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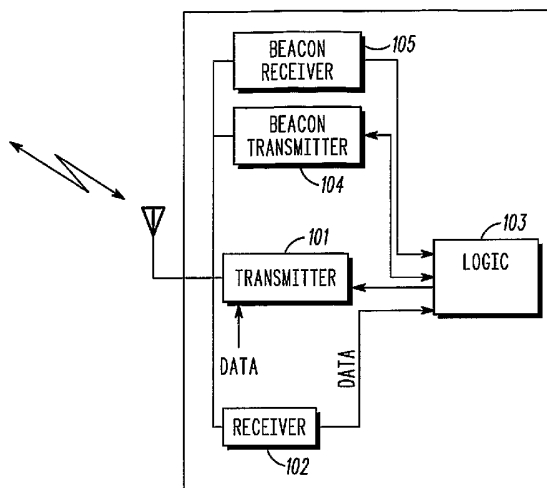
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ALLOWING COMMUNICATION UNITS TO UTILIZE NON-LICENSED SPECTRUM



100

(57) Abstract: A method and apparatus for allowing communication units (100) to utilize non-licensed spectrum is provided herein. In particular, when a radio (100) determines a need to transmit within non-licensed spectrum, the radio (100) searches for a beacon being transmitted (303). The beacon identifies a priority of the current user of the non-licensed spectrum (305). If the radio's (100) priority is higher than the current user of the non-licensed spectrum, or if no beacon is heard, the radio (100) may begin transmitting within the non-licensed spectrum (311). As part of the radio's (100) transmission, a beacon will be broadcast by the radio (100) identifying the radio's (100) priority.



— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(8) - H04Q 7/20

USPC - 455/454

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 329/304, 370/29,30,50,69,1,95,3,331,345, 375/131,133,222,281,322,345, 379/58,
455/6,34,2,62,67,1,89,422,426,1,445,454,456,1,553,1,554,555,560,575 and 709/238

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
NONE

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Patent Full-Text and Full-Page Database; PatentCafe ICO semantic search engine of US Patent, US Published Applications, WIPO, Great Britain, Japan, Germany, European Patent Office (EPO).

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5,475,677 A (ARNOLD et al.) 12 December 1995 (12.12.1995), col. 1 lines 20-30; col. 4 lines 10-30; col. 6 lines 40-50.	1-10
A	US 6,366,622 B1 (BROWN et al.) 02 April 2002 (02.04.2002), col. 5 lines 5-20; col. 21 lines 25-40; col. 28 lines 25-35; col. 29 lines 20-30; fig. 29H.	1-10
A	US 6,567,665 B1 (KISSEE) 20 May 2003 (20.05.2003), col. 9 lines 30-50; col. 11 lines 20-35.	1-5, 8 and 10
A	US 6,556,825 B1 (MANSFIELD) 29 April 2003 (29.04.2003), col. 2 lines 50-60; col. 3 lines 5-55; col. 4 lines 5-55; col. 5 lines 5-25; col. 6 lines 5-65.	1-10
A	US 6,650,630 B1 (HAARTSEN) 18 November 2003 (18.11.2003), col. 1 lines 10-60.	3, 5 and 7
A	US 6,782,264 B2 (ANDERSON) 24 August 2004 (24.08.2004), col. 1 lines 55-65; col. 2 lines 40-55; col. 4 lines 20-30; col. 8 lines 20-30; col. 35 line 15 through col. 36 line 65; col. 47 line 5 through col. 48 line 65.	1, 3 and 6-10
A	US 6,647,426 B2 (MOHAMMED) 11 November 2003 (11.11.2003) see the abstract.	1
A	US 6,374,102 B1 (BRACHMAN et al.) 16 April 2002 (16.04.2002) see the entire document.	1
A	US 6,223,055 B1 (CYR) 24 April 2001 (24.04.2001) see the abstract.	1

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