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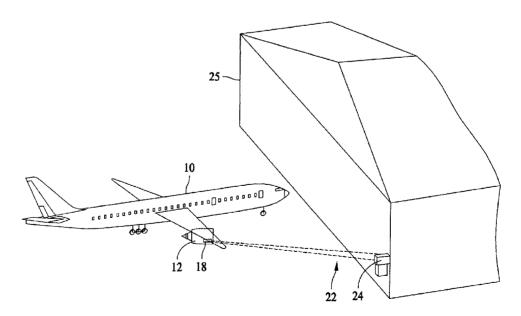
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SYSTEM AND METHODS FOR TRACKING AIRCRAFT COMPONENTS



(57) Abstract: An aircraft component identification and maintenance tracking system is disclosed. The system.includes a plurality of aircraft components (12), a plurality of radio frequency identification (RFID) tags (18), and a transceiver (24) operatively configured to transmit an activation signal (22) to each of the RPID tags. Each of the RFID tags (18) is associated with a respective one of the aircraft components (12) and comprises identification and maintenance data information specific to the aircraft component to which it is associated. The transceiver is configured to receive information transmitted by each of the RFID tags (18) which are configured to transmit identification and maintenance data information that is representative of a maintenance history for the aircraft component to which the RFID tag is associated.



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International application No PCT/US2006/036873 a. classification of subject matter INV. G06Q10/00 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) G060 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. X MUHLENBRUCH H ET AL: "DATA ACQUISITION 1 - 47DURING THE ENTIRE PRODUCT LIFE CYCLE AS A BASIS FOR THE MAINTENANCE, DISMANTLING AND PRODUCT RECYCLING PROCESSES" PROCEEDINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL MECHANICAL ENGINEERING CONGRESSAND EXPOSITION - IMECE - ASME, XX, XX, no. IMECE2004-61528, 19 November 2004 (2004-11-19), pages 1-7, XP002322225 abstract figures 1,6,7 Sections "Introduction", "Passive Information Storage" Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex. Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the international filing date or priorily date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "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 filing date "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) involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone 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 docudocument referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. other means *P* 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 7 May 2008 06/06/2008 Name and malling 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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