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[Continued on next page]

(54) **Title:** IRRIGATION CONTROL APPARATUS, SYSTEM, AND METHOD

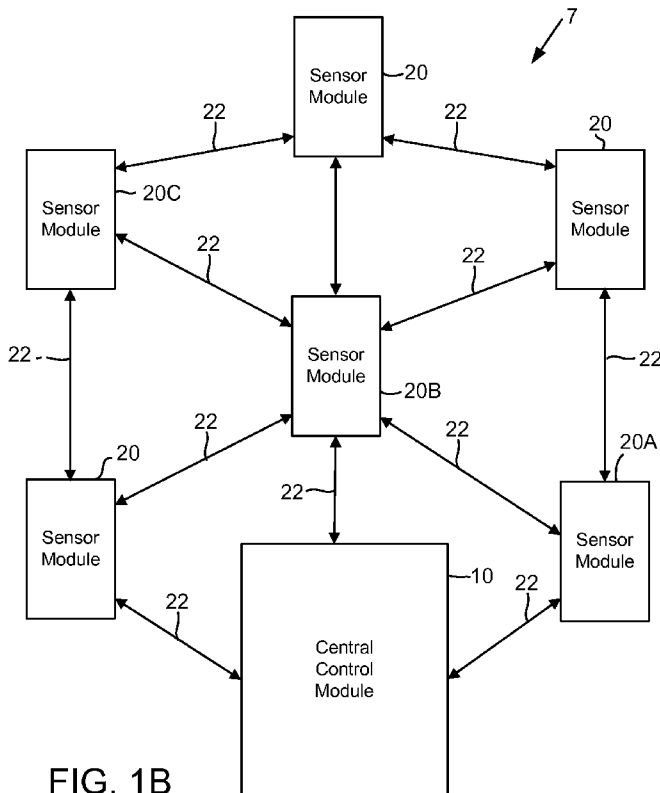


FIG. 1B

(57) **Abstract:** According to one embodiment, an apparatus includes at least one sensor module (20) that is configured to detect the soil moisture content of soil in an irrigation area. The sensor module is further configured to determine a rate of change of the soil moisture content based on the detected soil moisture content. A rate at which the sensor module detects the soil moisture content of the soil is based on the determined rate of change of the soil moisture content. The apparatus also includes a central control module (105) that is configured to execute an irrigation event for an irrigation area if the detected soil moisture content reaches a moisture content lower threshold. The central control module also is configured to terminate the irrigation event for the irrigation area if the detected soil moisture content reaches a moisture content upper threshold.



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<b>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</b>		
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<b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b>		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No
Y	US 2008-0251602 AI (LEGGETT CURTIS STEPHEN et al.) 16 October 2008 See claims 1-13, abstract .	1-7, 10-11
Y	US 2007-0102538 AI (LAWRENCE KATES) 10 May 2007 see page 2, paragraph 29 - paragraph 33	1-7, 10-11
A	DE 10330141 AI (Wein, Reinhold, Kal Inach, CH) 31 March 2005 See abstract	1-20
Y	US 2006-0278728 AI (LAWRENCE KATES) 14 December 2006 See page 3, paragraph 40 - paragraph 44	1-7, 10-11
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex		
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