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(71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*):
OLIVETTI TECNOST S.P.A. [IT/IT]; Via G. Jervis, 77,
I-10015 Ivrea (IT).

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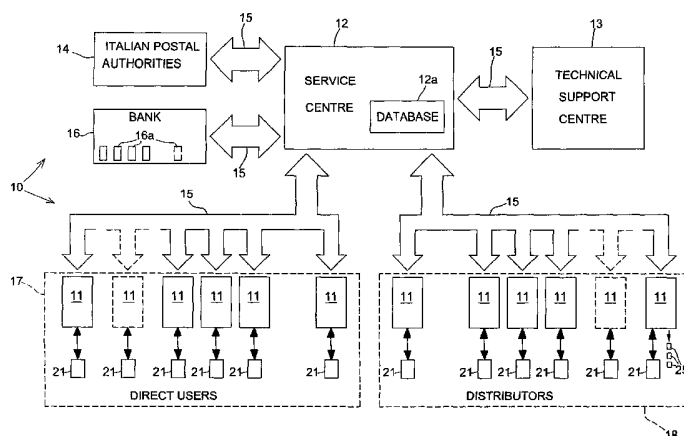
(72) Inventors; and

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(75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): **TONINO, Gian-**
carlo [IT/IT]; c/o Olivetti Tecnost S.P.A., Via G. Jervis,
77, I-10015 Ivrea (TO) (IT). **DI BENEDETTO, Pier,**
Domenico [IT/IT]; C/O Olivetti Tecnost S.P.A., Via G.
Jervis, 77, I-10015 Ivrea (TO) (IT). **QUARANTI, Gio-**
vanni [IT/IT]; Via Castellamonte, 12/1, I-10010 Banchette
(TO) (IT).

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

(54) Title: DISTRIBUTED SYSTEM FOR ISSUING OFFICIAL STAMPS AND/OR TITLES APPLYING DEDICATED SMART CARDS



(57) Abstract: A distributed system (10) for issuing official stamps and/or titles (25), particularly stamps, comprising a central control unit or Service Centre (12), a plurality of local terminals (11) distributed throughout the land for materially issuing the official stamps and/or titles (25), and a plurality of smart cards (21) assigned to the operators of the local terminals (11), in which an initialisation programme (40) is provided for initialising, in combination, a given local terminal (11) and a given smart card (21) of the system (10), in order to establish between that given terminal (11) and that given smart card (21) a bi-unequivocal type relationship of correspondence and cooperation, so that the given local terminal (11) and the given smart card (21), once initialised, are enabled within the system (10) to cooperate uniquely between one another to the exclusion of all other terminals and all other smart cards. In particular, this bi-unequivocal correspondence is set up by the initialisation programme (40) by "signing" or encrypting, through a secret key (35a) of the smart card (21), a data string (24a, 24b) defined by the target terminal (11) with which the smart card (21) is intended to exclusively cooperate.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

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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 practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0 856 821 A (NIPPON TELEGRAPH & TELEPHONE) 5 August 1998 (1998-08-05) abstract; figures 1,5 column 1, line 5-8 column 7, line 45-55 column 19, line 1-7 column 26, line 36-40 ---	1-16
Y	EP 0 936 584 A (MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC IND CO LTD) 18 August 1999 (1999-08-18) abstract; claim 1; figure 1 ---	1-16
Y	US 2001/000814 A1 (GUTHERY SCOTT B ET AL) 3 May 2001 (2001-05-03) abstract; claim 1 --- -/--	1-16



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Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Laub, C

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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Information on patent family members

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