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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **PULSE-LINK, INC.** [US/US]; 1969 Kellogg Avenue, Carlsbad, CA 92008 (US).
- (72) Inventor; and
- (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **SANTHOFF, John** [US/US]; 6434 Kinglet Way, Carlsbad, CA 92009 (US).
- (74) Agent: **MARTINEZ, Peter, R.**; PULSE-LINK, INC., 1969 Kellogg Avenue, Carlsbad, CA 92008 (US).
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Declarations under Rule 4.17:

- as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))
- as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))

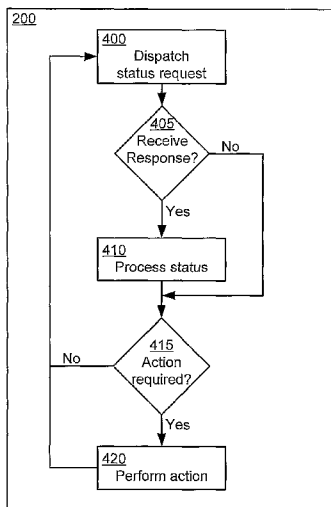
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(54) Title: INTERACTIVE COMMUNICATION APPARATUS AND SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: An apparatus and method for communicating with remote devices found on broadband networks is provided. One embodiment of the present invention obtains information characterizing the status of a device on the broadband network, and may also obtain information relating to communication parameters within the network. In addition, information that may lead to preventative maintenance may be obtained, thereby minimizing, if not eliminating, system failures. For example, remote devices within a multiple service operator's system may provide information to the cable head-end to enable it to change, optimize, and/or modify signal transmission characteristics. This Abstract is provided for the sole purpose of complying with the Abstract requirement rules that allow a reader to quickly ascertain the subject matter of the disclosure contained herein. This Abstract is submitted with the explicit understanding that it will not be used to interpret or to limit the scope or the meaning of the claims.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC(8) - H04J 3/00 (2007.01) USPC - 370/345 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) - H04J 3/00 (2007.01) USPC - 370/345, 442; 375/37, 23, 96; 725/119, 63, 129, 69 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) PatBase: ft=televis* or TV*, ft=transceiv*, ft=(status or state*), ft=messag*, ft=(respon* or repl*), ft=multi*, ft=system*, ft=operat*, ft=coax*, ft=coax*, ft=cabl*; MicroPatent (Databases-USG USA EPA EPB WO JP DEG DEA DET DEU GBA FRA): Patent/Publication No. US2005232219 US2003193924 US4641317 US4813057 us5166890 us5586145		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2003/0193924 A1 (GEHRING et al) 16 October 2003 (16.10.2003) entire document	1-7 and 9-18
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Y		8
Y	US 4,813,057 A (FULLERTON) 14 March 1989 (14.03.1989) entire document	8
A	US 5,586,145 A (MORGAN et al) 17 December 1996 (17.12.1996) entire document	1-18
A	US 4,641,317 A (FULLERTON) 03 February 1987 (03.02.1987) entire document	1-18
A	US 5,166,890 A (SMISCHNY) 24 November 1992 (24.11.1992) entire document	1-18
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