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(54) Title: METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR DETERMINING AN ASSOCIATION BETWEEN NODES AND PHASES VIA A SMART GRID

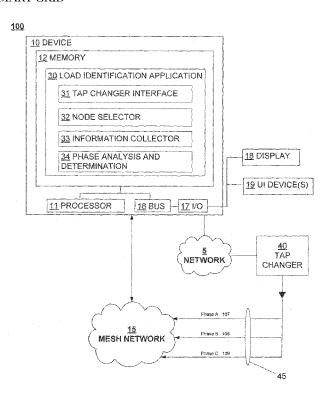


Figure 1

(57) Abstract: Determining the number of loads associated with each phase in a three-phase electric power system. The loads can be associated with the consumption of electric power at a node, such as a metering device located at a facility. In one implementation, a central device that is connected to such nodes via a smart grid and a radio frequency mesh network can be leveraged to determine a phase in real time. For example, the central device can include a processor that executes one or more computer program modules which can cause a load tap changer having access to a distribution feeder in the smart grid to vary a voltage level supplied across each phase of the power system. Additionally, the central device can communicate with nodes in the mesh network to cause the nodes to perform voltage measurements and collect information related to such measurements.



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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER INV. H02J3/18 H02J13/00 G01R29/18 ADD. 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) H02J G01D 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 practicable, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to claim No. Category' Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages US 2010/060259 A1 (VASWANI RAJ [US] ET AL) 8 - 15Χ 11 March 2010 (2010-03-11) paragraphs [0032], [0033], [0036]; 1-7, 16-22 figures 1,3; table I US 4 686 630 A (MARSLAND CHARLES N [US] ET 1-7, AL) 11 August 1987 (1987-08-11) 16-22 column 3, line 40 - column 4, line 15; figures 1, 13 EP 2 388 600 A1 (GEN ELECTRIC [US]) X.P 8 23 November 2011 (2011-11-23) paragraphs [0014], [0018]; figures 1,3,4 Α US 2011/161022 A1 (CAIRD KENNETH JAMES 1,16 [US]) 30 June 2011 (2011-06-30) paragraphs [0018] - [0021]; figures 1-3 X See patent family annex. Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. Special categories of cited documents "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be special reason (as specified) considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other being obvious to a person skilled in the art "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 10 January 2013 22/01/2013 Name and mailing address of the ISA/ Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016 Colombo, Alessandro

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