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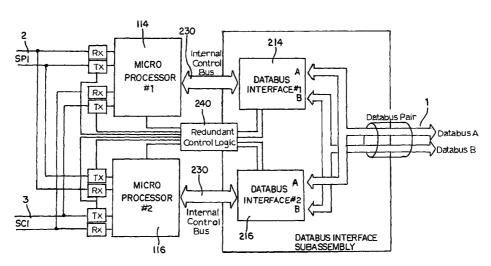
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(54) Title: ELECTRIC LOAD MANAGEMENT CENTER



(57) Abstract: An electrical power distribution system is disclosed that includes a gateway module (100) including logic (112) to interface to a vehicle management computer (VMC) (50) via a dual redundant standard data bus (1). The gateway module (100) has redundant microcontrollers (114, 116) operably connected to the VMC (50) for selectively controlling supply of electrical power to a plurality of separate electrical loads (120). A plurality of Load Management Modules (300) is provided. Each Load Management Module (300) includes a local microcontroller (310); power switching devices (320); and application specific integrated circuits ASICs (330) for interfacing the power switching devices (320) to the local microcontroller (310). Each ASIC (330) can be connected to a corresponding digital potentiometer (600) that is used to program an over current protection characteristic. Additionally, each ASIC (330) can include a voltage to frequency converter (381) that provides a true RMS current value to the local microcontroller (310).

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 G05B19/042 G05E G01R21/133 G05D1/00 H04L12/407 B60R16/02 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) IPC 7 H04L GO5B GO5D GO1R B60R Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category ° Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. Υ EP 1 055 547 A (VOITH TURBO KG) 1 29 November 2000 (2000-11-29) column 7, line 1-3,14,41-46; figure 2 column 8, line 13 column 9, line 51-57 column 10, line 7,15-18,50 column 13, line 28,46-49 column 17, line 19-23,38-43 column 2, line 19-24 column 8, line 13-16; figure 1 column 6, line 41-51; figures 1,3,6B 2 - 4column 3, line 9; figure 2 5,6 Υ column 13, line 23-42; figure 2 χ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. X Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 05/01/2004 17 December 2003 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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