

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
31 August 2000 (31.08.2000)

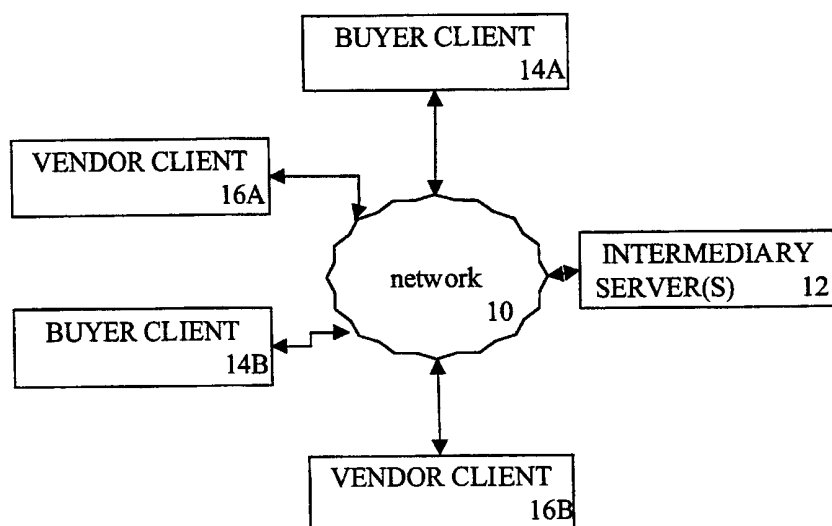
PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 00/50970 A3

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: G06F 17/60 (72) Inventor; and
(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): DE GHEEST, Anne
[US/US]; 12133 Foothill Lane, Los Altos Hills, CA 94022 (US).
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/US00/04814
- (22) International Filing Date: 24 February 2000 (24.02.2000)
- (74) Agents: MILLIKEN, Darren, J. et al.; Blakely, Sokoloff, Taylor & Zafman LLP, 7th floor, 12400 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90025 (US).
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (81) Designated States (national): AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.
- (30) Priority Data:
- | | | |
|------------|--------------------------------|----|
| 60/121,458 | 24 February 1999 (24.02.1999) | US |
| 09/410,490 | 30 September 1999 (30.09.1999) | US |
| 09/409,836 | 30 September 1999 (30.09.1999) | US |
| 60/158,582 | 7 October 1999 (07.10.1999) | US |
| 60/161,789 | 27 October 1999 (27.10.1999) | US |
- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): MED-POOL.COM, INC. [US/US]; 1600 Bridge Parkway, Suite 102, Redwood Shores, CA 94065 (US).
- (84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHODS AND APPARATUSES FOR ELECTRONIC BIDDING SYSTEMS



(57) Abstract: A system, method and apparatus aggregates buyer client needs and anonymously presents these needs to one or more vendor clients to request quotes. According to one embodiment (see Fig. 1), buyer clients [14A and 14B] present quote requests which may be binding to an intermediary [12]. The intermediary aggregates these buyer client quote requests in order to receive enhanced terms from vendor clients [16A and 16B]. The identity of the aggregated buyer client may remain anonymous. Individual buyer clients may initiate a quote request, which will be posted anonymously to allow other buyer clients to join in, or the intermediary can post regular quote requests based on an optimization of the preferences of the buyer client community and the demand based on prior trades. Several other embodiments are identified which provide variations of the system, method and apparatus to optimize it for particular user needs.



WO 00/50970 A3



MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:

14 December 2000

Published:

— With international search report.

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.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

 International application No.
PCT/US00/04814

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC(7) : G06F 17/60 US CL : 705/37 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 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) STN, EAST, DIALOG, DRLINK search terms: electronic commerce, seller, buyer, referral, electronic shopping, network, Internet, auction		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	Christmas Wishes 1991. Current Catalog. 1991. pg. 1-3 and A	1-129
Y	About ONSALE. ONSALE. 1996. pg. 1-2	1-129
Y	ONSALE Home. ONSALE. 08 September 1997. pg. 1-4.	1-129
Y	US 5,835,896 A (FISHER et al.) 10 November 1998, fig. 12, [94,97-98, 155]; fig. 14, [181, 183-185]; col. 2, lines 20-33	1-129
Y,T	US 5,905,975 A (AUSUBEL) 18 May 1999, col. 1, lines 61-67; col. 2-4; col. 6-7; col. 9-12; col. 21-22; fig. 7 [701-711]; col. 26; col. 28-32	1-129
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.		
* "A"	Special categories of cited documents document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"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
"E"	earlier document published on or after the international filing date	"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
"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)	"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
"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	"&" document member of the same patent family
Date of the actual completion of the international search 19 JULY 2000		Date of mailing of the international search report 23 AUG 2000
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230		Authorized officer TOD SWANN <i>James R. Matthews</i> Telephone No. (703) 305-3900

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US00/04814

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y,T	US 5,905,974 A (FRASER et al.) 18 May 1999, fig. 1 [10-60]; col. 4-5; col. 8; col. 10-12; col. 17, lines 5-56	1-129
Y	US 5,136,501 A (SILVERMAN et al.) 04 August 1992, fig. 1 [20-34]; Abstract; col. 3-4; col. 6, lines 61-67; col. 7-10; col. 13-14; col. 17-18	1-129
Y	US 5,794,207 A (WALKER et al.) 11 August 1998, col. 8-10; col. 14, lines 30-52; col. 19, lines 61-67; col. 20.	1-129
Y	ONSALE AUCTION SUPERSITE. ONSALE. 09/08/97.	1-129
Y	ONSALE Auction Formats. ONSALE. 1996. PG. 1-2.	1-129