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(54) **Title:** RF METER READING SYSTEM

BIT Content	Number of Bits	Fixed Value
Sync Bit (MSB)	1	1
Preamble	20	0xF2A60
ERT ID MS Bits	2	-
Reserved	1	-
Physical Tamper	2	-
ERT Type	4	-
Encoder Tamper	2	-
Consumption Data	24	-
ERT ID LS Bits	24	-
CRC Checksum (LSB)	16	-

(57) **Abstract:** The automatic meter reading (AMR) systems and methods of the present invention facilitate meter reading utilizing one-way and two-way communication with utility meter endpoint devices while at the same time providing an operating regime that conserves energy for long battery life and utilizes the available airwaves for AMR communications efficiently. Embodiments of the invention are applicable in AMR systems employing handheld and/or vehicle-based mobile readers, fixed readers, and combinations thereof. Moreover, embodiments of the invention facilitate smooth transition from mobile AMR systems to fixed systems, and provide for automatic AMR system performance monitoring and automatic adaptability to maintain or improve performance.

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Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) EAST		
C DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No
X	US 5,134,578 (Garvenck et al) 28 July 1992 (28 07 1992), whole document	1-2 and 6-8
X	US 2005/0176394 A1 (Inogai) 11 August 2005 (11 08 2005), whole document	1-2 and 6-8
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