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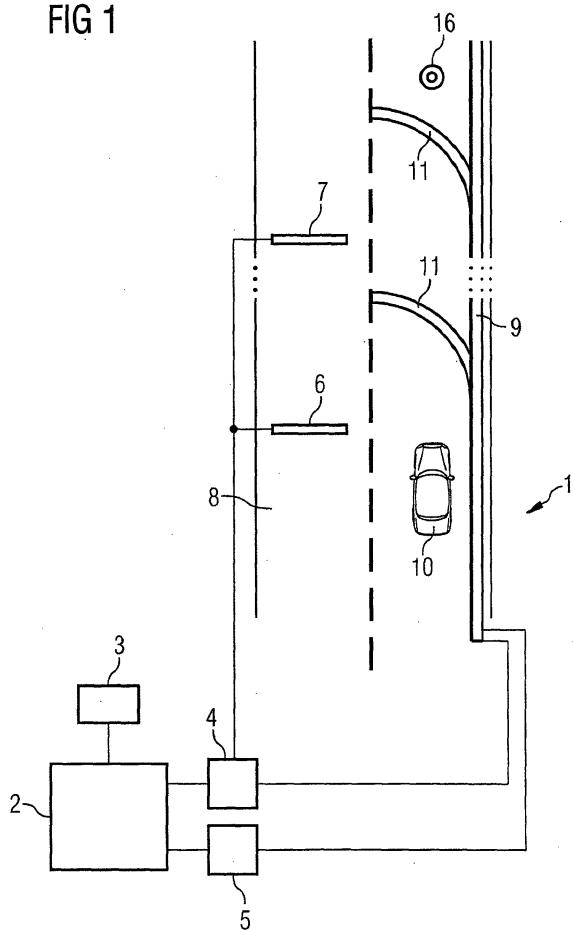
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(54) A vehicle control system, array and array deployment apparatus

(57) A system for controlling traffic on a roadway includes a roadside mounted array for displaying an indicia which moves at a speed related to a desired speed for a vehicle. The driver of the vehicle adjusts the speed of his vehicle to match that of the indicia. The indicia may also be used to indicate a direction or lane change. The invention also provides an array for use in such a system and array deployment apparatus.

FIG 1





DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT					
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)		
X	US 5 134 393 A (HENSON H KEITH) 28 July 1992 (1992-07-28)	1,6-9, 11-15, 17-19, 23,25, 27,29, 30,32 2-5,10, 26	E01F9/053 E01F9/08 G08G1/09		
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X	FR 878 245 A (PIQUEREZ EMILE) 14 January 1943 (1943-01-14) * page 2, line 32-72 * * page 3, line 6-23; figures 1-6 *	33-36			
X	US 4 552 089 A (MAHONEY THOMAS P) 12 November 1985 (1985-11-12) * column 5, line 4-57 * * column 6, line 19-26; figures 1,2 *	33-36 -/-			
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims					
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner			
MUNICH	28 July 2004	Flores Hokkanen, P			
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					



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
A	FR 2 645 187 A (TECH SPECIAL SECURITE) 5 October 1990 (1990-10-05) * the whole document *	33	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
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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			

**CLAIMS INCURRING FEES**

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):

No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.

As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.

Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:

None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:



The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. Claims: 1-32

1.1. Claims: 1-24

INVENTION 1: a vehicle control system with flexible array of lighting elements

1.2. Claims: 25-32

INVENTION 2: an array of lighting elements for a vehicle control system comprising resilient deformable material

2. Claims: 33-36

INVENTION 3: an array deployment apparatus

Please note that all inventions mentioned under item 1, although not necessarily linked by a common inventive concept, could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee.

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

EP 03 07 7851

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.

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