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(88) Date of publication of the international search report: 1 November 2007

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: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR FACILITATING A PURCHASE PROCESS

(57) Abstract: A transaction system and method is provided for enabling potential buyers to purchase goods through reverse on-line auction process. The transaction system is configured to automatically receive periodic uploads of information regarding goods for sale by suppliers and to store this information in a database. A potential buyer can log in to the transaction system and submit searches for goods based on a variety of parameters which may include condition, warranty, and revision. The potential buyer also submits an offer price for each requested item. The transaction system queries the database to determine if the requested goods are available. The transaction system selects the vendor so as to maximize the sales margin and then determines whether the buyer’s offer can be accepted based on predetermined margin requirements. If the buyer’s offer can be accepted, the system generates an acceptance to the offer from the buyer and generates a purchase order to the selected supplier.
**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**
- **IPC(8):** G06Q 99/00 (2007.01)
- **USPC:** 705/80

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)

- **IPC(8):** G06Q 99/00 (2007.01)
- **USPC:** 705/80

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

- **USPC:** 705/1, 50, 80, 400; 707/3, 6; 715/962. 968

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
- **Electronic databases:** USPTO WEST (PGPB, USPT, EPAB, JPAB); DIALOG PRO
  - Search Terms Used: reverse sales or auction, merchant or supplier or vendor or retailer products or goods or assets, matching or comparing price or product, searching or querying databases, buyer or purchaser order, profit or margin etc

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category*</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>US 2005/0273417 A1 (Budish) 08 December 2005 (08.12.2005) ([abstract, fig.1, and para [0015]-[0057], [0170]-[0174], [0178]-[0186]])</td>
<td>1-30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>US 2003/0208436 A1 (Boyle et al.) 06 November 2003 (06.11.2003) ([abstract, fig.1, and para [0013], [0022], [0030]-[0031]])</td>
<td>1-30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

- **A** document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- **E** earlier application or patent but published on or after the international 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)
- **O** document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- **P** document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed
- **T** later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- **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
- **Y** 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 documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
- **&** document member of the same patent family

**D**

Date of the actual completion of the international search: 18 July 2007 (18.07.2007)

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