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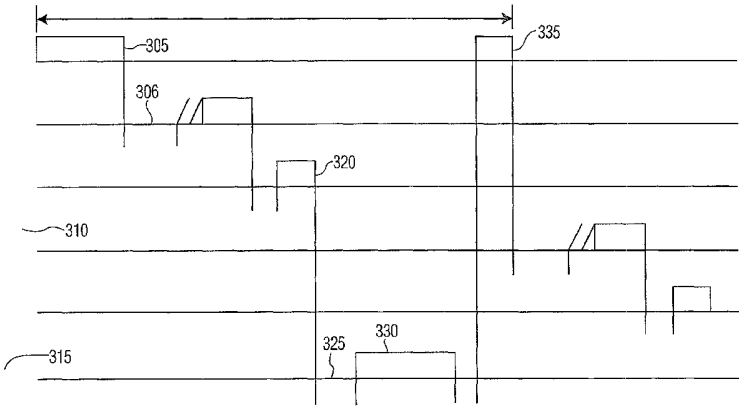
Declarations under Rule 4.17:

— *as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE,*

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD TO ACHIEVE FAST ACTIVE SCAN IN 802.11 WLAN



(57) Abstract: A method for fast active scanning and an Access Point apparatus that reduces the delay in convention active scanning. The method includes the step of giving an AP higher priority to transmit a probe response than is currently known. This priority comes at the delay of transmission of the probe response, so preferably the probe response can be delayed by just the time that the AP needs to prepare the response plus the time, if any, for the frame already in the air to finish. According to the invention, a method can include steps for: sending a uni-cast probe request message by an (STA) 238, 248, 268 on a particular channel having at least one Access Point (AP) 258, 278 in communication therewith; receiving by one particular (AP) 278 the probe request message sent by the (STA); sensing by the particular (AP) 278 of a point coordination function (PCF) interframe space (PIFS) 325 of the particular channel; and sending by the particular (AP) 278 of a probe response message to the (STA) 238 in response to the probe request message after the PIFS. As the probe request is uni-cast, there is no need for a backoff interval as only one AP will respond. Since normal traffic utilizes the longer DIFS space plus backoffs to avoid collisions, the AP will always be able to respond to a probe request of scan faster than other items can respond on the channel, thus giving the AP priority when sending the probe response message.

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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, PAJ, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	FAST ACTIVE SCAN FOR MEASUREMENT AND HANDOFF, 'Online! May 2003 (2003-05), pages 1-22, XP002314091 Retrieved from the Internet: URL:http://www.drizzle.com/{aboba/IEEE/> 'retrieved on 2005-01-18! pages 2-5,7-12 pages 15,16,19 ----- -/--	1-24

[X] Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

[ ] Patent family members are listed in annex.

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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.
X	IEEE P802.11 WIRELESS LANS. PROPOSED TEXT FOR FAST ACTIVE SCAN, 'Online! 10 July 2003 (2003-07-10), pages 1-5, XP002314092 Retrieved from the Internet: URL:http://grouper.ieee.org/groups/802/11/Documents/DocumentHolder/2003/802wirelessworld/11-03-0623-01-000k-fast-active-scan-proposals.doc> 'retrieved on 2005-01-18! the whole document	1-24
A	"MAC sublayer functional description" 1999, ANSI/IEEE STD 802.11, XX, XX, PAGE(S) 70-97 , XP002235739 page 70, line 11 - page 71, line 12 page 73, line 33 - page 76, line 9 page 77, line 6 - page 79, line 11 page 83, lines 17-39	1-24