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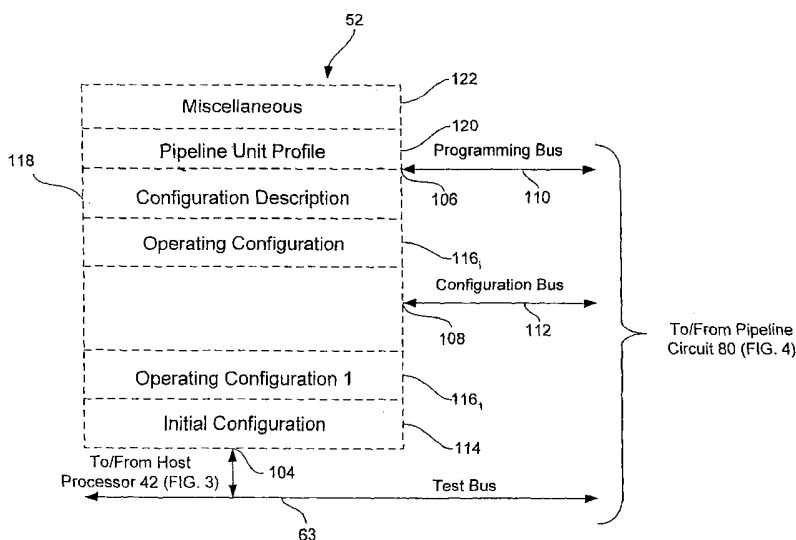
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: PROGRAMMABLE CIRCUIT AND RELATED COMPUTING MACHINE AND METHOD



(57) Abstract: A programmable circuit receives configuration data from an external source, stores the firmware in a memory, and then downloads the firmware from the memory. Such a programmable circuit allows a system, such as a computing machine, to modify the programmable circuit's configuration, thus eliminating the need for manually reprogramming the configuration memory. For example, if the programmable circuit is an FPGA that is part of a pipeline accelerator, a processor coupled to the accelerator can modify the configuration of the FPGA. More specifically, the processor retrieves from a configuration registry firmware that represents the modified configuration, and sends the firmware to the FPGA, which then stores the firmware in a memory such as an electrically erasable and programmable read-only memory (EEPROM). Next, the FPGA downloads the firmware from the memory into its configuration registers, and thus reconfigures itself to have the modified configuration.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

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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

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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X	US 5 784 636 A (RUPP ET AL) 21 July 1998 (1998-07-21) the whole document	1-38
X	LECURIEUX-LAFAYETTE G: "UN SEUL FPGA DOPE LETRAITEMENT D'IMAGES" ELECTRONIQUE, CEP COMMUNICATION, PARIS, FR, no. 55, January 1996 (1996-01), pages 98,101-103, XP000551946 ISSN: 1157-1152 the whole document	1-38
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Patent family members are listed in annex.

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- * & * document member of the same patent family

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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.
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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