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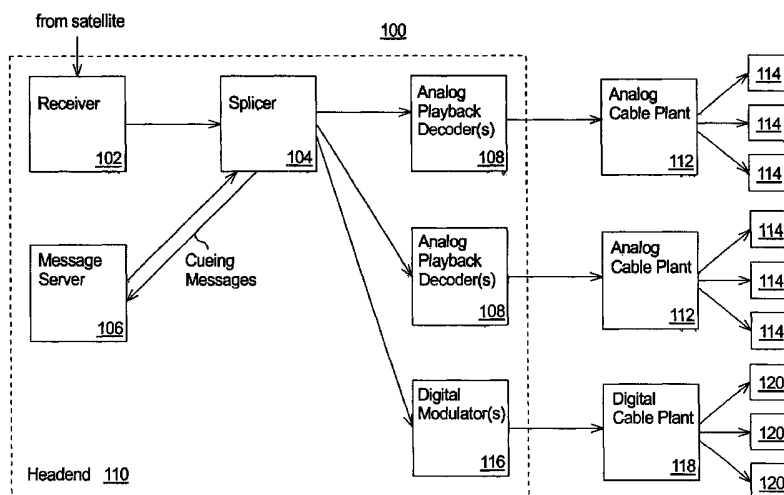
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Declarations under Rule 4.17:

— as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, 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, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: DIGITAL MESSAGE INSERTION TECHNIQUE FOR ANALOG VIDEO SERVICES



(57) Abstract: A digital program insertion technique for analog video services. In one aspect, a method and apparatus are provided for message insertion and delivery of video signals. A digital video program signal is received. A digital video message signal is inserted into the digital video program signal in response to an insertion cueing message. The inserting is performed while the digital video program and message signals remain in digital format, thereby forming a combined digital video signal. The combined digital video is then converted to an analog video signal. The analog video signal is distributed to a plurality of viewers using analog distribution equipment. Thus, the invention provides for the continued use of existing legacy equipment that distributes video signals in analog format. The combined digital video signals may also be delivered in digital format using equipment designed for digital video delivery. Accordingly, the present invention provides for use of newer equipment that processes and distributes video signals in digital format while retaining legacy equipment that distributes the video signals in analog format.

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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. : 725/078, 082, 085, 036, 032, 033, 034, 035		
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) Please See Continuation Sheet		
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 6,487,721 B1 (SAFADI) 26 November 2002, col. 3, lines 11-12	1-3,5,7,9-11,13, ----- 4, 6, 8,12,14,15- 17,18,19,20,21
Y	US 5,682,195 A (HENDRICKS et al) 28 October 1997, fig. 6c, col. 14, lines 19-25, col. 14, lines 23-28	1-3,5,7,9-11,13,15-17 ----- 4,6,8,12,14,18,19,20, 21
Y	US 6,160,989 A (HENDRICKS et al) 12 December 2000, col. 5, lines 11-13 and col. 9, lines 61-65.	4, 12 and 18
Y, P	US 2002/0196850 A1 (LIV et al) 26 December 2002, see entire document.	6 and 14
Y	US 5,600,573 A (HENDRICKS et al) 04 February 1997, see entire document.	8 and 19, 20 and 21
Y	US 5,680,235 A (JOHANSSON) 21 October 1997, see entire document.	8,18,19,20,21
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.		<input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.
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C. (Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y, P	US 2002/0144263 A1 (ELDERING et al) 03 October 2002, fig. 7, para. 77.	18

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Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:
EAST
USPAT; PGPUB; EPO; JPO; DERWENT