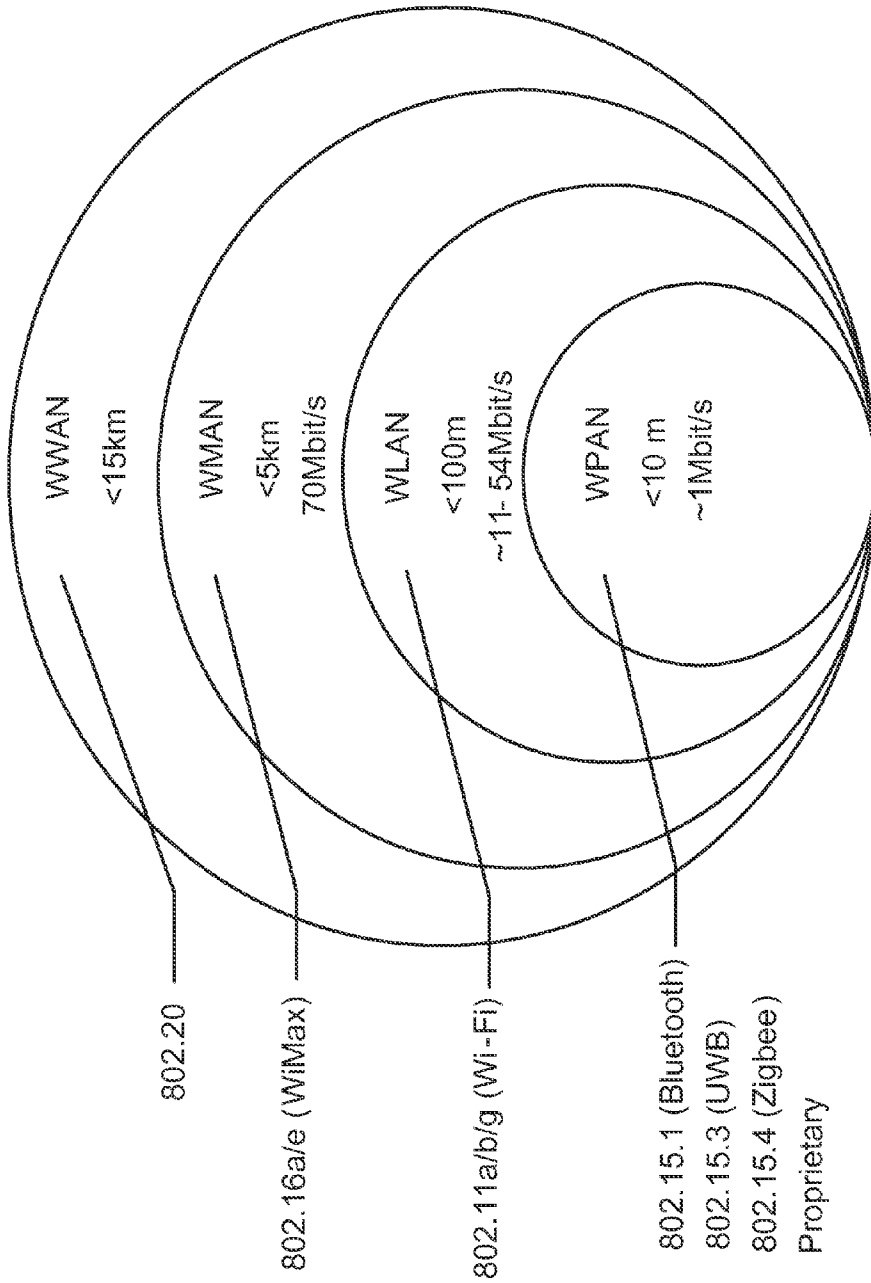


FIG. 1

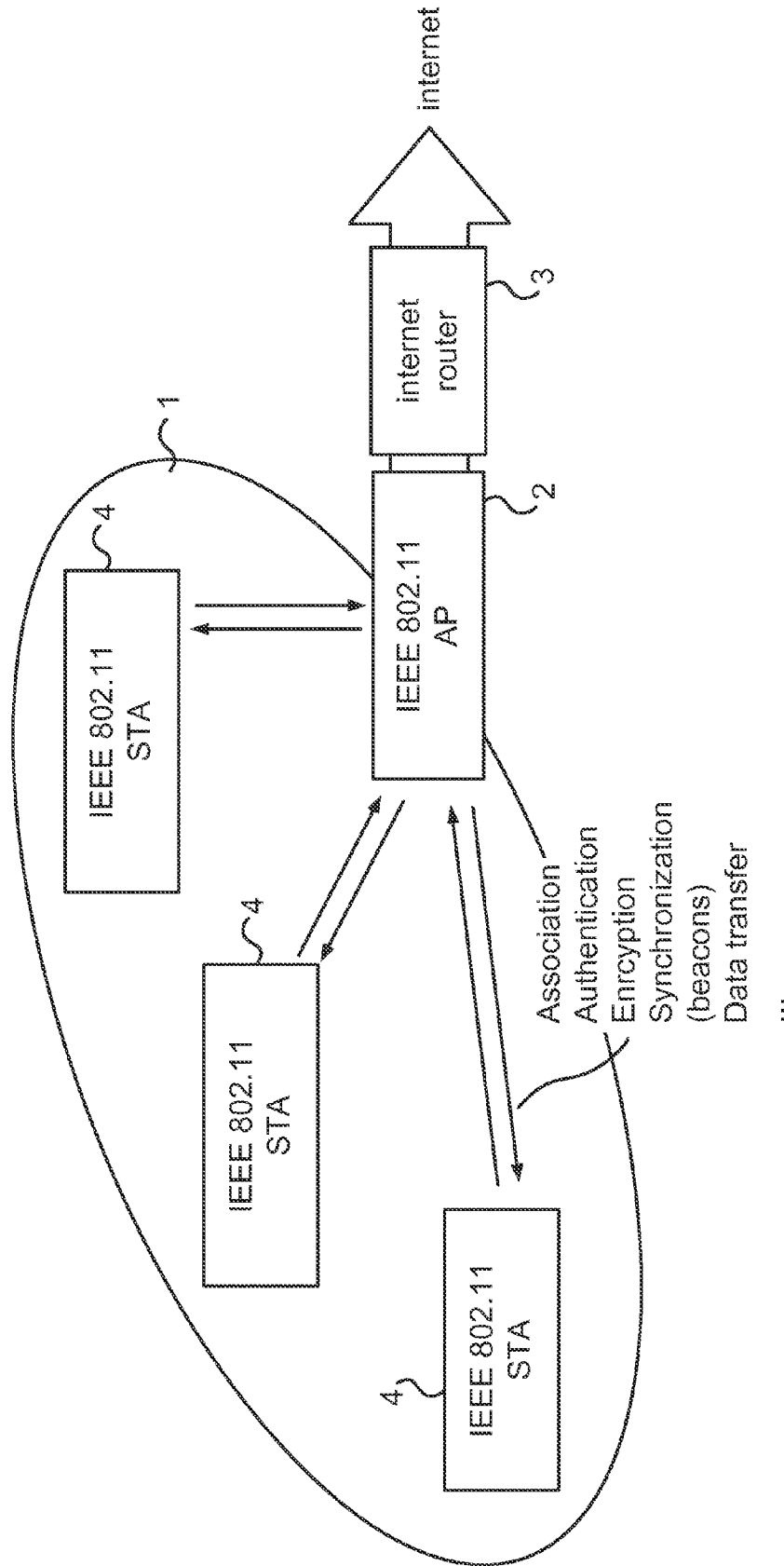


FIG. 2

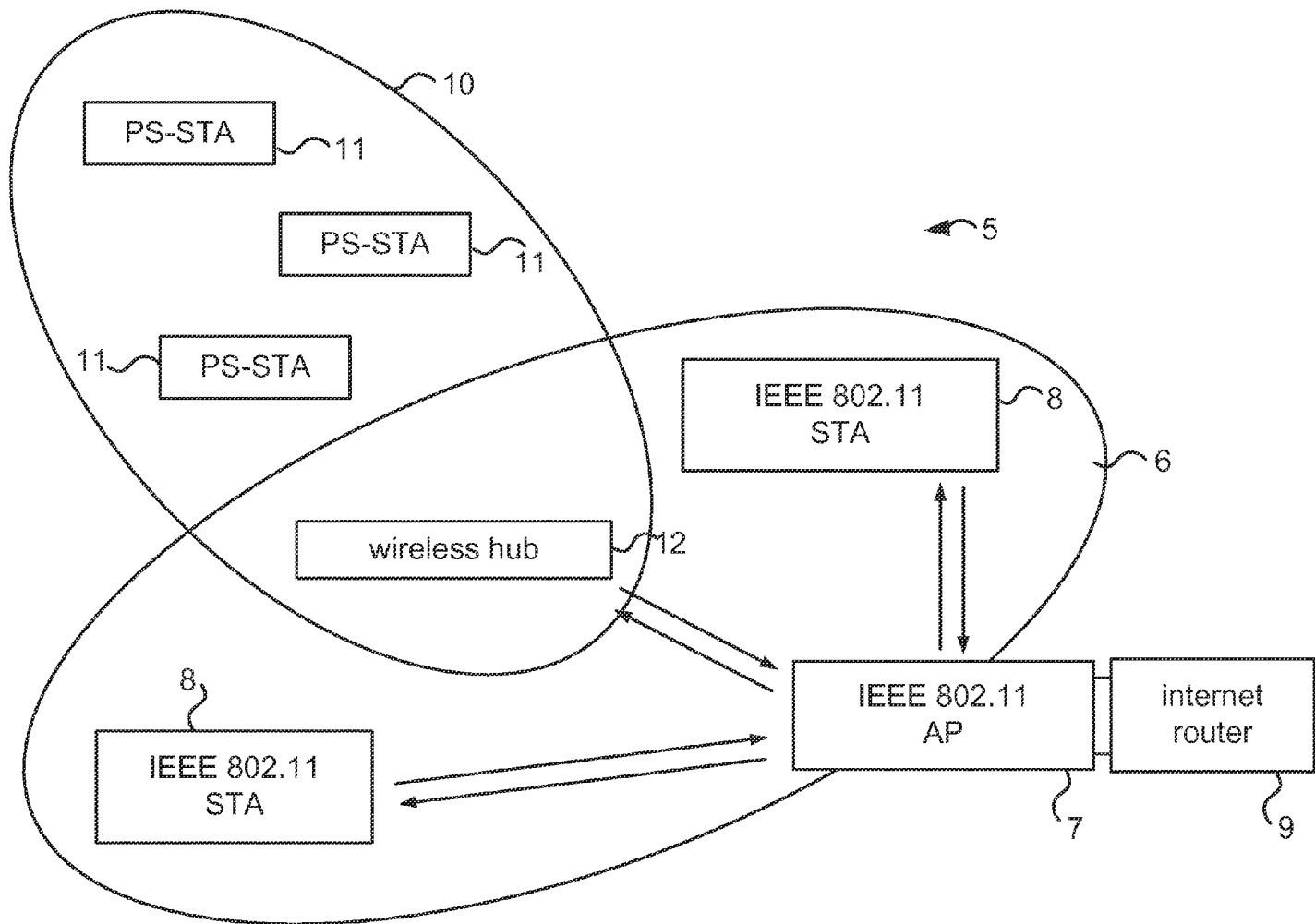


FIG. 3

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