

Exhibit J

(12) United States Patent
Petite et al.

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(54) SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR MONITORING AND CONTROLLING REMOTE DEVICES

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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 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **09/439,059**

(22) Filed: **Nov. 12, 1999**

Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation-in-part of application No. 09/271,517, filed on Mar. 18, 1999, which is a continuation-in-part of application No. 09/102,178, filed on Jun. 22, 1998, which is a continuation-in-part of application No. 09/172,554, filed on Oct. 14, 1998, now Pat. No. 6,028,522, which is a continuation-in-part of application No. 09/412,895, filed on Oct. 5, 1999, now Pat. No. 6,218,953

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(51) Int. Cl.⁷ G08B 21/00

(52) U.S. Cl. 340/540; 340/531; 340/539; 340/3.1; 340/426; 340/521; 340/870.01; 340/870.03; 340/870.07; 340/870.08; 340/870.16; 340/870.17; 700/108; 702/56

(58) Field of Search 340/531, 539, 340/3.1, 426, 540, 521, 870.01, 870.03, 870.07, 870.08, 870.16, 870.17, 988; 700/108; 343/711, 700 R, 720; 702/56

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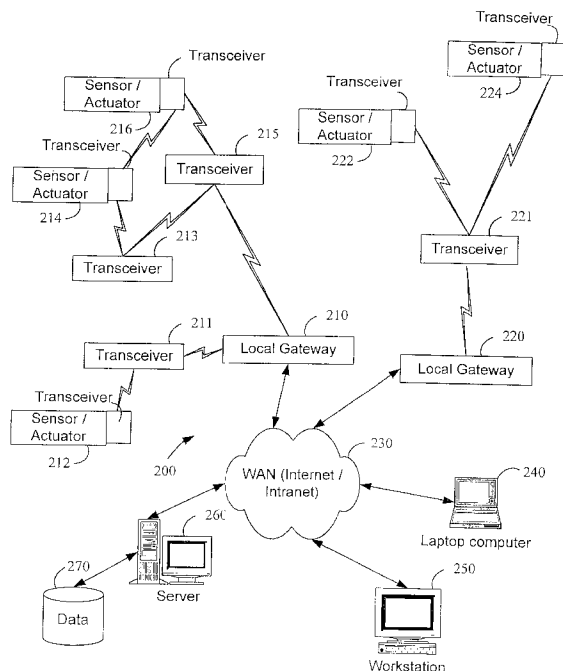
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(57) ABSTRACT

The present invention is generally directed to a system for monitoring a variety of environmental and/or other conditions within a defined remotely located region. In accordance with one aspect of the invention, a system is configured to monitor utility meters in a defined area. The system is implemented by using a plurality of wireless transmitters, wherein each wireless transmitter is integrated into a sensor adapted to monitor a particular data input. The system also includes a plurality of transceivers that are dispersed throughout the region at defined locations. The system uses a local gateway to translate and transfer information from the transmitters to a dedicated computer on a network. The dedicated computer, collects, compiles, and stores the data for retrieval upon client demand across the network. The computer further includes means for evaluating the received information and identifying an appropriate control signal, the system further including means for applying the control signal at a designated actuator.

64 Claims, 18 Drawing Sheets



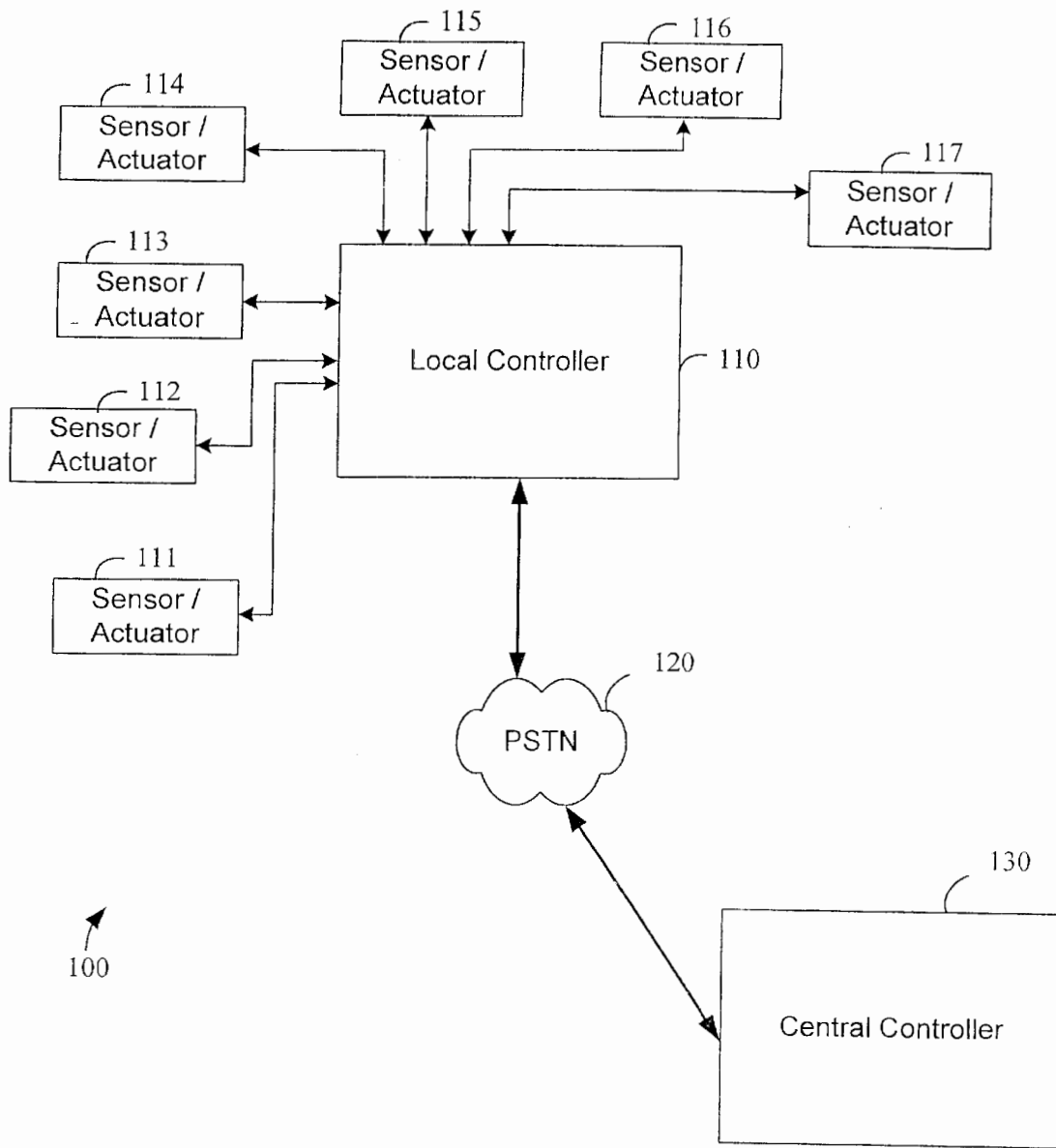


FIG. 1
(PRIOR ART)

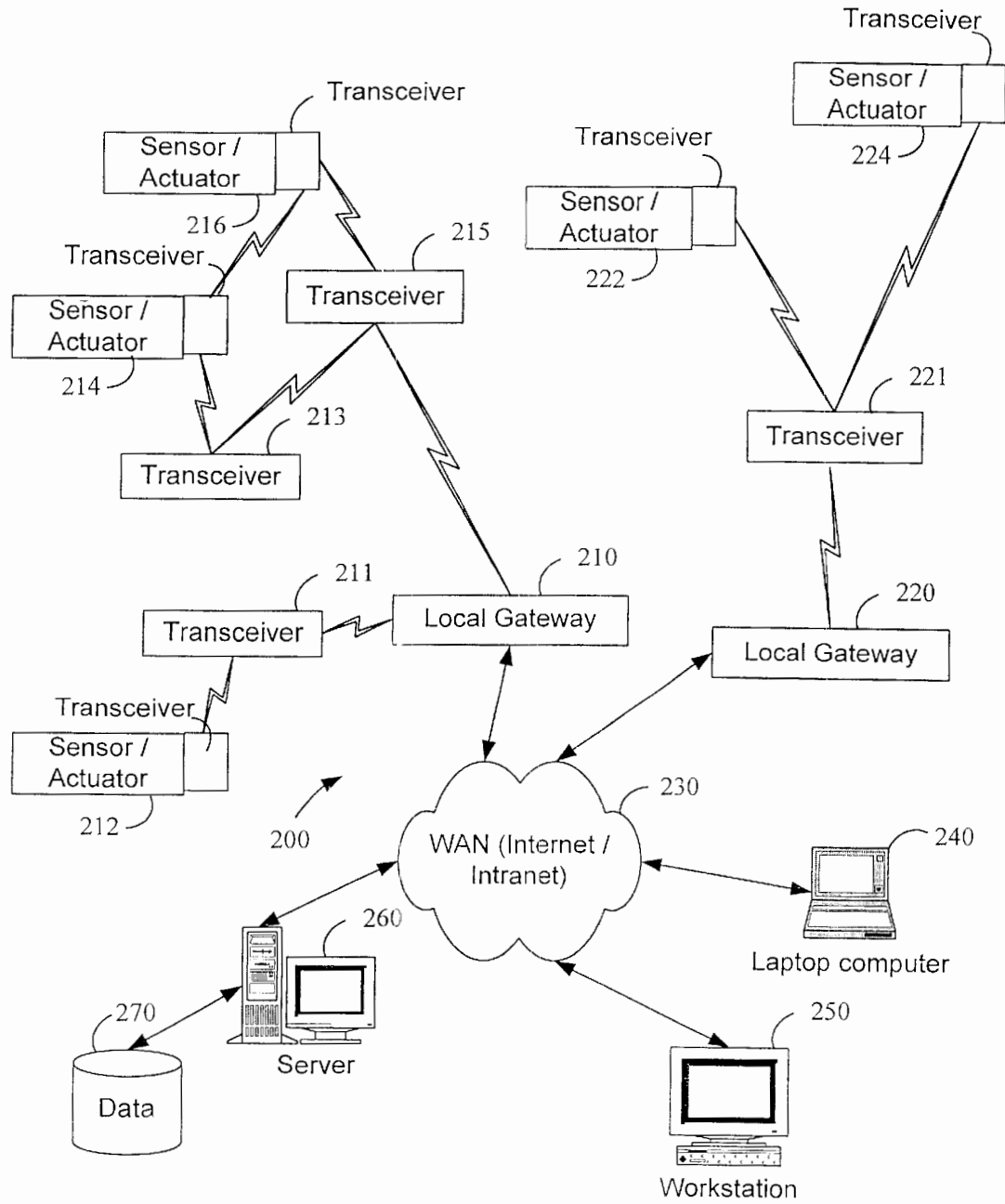


FIG. 2

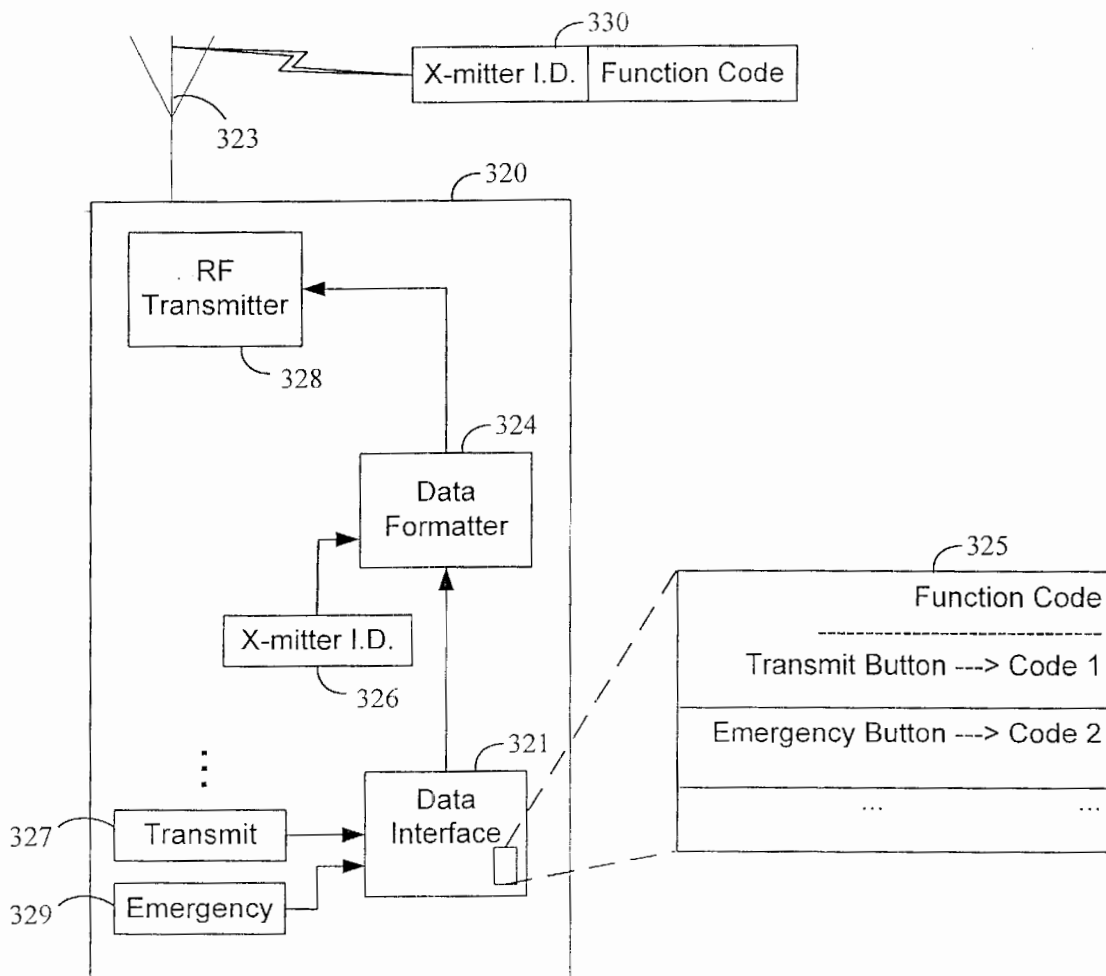


FIG. 3A

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