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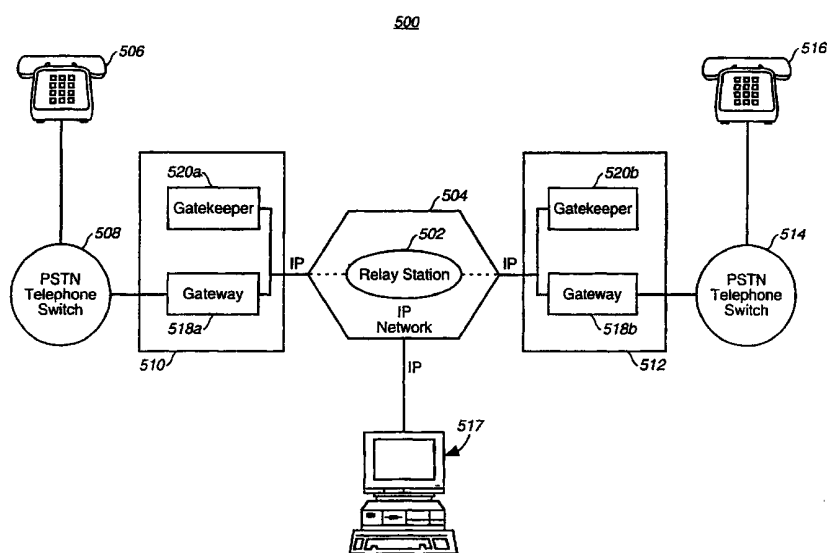
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- For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: METHODS FOR PROVIDING PREPAID TELEPHONY SERVICE VIA AN INTERNET PROTOCOL NETWORK SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: Methods are disclosed for providing prepaid telephony service via an Internet protocol (IP) network system (300, 500). A first method provides controlling at least one media agent (304) or call routing station/switch (310, 312) of an IP network system (300) for allowing and/or blocking call media streams from traversing through the media agent. A second method provides directing all signaling messages transmitted by a signaling agent (502) or station (510, 512) and all media packets transmitting voice and data communications through at least one common device within the IP network system (500). The methods further provide for continuously monitoring a subscriber's account balance and terminating the prepaid telephony service if the account balance is less than a predetermined amount.

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US00/41990

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : H04M 17/00

US CL : 379/144

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. : 379/144, 114, 112, 90.01, 91.01, 93.08, 100.04, 100.05; 370/352, 238, 401

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 practicable, search terms used)

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X,P	US 6,137,869 A (VOIT et al) 24 October 2000 (24.10.2000), column 1, lines 1-10, column 2, lines 12-25, column 3, lines 8-23, 36-57, column 4, lines 19-39, column 5, lines 1-67, column 6, lines 6-67, column 7, lines 45-58, column 8, lines 1-24, 52-55, column 9, lines 13-53, column 10, lines 5-47, column 12, lines 45-67, column 13, lines 3-61, column 14, lines 5-15, column 16, lines 55-67, column 20, lines 40-64, column 21, lines 58-61, column 22.	1-22
Y	US 5,864,610 A (RONEN) 26 January 1999 (26.01.1999), figures 1-11, columns 1-10.	1-22
Y	US 5,889,774 A (MIRASHRAFI et al) 30 March 1999 (30.03.1999), figure 1, columns 1-4.	1-22
Y	US 5,907,547 A (FOLADARE et al) 25 May 1999 (25.05.1999), abstract, figure 1, columns 1-8.	1-22
Y	US 5,923,659 A (CURRY et al) 13 July 1999 (13.07.1999), abstract, figures 1-15, columns 9-20.	1-22
Y	US 5,953,504 A (SOKAL et al) 14 September 1999 (14.09.1999), abstract, figure 1, columns 1-2.	1-22
Y	US 5,956,391 A (MELEN et al) 21 September 1999 (21.09.1999), figures 1-2, columns 1-8.	1-22



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

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