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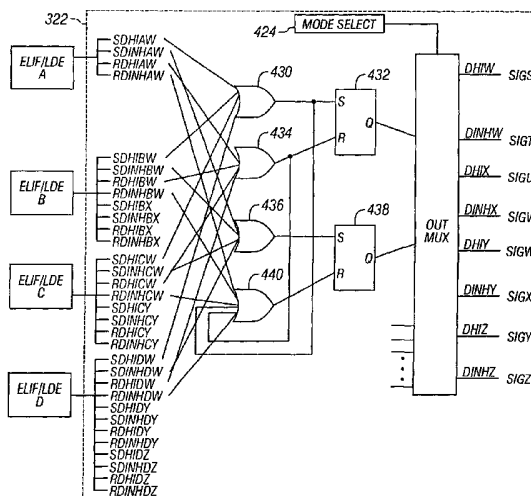
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: TEST SYSTEM FORMATTERS



(57) Abstract: A test system formatter (110) may include a programmable drive circuit (140) configurable to operate in any of a plurality of drive modes, each mode corresponding to a different combination of drive signals or drive timing markers or both, and a programmable response circuit (160) configurable to operate in any of a plurality of strobe modes, each strobe mode corresponding to a different combination of strobe signals. The formatter (110) may also include multiple drive channels and/or multiple response channels, each channel being formed, e.g., of an event logic interface (316) and a corresponding linear delay element (318). The drive channels provide signals to the drive circuit to be used to generate drive signals or drive timing markers or both. The response channels receive from one or more pin-electronics (120) comparators response signals used to generate fail outputs. The programmable drive and response circuits are configurable to route signals through multiple channels in parallel.

WO 02/075335 A3



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 G01R31/319

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 G01R

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, INSPEC, IBM-TDB

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 919 270 A (ARKIN BRIAN J) 6 July 1999 (1999-07-06) abstract; figures 1-5 column 4, line 16 -column 10, line 54 -----	1-5, 7-9, 12, 15-18, 20, 26-35
A	US 6 032 282 A (MASUDA NORIYUKI ET AL) 29 February 2000 (2000-02-29) abstract; figures 1, 2, 4 -----	1-37
A	US 5 381 421 A (DICKOL JOHN E ET AL) 10 January 1995 (1995-01-10) abstract; figures 3-6 -----	1-37

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Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

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Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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