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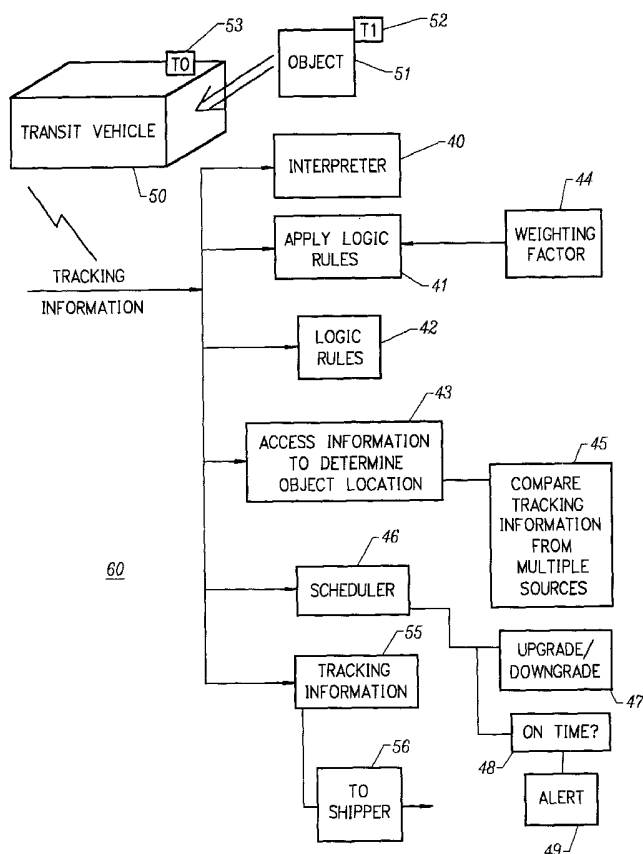
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: RULE BASED PROXIMITY AND TIME BASED TRACKING SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: A method and apparatus that automatically tracks, monitors and schedules the shipping of objects through carriers such as delivery trucks, ships, or planes is disclosed. A tracking tag is attached to each shipped object. The tracking tag and transportation system uses such techniques as GPS, cellular technology, and bar coding, and sensors such as those that make temperature, pressure, and noise measurements as sources of tracking information. Logic rules and hierarchical weights are given to each source, for any given condition so that the most accurate tracking is made. Tracking is continuous throughout the object's trip. Another set of logic rules is applied to take actions to intervene in the shipping process. For example if it seems the object is off schedule, upgrades or downgrades to the shipping are made. The transportation system can be integrated within a customer's company to facilitate easy scheduling, and production management. A user-friendly graphical user interface is available which displays item, time and distance related information.



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— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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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)

IPC 7 G06F G08G G01S

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, INSPEC

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 835 377 A (BUSH RONALD ROSCOE) 10 November 1998 (1998-11-10) abstract; figures 2-4 column 2, line 56 -column 3, line 16 column 6, line 1 - line 49 ---	1-81
X	WO 98 39749 A (KAIL KARL A IV) 11 September 1998 (1998-09-11) abstract; figures 1-3 page 2, line 20 -page 3, line 25 page 3, last line -page 4, line 5 ---	1-81
X	US 5 519 403 A (BICKLEY ROBERT H ET AL) 21 May 1996 (1996-05-21) abstract; figure 9 column 2, line 11 - line 19 column 8, line 44 -column 9, line 12 --- -/--	1-81

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex.

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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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.
A	WO 96 16387 A (PEDERSEN HEINE E ;HARDER JOHN (DK); LOHMANN JENSEN FLEMMING (DK)) 30 May 1996 (1996-05-30) abstract; figures 1-3 page 3, line 1 - line 10 page 4, line 12 -page 5, line 4 -----	1-81
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