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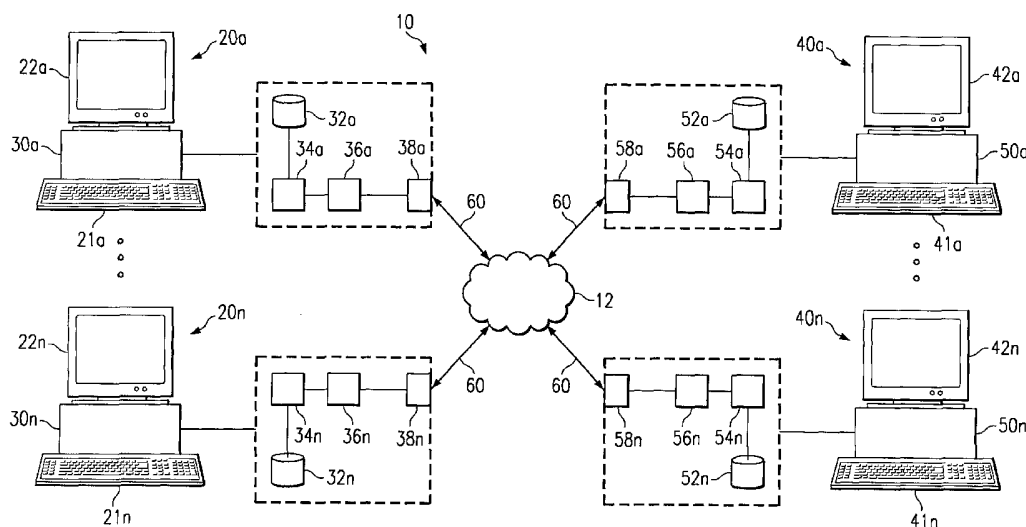
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ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR MULTI-ENTERPRISE OPTIMIZATION USING FLEXIBLE TRADE CONTRACTS



(57) Abstract: A method of multi-enterprise optimization at a buyer computer (20) includes accessing a forecasted demand for at least one item and generating one or more proposed flexible trade contracts (500, 530, 560) using the forecasted demand for the item. The proposed flexible trade contract (500, 530, 560) is communicated to a seller computer (40) and subsequently executed after acceptance of the proposed flexible trade contract (500, 530, 560) at the seller computer (40) to create a flexible trade contract (500, 530, 560). Each proposed flexible trade contract (500, 530, 560) may be a forward contract (500), an option contract (530), or a flexible forward contract (560).

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US01/10782

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : G06F 17/60

US CL : 705/37, 35

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. : 705/37, 35

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)

Databases on Industry and Finance, EPO, JAPIO, USPTO and JPO databases .

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0770 967 A2 (SCHMIDT et al.) 02 May 1997, pages 3, 4, 28-32, 50, 51, 81, 82.	1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 11, 15, 16, 19-21, 25, 32, 34-37, 41, 42, 46, 48-51, 55, and 56
----- Y		----- 3, 4, 8-10, 12-14, 17, 18, 22-24, 26-29, 31-33, 38-40, 43, 44, 46, 47, 52-54, 57, and 58



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

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"A"	document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"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
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"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)	"&"	document member of the same patent family
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"P"	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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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.
Y	US 5,970,479 A (SHEPHERD) 19 October 1999, col. 2, lines 28-32; col.49, line 27; col. 50, line 27; col. 55, line 60; col. 56, line 7.	3, 4, 8-10, 12-14, 17, 18, 22-24, 26-29, 31-33, 38-40, 43, 44, 46, 47, 52-54, 57 and 58.
A	US 5,758,097 A (DEBE et al.) 26 May 1998, the whole patent.	1-58
A	FARNSWORTH E.A., and YOUNG W.F., Cases and Materials on Contracts, 4th Edition, 1988, The Foundation Press, Inc., N.Y., pages 181-188 and 216.	1-58
A	FEDERAL REGISTER, Vol. 62, No. 21, 31 January 1997, page 4821.	1-58