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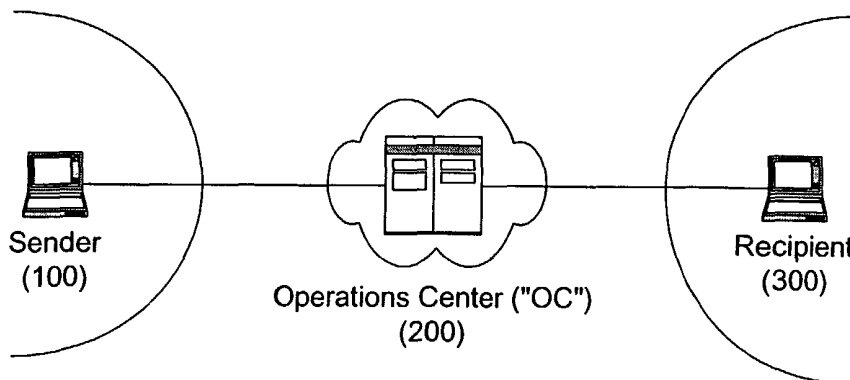
**Declarations under Rule 4.17:**

— as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG)

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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SECURE AND RELIABLE DOCUMENT DELIVERY



(57) Abstract: An Operations Center (OC) (200) acts as a central key manager and intermediary in securely, reliably and non-repudially delivering a document (3) from a sender (100) to a recipient (300). The OC (200) acts as a key manager to facilitate the process of strong authentication of the sender (100) and the recipient (300), encryption of the delivery (510), and setup of reliable connections (2A, 2B, 2C). In a preferred embodiment, the reliable connections (2A, 2B, 2C) are virtual private network connections.



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— *as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii)) for all designations*

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inte: I Application No  
PCT/SG 01/00139

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 6 064 878 A (WATKINS CHRISTOPHER J C H ET AL) 16 May 2000 (2000-05-16) column 2, line 13 - line 52 column 3, line 41 - line 62 column 4, line 22 - line 47 -----	1-67

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