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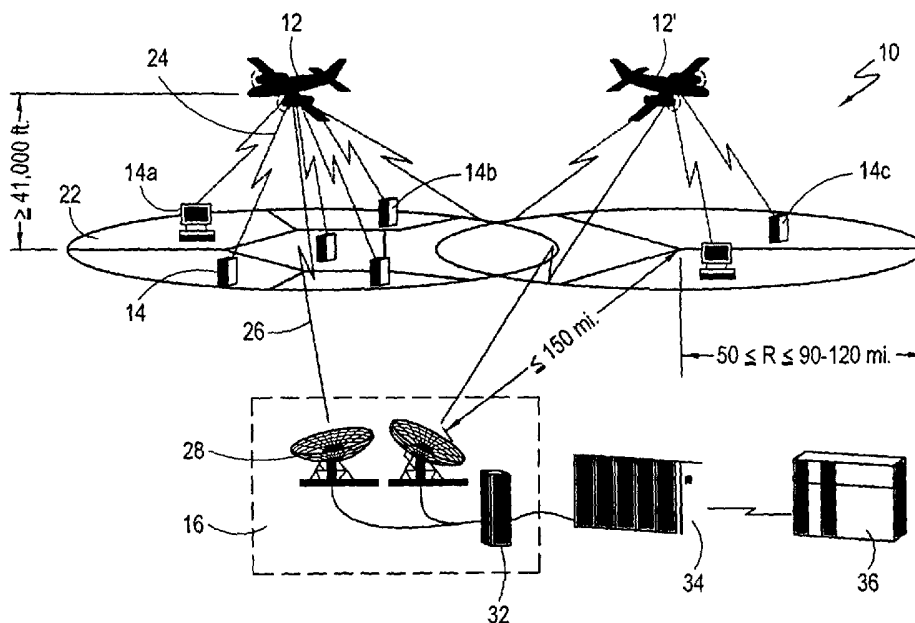
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: A COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM USING HIGH ALTITUDE RELAY PLATFORMS



(57) Abstract: A communications system includes a single stage, turbocharged, piston-powered aircraft that is positioned to fly in the lower stratosphere (41,000 ft.). A first link for the a subscriber on the ground, and a second link is established between the aircraft and a telecommunications base station. With the aircraft in position, communications between the subscriber and another party is then established over the first and second links, and through the base station.



— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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US CL : 455/7,11.1, 12.1, 20, 25

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. : 455/7,11.1, 12.1, 20, 25

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)
EAST

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y, P	US 6,507,739 B1 (GROSS et al) 14 January 2003 (14.01.2003), column 4, lines 1-65, column 6, lines 38-65, figure 2 and 3.	1-20
Y	US 6,456,824 B1 (BUTTE et al) 24 September 2002 (24.09.2002), column 3, lines 1-63, figure 2C.	1-20
Y	US 6,324,398 B1 (LANZEROTTI et al) 27 November 2001 (27.01.2001), column 2, lines 20-58.	1-20
Y	US 6,285,878 B1 (LAI) 04 September 2001 (04.09.2001), column 2, lines 18-45.	2, 11, 18
Y, P	US 6,675,013 B1 (GROSS et al) 06 January 2004 (06.01.2004), column 5, lines 42-60 and figure 4.	8, 9, 16, 20
A	US 2002/0128045 A1 (CHANG et al) 12 September 2002 (12.09.2002), entire document.	1-20
A, P	US 6,804,515 B1 (MCCRAW et al) 12 October 2004 (12.10.2004), entire document.	1-20



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See patent family annex.

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"E"	earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"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
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"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		

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