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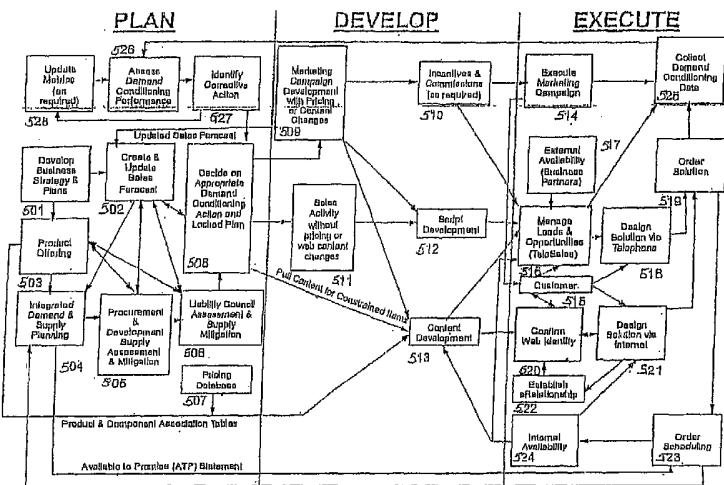
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(54) Title: AN OPTIMAL METHOD, SYSTEM, AND STORAGE MEDIUM FOR RESOLVING DEMAND AND SUPPLY IMBALANCES



(57) Abstract: An exemplary embodiment of the invention relates to a method, system, and storage medium for resolving demand and supply imbalances. The method comprises identifying at least one excess component inventory liability or constraint in supply capability for an end product by matching current buying patterns for the end product against inventory liability and supply capability based on a previous demand forecast. Where excess component inventory liability exists the method refocuses the excess component inventory liability by determining alternative end products that use components identified in the excess component inventory liability; and executes sales activities for enticing sales of the alternative end products. Where constrained supply capability exists, the method determines alternative end products that are functionally equivalent to those identified in the constrained supply capability; and executes sales activities for enticing sales of functionally equivalent alternative end products.

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**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**

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**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

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U.S. : 705/10; 705/28, 29

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 practicable, search terms used)  
WEST, CAS ONLINE, DIALOG

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 6,889,197 A (LIDOW) 03 May 2005, see entire document.	1-18
A	US 5,953,707 A (HUANG et al) 14 September 1999, see entire document	1-18

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"A"	
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