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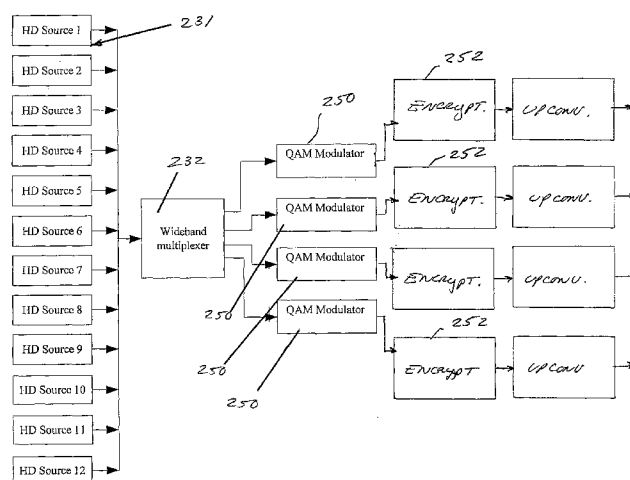
— as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))

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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR WIDEBAND DISTRIBUTION OF CONTENT



(57) Abstract: A method and apparatus to create and transmit transport multiplexes comprising one or more levels of service over a network. In one embodiment, the level of service comprises high definition (HD) content or programs, and the transmitted multiplexes are distributed over a plurality of downstream RF carriers in a cable network simultaneously. A head-end architecture for performing the multiplexing and distribution of multiple HD programs over the multiple carriers (i.e., in a "wideband" configuration) is disclosed. CPE having one or more wideband tuners is also disclosed, the CPE being adapted to receive the multiplexed HD content from the various RF carriers, and demultiplex it in order to permit decoding and subsequent viewing by the user. The use of multiple HD source programs with the multiplex advantageously provides for enhanced statistical multiplexing by providing a larger "pool" of constituent inputs and available carriers.

WO 2006/065948 A3



— *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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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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IPC: H04N 7/12( 2007.01),7/16( 2007.01),7/173( 2007.01),11/02( 2007.01),11/04( 2007.01);H04B 1/66( 2007.01)

USPC: 725/116,118,146,148;348/385.1,387.1,388.1

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. : 725/116, 118, 146, 148; 348/385.1, 387.1, 388.1

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)

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages    | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| X          | US 20030217362 A (SUMMERS et al) 20 November 2003 (20.10.2003), see entire document.  | 1-35                  |
| X          | US 20030002577 A (PINDER) 02 January 2003 (02.01.2003), see entire document.          | 1-35                  |
| X          | US 20020129374 A (FREEMAN et al) 12 September 2002 (12.09.2002), see entire document. | 1-35                  |
| A          | US 5,708,961 A (HYLTON et al) 13 January 1998 (13.01.1998), see entire document.      | 1-35                  |
| A          | US 4,760,442 A (O'CONNELL et al) 26 July 1988 (26.07.1988), see entire document.      | 1-35                  |



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