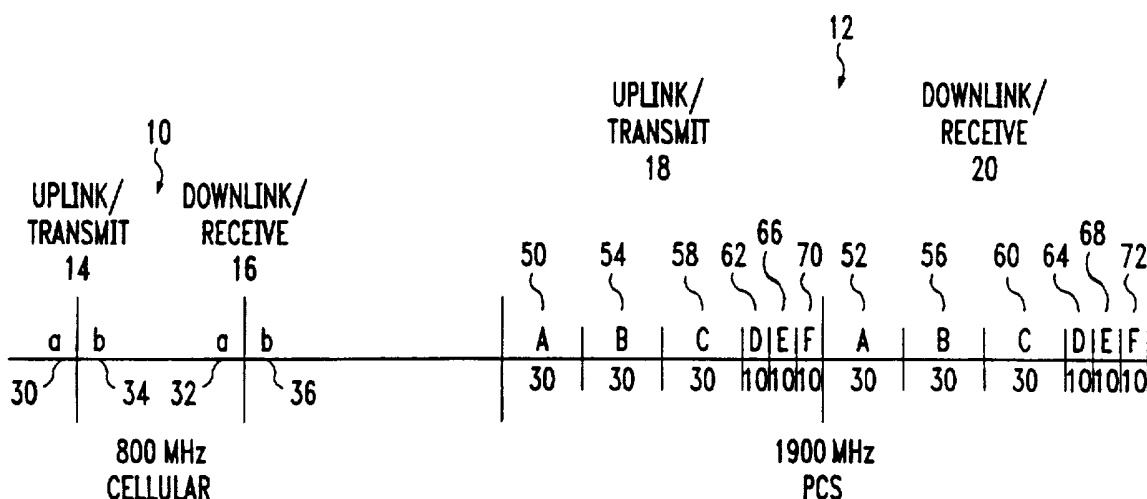




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(54) Title: METHOD FOR OPTIMAL SELECTION AMONG MULTIPLE PROVIDERS IN A WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE ENVIRONMENT



(57) Abstract

A communication device locates a preferable wireless service provider in a multi-service provider environment using a frequency band search schedule. Initially, the communications device registers with a less preferred service provider in a first frequency band. While remaining registered with the less preferred service provider, the device examines several frequency bands in the order specified by the frequency band search schedule. A frequency band is examined by dividing the frequency band into many sub-bands, and by locating the strongest signal above a threshold within the sub-band being examined. The examination continues until a second frequency band having a more preferred service provider is located. The communication device then registers with the more preferred service provider. The order of search of the frequency spectrum.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 6 H04Q7/32

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)

IPC 6 H04Q

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)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 517 677 A (MOON BILLY G) 14 May 1996 see column 4, line 7 - column 5, line 44 see column 7, line 49 - column 9, line 39 see column 11, line 52 - column 13, line 17 -----	1,5-7
A	US 5 159 625 A (ZICKER ROBERT G) 27 October 1992 see column 3, line 9 - line 50; claims -----	1,6
A	US 4 916 728 A (BLAIR KEVIN B) 10 April 1990 see the whole document -----	1

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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