

# EXHIBIT 6



US006968248B1

(12) **United States Patent**  
**Mata et al.**

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(45) **Date of Patent:** **Nov. 22, 2005**

(54) **AGENT REACTIVE SCHEDULING IN AN AUTOMATED MANUFACTURING ENVIRONMENT**

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**OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

“A Dynamic Reactive Scheduling Mechanism for Responding to Changes of Production Orders and Manufacturing Resources”, 2001, Elsevier Science.

\* cited by examiner

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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.: **11/151,098**

(57) **ABSTRACT**

(22) Filed: **Jun. 13, 2005**

**Related U.S. Application Data**

(63) Continuation of application No. 10/135,145, filed on Apr. 30, 2002, now Pat. No. 6,907,305.

A method and apparatus for scheduling in an automated manufacturing environment, comprising are disclosed. The method includes detecting an occurrence of a predetermined event in a process flow; notifying a software scheduling agent of the occurrence; and reactively scheduling an action from the software scheduling agent responsive to the detection of the predetermined event. The apparatus is automated manufacturing environment including a process flow and a computing system. The computing system further includes a plurality of software scheduling agents residing thereon, the software scheduling agents being capable of reactively scheduling appointments for activities in the process flow responsive to a plurality of predetermined events.

(51) **Int. Cl.**<sup>7</sup> ..... **G06F 19/00**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **700/99; 700/100; 700/121; 705/8**

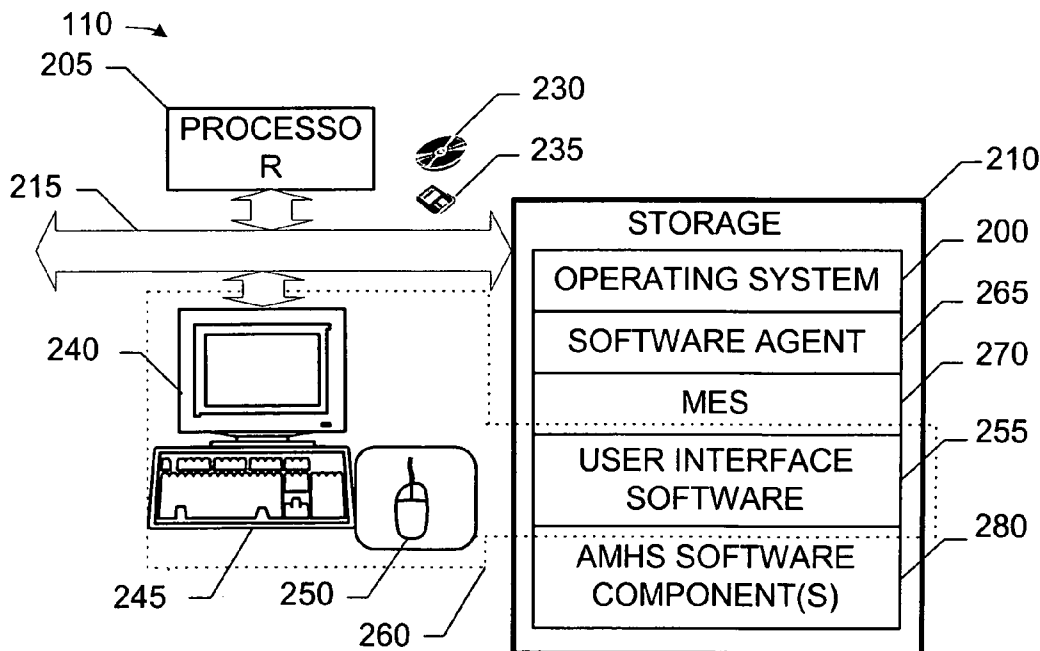
(58) **Field of Search** ..... **700/99, 100, 101, 700/117, 121; 705/8**

(56) **References Cited**

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4,994,980 A \* 2/1991 Lee et al. .... 700/173

**22 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets**



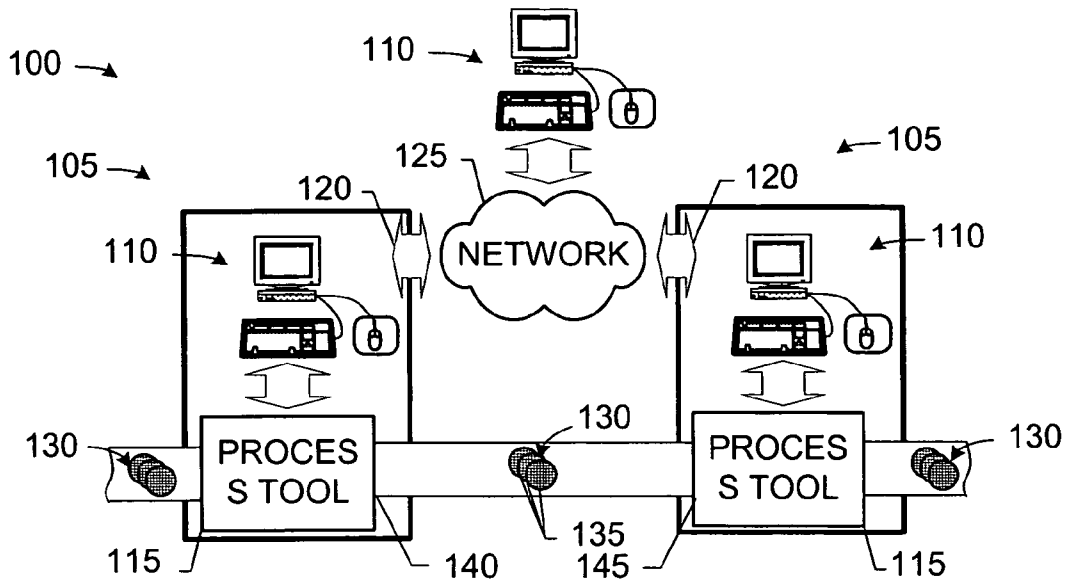


FIG. 1

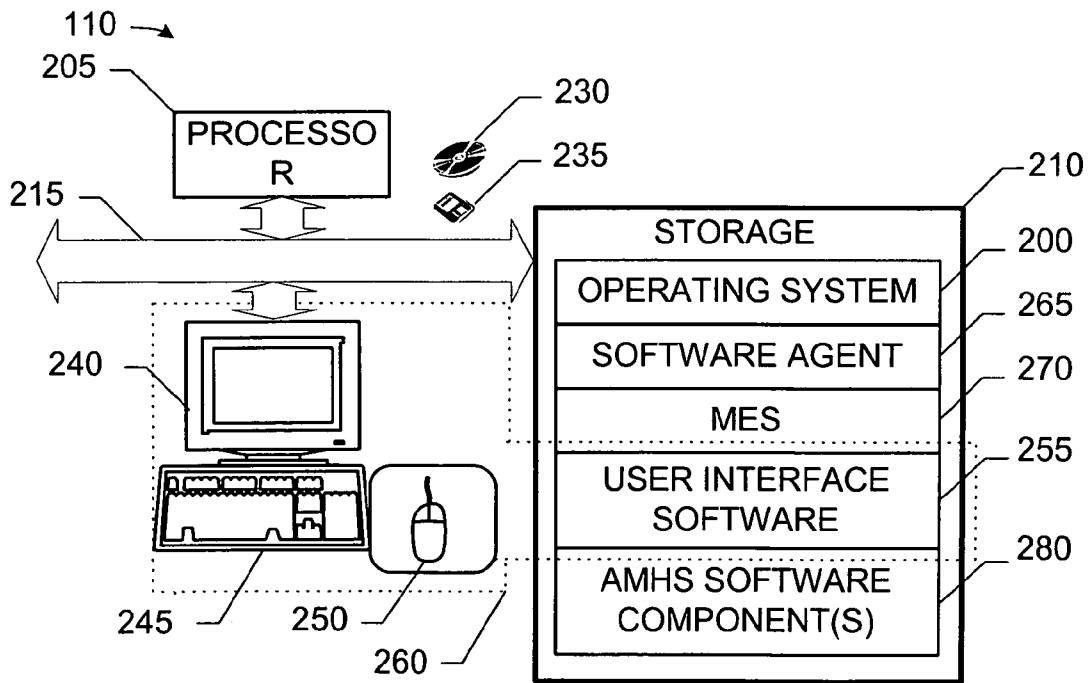


FIG. 2

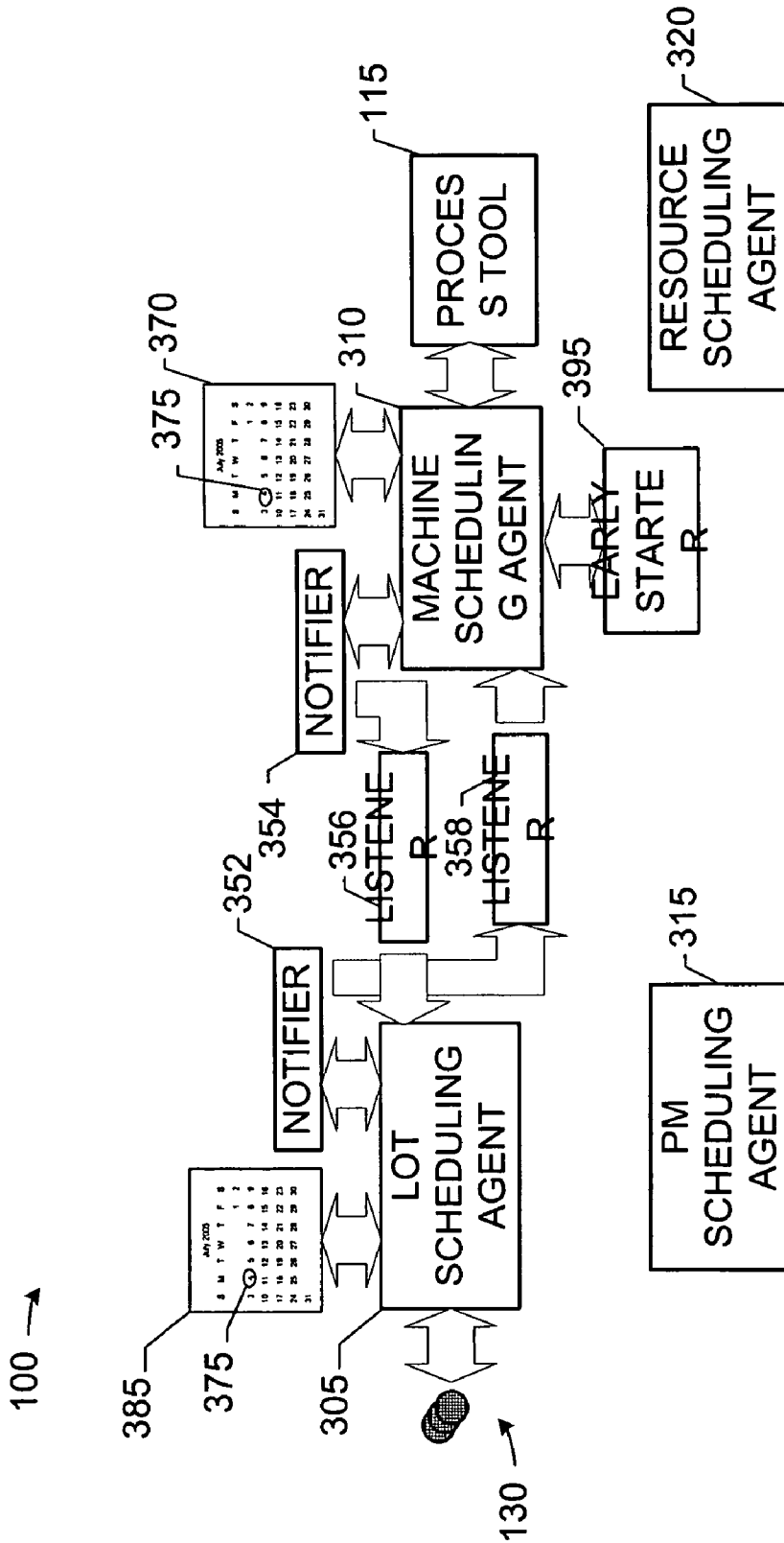


FIG. 3

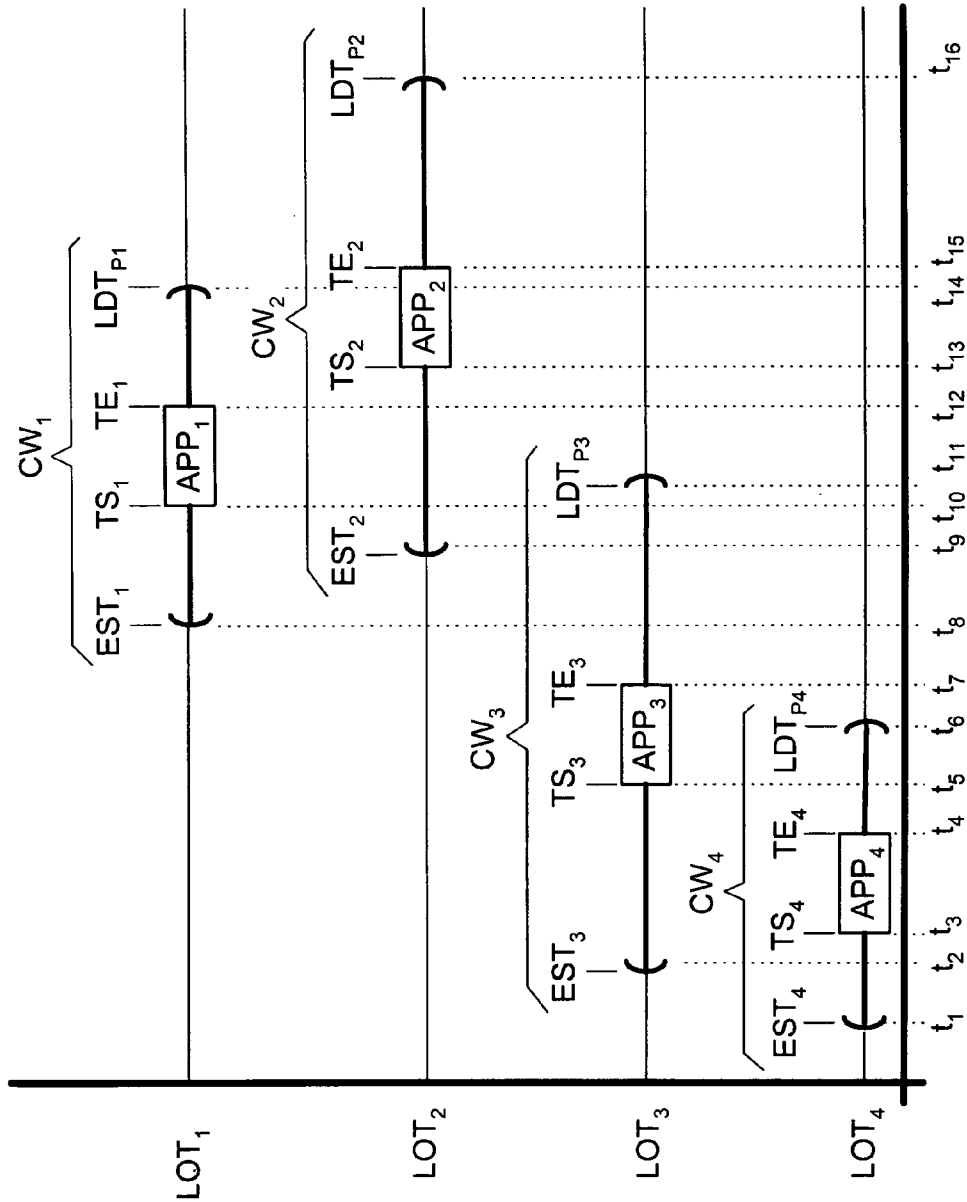


FIG. 4

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