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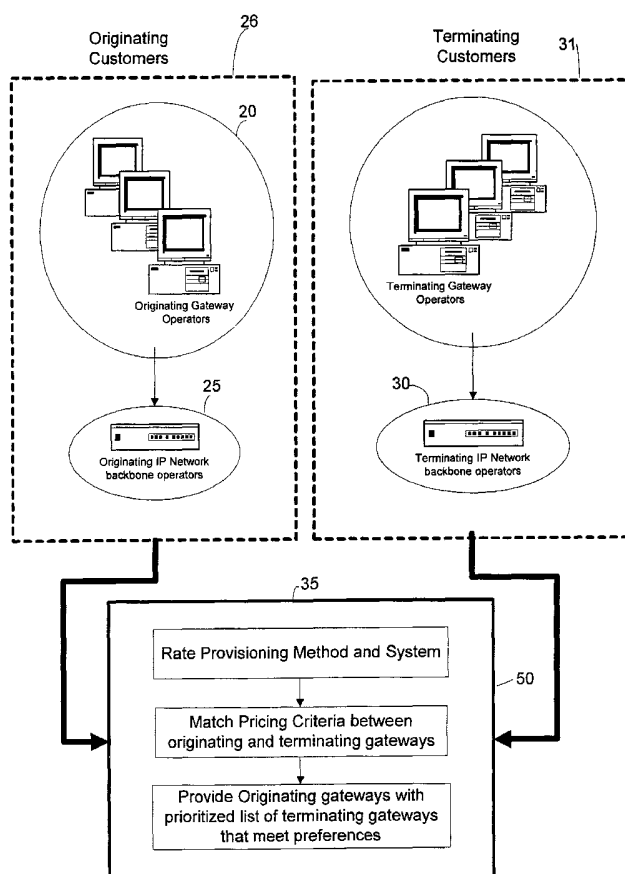
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- (71) Applicant: **TRANSNEXUS, INC.** [US/US]; 1140 Hammond Drive, Building E, Suite 5250, Atlanta, GA 30328 (US).
- (72) Inventors: **RODENHAUSEN, Fred**; 1421 Peachtree Street, #315, Atlanta, GA 30309 (US). **SOUFI, Khaled**; 9900 Huntcliff Trace, Atlanta, GA 30350 (US).
- (74) Agents: **WIGMORE, Steven, P.** et al.; King & Spalding, 191 Peachtree Street, Atlanta, GA 30303 (US).
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(54) Title: RATE PROVISIONING FOR INTERNET TELEPHONY CLEARINGHOUSE SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: A rate provisioning method and system of the present invention utilizes a rate table with pre-assigned cells that may be used by both IP bandwidth providers (partners) and IP bandwidth customers (retail IP service providers). The rate table enables its users to enter information about their IP Telephony preferences, including pricing criteria. This information can be used by an IP call-routing engine to provide the originating gateway operators with a prioritized list of terminating gateways whose pricing criteria match those set by the originating gateway operators. The rate table of the present invention can be created with an ordinary spreadsheet computer program. After entering information into the pre-assigned cells of the rate table, a rate table can be saved in a file format that preserves the relative locations of the pre-assigned cells of the rate table. One such format is the CSV (comma separated values) format that can be used as a portable representation of the rate table.

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 H04M15/00 H04L12/14 H04M7/00

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 H04M H04L 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)

PAJ, WPI Data, INSPEC, EPO-Internal

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
E	WO 01 63820 A (CYBERMAN LTD) 30 August 2001 (2001-08-30)	1,5-12
A	page 14, line 16 -page 15, line 2 page 16, line 11 - line 23 page 18, line 25 -page 19, line 10 ---	2-4
X	WO 99 14931 A (TRANSNEXUS LLC) 25 March 1999 (1999-03-25) claims 23-49 ---	1-12
A	WO 98 48542 A (BELL COMMUNICATIONS RES) 29 October 1998 (1998-10-29) page 4, line 18 -page 5, line 6 ---	1-12
A	WO 99 11051 A (MASHINSKY ALEXANDER) 4 March 1999 (1999-03-04) claims 1-24 ---	1-12
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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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- \*Z\* document member of the same patent family

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 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

Patlaka, E.

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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	<p>US 6 005 925 A (COYLE WILLIAM F ET AL) 21 December 1999 (1999-12-21) tables 1-36</p> <p>-----</p>	1-12

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