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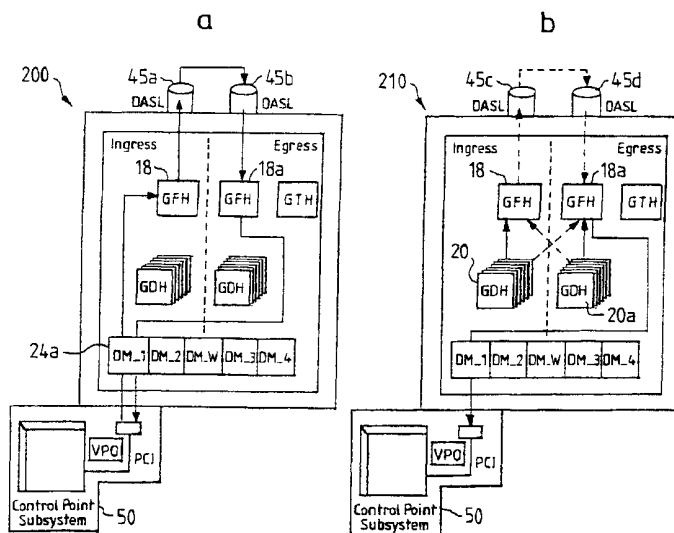
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD FOR DEFINING AND CONTROLLING THE OVERALL BEHAVIOR OF A NETWORK PROCESSOR DEVICE



(57) Abstract: A system and method for controlling overall behavior of a network processor device implemented in a network processing environment servicing a communications network. The method includes steps of receiving a guided control frame including one or more control functions for configuring various functional devices within the network processor with device control parameter data; a step of forwarding one or more control functions from a received control frame to a functional device within the network processor to be configured; and, executing the control functions as specified in the control frame. A novel control frame data structure and communications infrastructure is implemented whereby any network processor device operating in a distributed network processing environment may be controlled in accordance with executed control functions and device control parameter data.



WO 01/78308 A3



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 H04L

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, WPI Data, PAJ, IBM-TDB, INSPEC, COMPENDEX

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X A	US 5 715 246 A (ABDESSELEM OUELID ET AL) 3 February 1998 (1998-02-03) abstract figures 1,2 column 2, line 62 -column 3, line 50 column 6, line 8 -column 6, line 51 ---	1,11,17 2-10, 12-16, 18-27
X A	US 5 914 957 A (BRAJCZEWSKI DAVID C ET AL) 22 June 1999 (1999-06-22) abstract figures 1,5,6 claims 1,6,10,11 column 1, line 56 -column 2, line 53 column 5, line 14-33 --- -/--	1,11,17 2-10, 12-16, 18-27

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Patent family members are listed in annex.

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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