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(54) **Radio communications detection apparatus and method**

(57) An apparatus and method is disclosed for detecting traffic violations involving use of mobile telephones and other communications apparatus in a moving vehicle 20. Directional antennae 14 are aimed at a vehicle 20 and radio emissions from the vehicle 20 are analysed to see if their type corresponds to a targeted type of radio communications activity. If there is correspondence, a camera 24 is triggered to provide an image of the vehicle 20 with appended details of commu-

nications type and time. The image can then be examined to determine if the vehicle driver was, in fact, the individual using mobile communications. Dual criteria of signal strength and communications type are used before the camera 24 is triggered. The image is communicable to another place for action, analysis or bureaucratic processing. Automatic gain control features ensure wide range signal strength handling capacity. A portable version is also disclosed.

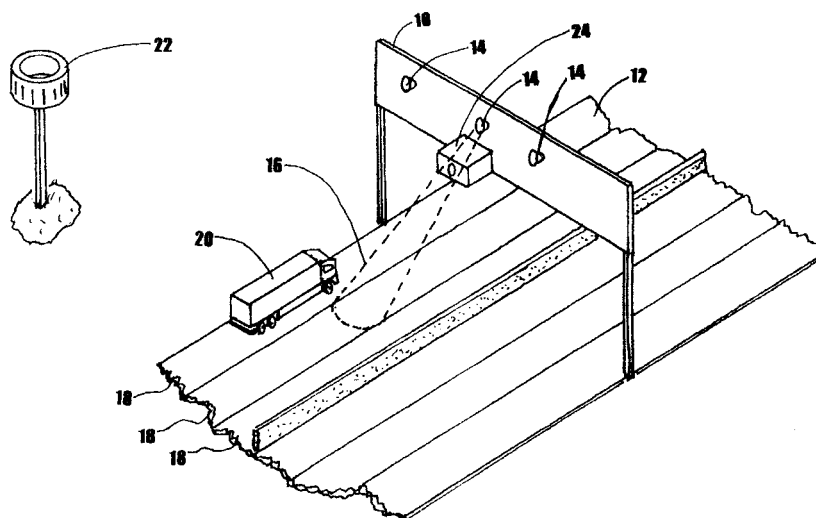


FIGURE 1



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 01 30 1651

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
Y A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1999, no. 09, 30 July 1999 (1999-07-30) & JP 11 098559 A (FUJITSU TEN LTD), 9 April 1999 (1999-04-09) * abstract *	1,7, 10-12, 14,21, 24-26,28 2-6,8,9, 13, 15-20, 22,23,27	G08G1/017 H04Q7/34
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Y	--- EP 0 741 377 A (NEMESYS GES FUER NEUE MESSYST) 6 November 1996 (1996-11-06) * column 1, line 20-30; figures 1-3 * * column 2, line 10-45 * * column 3, line 30-45 * * column 4, line 20-30 * * column 5, line 20-30 * -----	10,24	G08G H04Q B60R H04B H04M H04N
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 28 August 2001	Examiner Coffa, A
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
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