(54) Title: INTEGRATED GLOBAL TRACKING AND VIRTUAL INVENTORY SYSTEM

(57) Abstract: Disclosed is an integrated global shipment system that provides end-to-end visibility of the movement of a package. The integrated global shipment system employs a shipment consolidating application for integrating one or more freight tracking systems with one or more end-delivery systems. As a result, shippers are provided with complete visibility of the movement of their shipments of goods from an origin country to a destination country and till the final consignee. In addition, the integrated shipment system significantly decreases the cost of managing inventories by providing a virtual inventory solution. Under this virtual inventory solution, suppliers are able to bypass distribution centers and delay allocation of goods until after the importation of goods into a destination country.
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : G06F 17-60
US CL : 705-1, 7, 8, 26

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. : 705-1, 7, 8, 26

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)

Search in EAST database using search terms such as Ship$5 and track$3 and freight and deliver$2 and inventory and destination and count$3 and consolidate$3 and import$3 and export$3 and (Track$3 near number$1) and label$3 and (truck with load) and code and @adj="20031230"

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>A</td>
<td>US 6,785,718 (Hancek et al.) 31 August 2004 (31.08.2004).</td>
<td>1-32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>US 2002/0016726 (Ross) 07 February 2002 (07.02.2002).</td>
<td>1-32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>US 6,474,927 (McAdams et al.) 05 November 2002 (05.11.2002).</td>
<td>1-32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

Special categories of cited documents:

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"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

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"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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"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

06 September 2005 (06.09.2005)

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