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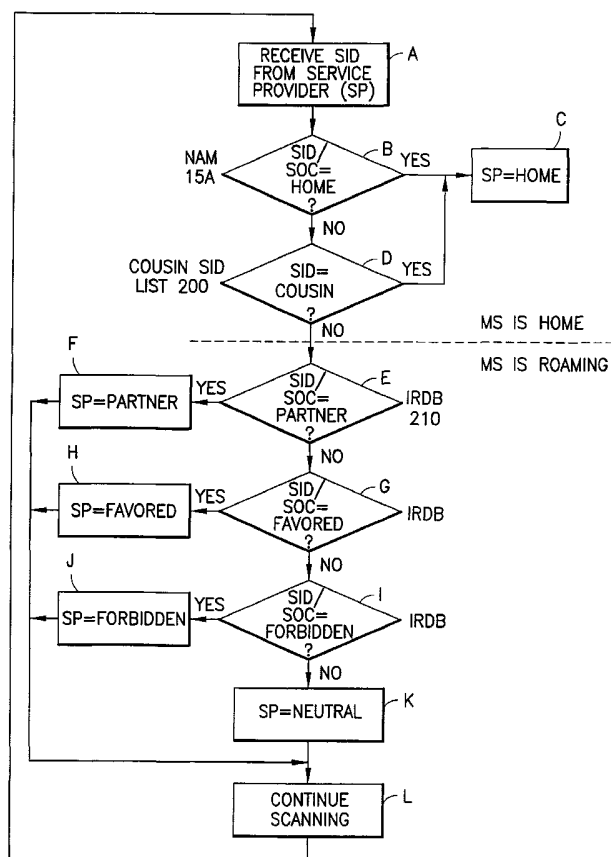
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PERFORMING SYSTEM SELECTION IN PREPAID MOBILE STATIONS



(57) Abstract: A method for relating a plurality of system identifications (SIDs) in a mobile device is provided. The method includes the steps of identifying a plurality of SIDs having a common spatial characteristic, storing the identified plurality of SIDs, comparing a SID received from a wireless service provider (A) to the stored plurality of SIDs and, upon any one of the plurality of stored SIDs matching the received SID (B), declaring the wireless service provider as being a Home service provider (C). The common spatial characteristic can be postal zone, such as one identified by a ZIP code. In the preferred embodiment the steps of identifying, storing, comparing and declaring are executed only if the mobile station is classified as being in a Prepaid mode of operation. If none of the plurality of stored SIDs matches the received SID, the method further compares the received SID to other stored SIDs, including at least one of a Partner SID (E), a Favored SID (G) and a Forbidden SID (I). Alternatively, or in conjunction with comparing received SIDs for the case where none of the plurality of stored SIDs matches the received SID, the method further compares a received System Operator Code (SOC) to stored SOC, including at least one of a Home SOC (B), a Partner SOC (E), a Favored SOC (G) and a Forbidden SOC (I).



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/IB02/02227

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : H04Q 7/00, 7/20, 7/32, 9/00; H04M 3/00

US CL : 455/62, 422, 432, 434, 435, 436, 512; 379/114, 115

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)

U.S. : 455/62, 422, 432, 434, 435, 436, 512; 379/114, 115

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
WEBSTER'S DICTIONARYElectronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
Please See Continuation Sheet**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 6,195,532 B1 (BAMBURAK et al) 27 February 2001 (27.02.2001), figs. 4-6, 9-11, col. 3 lines 44-67, col. 4 lines 1-7, col. 4 lines 37-67, col. 5 lines 6-60, col. 6 lines 21-67, col. 10 lines 22-67, col. 11 lines 1-33	1-27
Y	US 5,983,115 A (MIZIKOVSKY) 09 November 1999 (9.11.1999), figs. 2-4, col. 4 lines 14-41, col. 5 lines 20-67, col. 6 lines 1-26, col. 7 lines 15-67, col. 8 lines 1-57.	1-27
Y	US 6,148,197 A (BRIDGES et al) 14 November 2000 (14.11.2000), figs. 2A, 2B, 2C, 3-4, col. 8 lines 50-67, col. 9 lines 34-67, col. 10 line 1 to col. 16 line 3.	10-27
Y	US 5,815,807 A (OSMANI et al) 29 September 1998 (29.09.1998), figs. 1-2, 9-10, col. 2 lines 38-52, col. 4 lines 47-67, col. 5 lines 1-67, col. 16 lines 27-67, col. 17 lines 1-60.	4, 10-16, 18, 20-27



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

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"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

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Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:

EAST, WEST

Search terms: SID, SOC, home, partner, prohibit, forbidden, comparing, stored, prepaid, IRDB, geographical area