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(54) **OPTICAL ROUTE EXAMINATION SYSTEM AND METHOD**

(57) Optical route examination systems and methods described herein obtain image data of a field of view (108, 110) of a camera (106; 1606) disposed onboard a first vehicle (102; 1602) as the first vehicle (102; 1602) moves along a first route (120; 1620), and autonomously examine the image data onboard the first vehicle (102) to identify one or more of a feature of interest (200, 202, 204; 500; 804, 806, 808; 1000, 1002, 1004; 1100, 1102, 1104; 1704; 2002, 2006) or a designated object (200, 202, 204; 500; 804, 806, 808; 1000, 1002, 1004; 1100, 1102, 1104; 1704; 2002, 2006).

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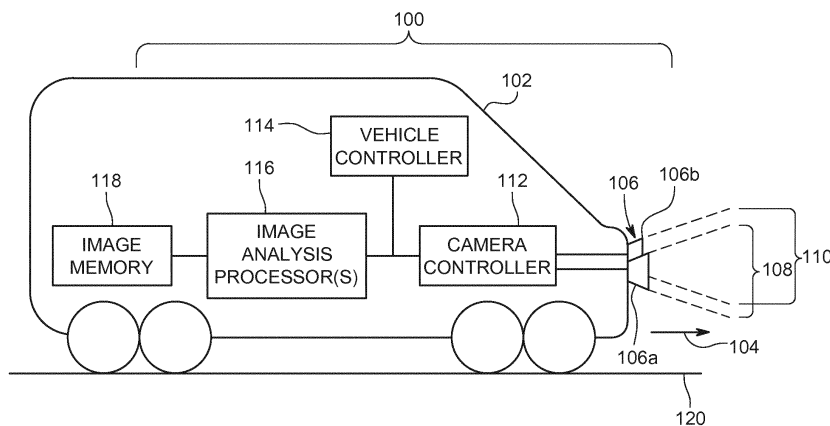


FIG. 1

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**PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT**

Application Number

under Rule 62a and/or 63 of the European Patent Convention.  
This report shall be considered, for the purposes of subsequent proceedings, as the European search report

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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	EP 0 953 491 A1 (AZIENDA TRASPORTI MILANESI [IT]) 3 November 1999 (1999-11-03) * paragraph [0001] - paragraph [0002] * * paragraph [0028] - paragraph [0031] * * column 67 - column 83 * * figures 1,4 *	1-5, 10-12	INV. B61L23/04
X	US 2007/217670 A1 (BAR-AM MICHAEL [IL]) 20 September 2007 (2007-09-20) * paragraph [0005] - paragraph [0007] * * paragraph [0015] - paragraph [0017] * * paragraph [0024] - paragraph [0032] * * figure 1 *	1-5, 10-12	
X	US 2012/263342 A1 (HAAS NORMAN [US] ET AL) 18 October 2012 (2012-10-18) * paragraph [0027] - paragraph [0029] * * paragraph [0041] - paragraph [0043] * * figures 1,6 *	1-5, 10-12	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			B61L
INCOMPLETE SEARCH			
The Search Division considers that the present application, or one or more of its claims, does/do not comply with the EPC so that only a partial search (R.62a, 63) has been carried out.			
Claims searched completely :			
Claims searched incompletely :			
Claims not searched :			
Reason for the limitation of the search: see sheet C			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 8 June 2016	Examiner Janhsen, Axel
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons ..... & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04E07)

**INCOMPLETE SEARCH  
SHEET C**Application Number  
EP 15 18 4083

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Claim(s) completely searchable:  
2-5, 11, 12

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Claim(s) searched incompletely:  
1, 10

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Claim(s) not searched:  
6-9, 13-15

Reason for the limitation of the search:

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In reply to the invitation to indicate the claims on which the search is to be based, the applicant requested that claims 1-5 and 10-12 should be searched in regard to the first group of inventions related to feature of interest.

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Thus, the search report has been drawn up on the basis of these claims. The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that the application will be further prosecuted on the basis of subject-matter for which a search has been carried out and that the claims should be limited to that subject-matter at a later stage of the proceedings (Rule 62a(2) EPC).

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ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 15 18 4083

5 This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.  
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

08-06-2016

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