

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
19 October 2006 (19.10.2006)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2006/109047 A1

(51) International Patent Classification:
G08G 1/123 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/GB2006/001317

(22) International Filing Date: 11 April 2006 (11.04.2006)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
0507274.9 11 April 2005 (11.04.2005) GB

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **INOVAS LIMITED** [GB/GB]; 1 Glenbervie, Glenbervie Business Park, Larbert, Falkirk FK5 4RB (GB).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **KERR, Andy** [GB/GB]; 9 Rose Terrace, Stenhousemuir FK5 4DW (GB). **MACALPINE, Colin** [GB/GB]; Ashwood, Mawcarse, Kinross KY13 9SB (GB). **MILLER, Stuart** [GB/GB]; 3 Argyle Park, Dunblane, Perthshire FK15 9DZ (GB). **WILLIAMSON, Howard** [GB/GB]; Balmuzier Farm, Slamannan FK1 3EW (GB).

(74) Agent: **MURGITROYD & COMPANY**; 165-169 Scotland Street, Glasgow G5 8PL (GB).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): 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, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, LY, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: APPARATUS FOR AND METHODS OF PROVIDING INFORMATION ABOUT A ROUTE TO BE FOLLOWED BY A PERSON

(57) Abstract: An apparatus and associated method for providing assistance in management of a route followed by a person is disclosed. The apparatus comprises a data store configured to store a plurality of data streams corresponding to different kinds of information of a route followed by a person, data output means operable to output the plurality of data streams to a user such that they are co-related to the route followed by the person, and data handling means operable to provide the stored plurality of data streams to the data output means, in which the plurality of data streams comprises a first data stream and a further data stream, the first and further data streams corresponding to different route information to each other. The data store is configured such that the plurality of data streams are not combined in the data store and such that the plurality of data streams comprise cross-referable data, and the data handling means is operable to provide the first data stream and the further data stream in a predetermined manner to the data output means and in dependence upon the cross-referable data such that the first and further data streams are output by the data output means in a substantially co-related manner.



WO 2006/109047 A1

APPARATUS FOR AND METHODS OF PROVIDING INFORMATION ABOUT A ROUTE TO BE FOLLOWED BY A PERSON

5 The present invention relates to apparatus for and methods of providing assistance in management of a route followed by a person and to a computer program product for configuring a computer to provide assistance in management of a route followed by a person.

10 The training of drivers of motor vehicles that follow routes, such as buses, has traditionally involved a trainer giving instructions to a driver as a route is being followed. More recently, video technology has been used to provide classroom training. Typically a route is
15 filmed while an instructor is recorded as he gives guidance on driving technique that is appropriate to particular parts of the route and points out significant features on the route, e.g. accident black spots, road hazards, interchanges, etc. The moving picture of the
20 route and accompanying sound track are then played back to trainees in the classroom often by means of computer-based playback apparatus. General purpose computer platforms, such as Personal Computers, are often used for the purpose.

25 Typically, the moving picture track and the sound track are recorded together and then stored in a combined manner as video and sound data streams on an appropriate storage medium, such as on magnetic tape or in a hard disc drive. Thus, the co-relation of the moving picture
30 track and sound track is maintained such that on play back of the data streams the instructor's commentary is properly synchronised with the moving picture of the route.

The present applicant has appreciated that such an approach has shortcomings when routes are liable to change over time. For example, a part of the route may change necessitating a change to the moving picture track. A known approach to accommodating such a change is to re-record the whole route. However, this approach can be time consuming, laborious and expensive where only part of a whole route has changed.

An alternative known approach is to re-record only the changed part of the route to produce a new portion of track. A video editing suite is then used to incorporate the new portion of track in the existing moving picture track for the whole route and produce a modified video data stream for storage combined with the sound data stream on the chosen storage medium. This approach has the advantage of saving on time and labour at the re-recording stage. However, the burden is shifted to the video editing stage, which can be laborious and normally requires skilled operation to ensure proper co-relation of the new portion of track with the existing track.

A further example of the shortcomings of the conventional approaches is where the route has changed in the sense of requiring a further track of information of a different kind, e.g. motor vehicle speed along the route. According to the first conventional approach the entire route would need to be re-filmed along with re-recordal of the sound track and recordal of the further track of information. According to the second conventional approach the further track of information could be recorded alone. However, use of an editing suite would be required to properly co-relate the further track of information with the existing tracks of information.

The present invention has been devised in the light of the applicant's appreciation of the above noted shortcomings of the conventional approaches. Thus according to a first aspect of the present invention
5 there is provided apparatus for providing assistance in management of a route followed by a person, the apparatus comprising

a data store configured to store a plurality of data streams corresponding to different kinds of information
10 of a route followed by a person,

data output means operable to output the plurality of data streams to a user such that they are co-related to the route followed by the person, and

data handling means operable to provide the stored
15 plurality of data streams to the data output means, in which

the plurality of data streams comprises a first data stream and a further data stream, the first and further data streams corresponding to different route information
20 to each other,

the data store is configured such that the plurality of data streams are not combined in the data store and such that the plurality of data streams comprise cross-referable data, and

25 the data handling means is operable to provide the first data stream and the further data stream in a predetermined manner to the data output means and in dependence upon the cross-referable data such that the first and further data streams are output by the data
30 output means in a substantially co-related manner.

In use, a plurality of data streams corresponding to different kinds of information, such as video and sound data streams, are stored in the data store of the

apparatus such that they comprise cross-referable data. If a route changes a user can record fresh information, such as video, for the changed part of the route only, which is stored along with its cross-referable data in the data store as the further data stream. Alternatively, a further track of information of a different kind, e.g. motor vehicle speed along the route, can be recorded alone and stored along with its cross-referable data in the data store as the further data stream. In both cases the changed store of data streams can be presented to a user of the apparatus such that co-relation of the data streams to the route is maintained by means of the cross-referable data. Thus the prior art requirement for re-recordal of an entire route or reliance upon an editing suite to provide for co-relation may be obviated.

More specifically, the first data stream and the further data stream may correspond to information of different parts of the route to each other. For example, the first data stream may correspond to the whole of the route and the further data stream may correspond to only part of the route. As an alternative example, the first data stream may correspond to a first half of the route and the further data stream may correspond to a second half of the route. Thus, it is to be understood that the first and further data streams can overlap in part or in whole, or they can abut. Accordingly, the data handling means may be operable to provide at least a part of the first data stream and at least a part of the further data stream at different times to the data output means.

Alternatively or in addition, the first data stream and the further data stream may correspond to the same

kind of information, e.g. the first and further data streams may correspond to video data.

Alternatively, the first data stream and the further data stream may correspond respectively to different
5 kinds of information, e.g. the first data stream may correspond to video data and the further data stream may correspond to comment data. The comment data might, for example, represent a fresh comment recorded on account of a change to the route.

10 Alternatively or in addition, the plurality of data streams may comprise at least two data streams corresponding respectively to information of a different kind.

Alternatively or in addition, one of the plurality
15 of data streams and the further data stream may correspond to the same kind of information.

In addition, the one of the plurality of data streams and the further data stream may correspond to information of the same part of the route. For example,
20 the one of the plurality of data streams may correspond to video data for an entire route during summer and the further data stream may correspond to video data for the entire route during another season, such as winter.

More specifically, the data handling means may be
25 configured for user operable selection between the one of the plurality of data streams and the further data stream.

Alternatively or in addition, the first data stream may be a video data stream. Thus, for example a changed
30 part of the route might be re-filmed and the re-filmed moving picture stored as the further data stream in the data store with the first data stream being an existing video stream. Upon presentation of information of a

route followed by a person to a user of the apparatus,
the data handling means may operate to provide the
further video data stream and the existing video data
stream at different times to the data output means and in
5 dependence upon the cross-referable data.

Alternatively or in addition, the data handling
means may be operable to provide only a part of the first
data stream to the data output means. For example, where
a middle part of a route has changed a first part of the
10 first data stream may be provided to the data output
means. In addition, the data handling means may then be
operable to provide the further data stream to the data
output means. The further data stream might, for
example, correspond to the middle part of the route.

15 In addition, the data handling may then be operative
to provide another part of the first data stream to the
data output means. The other part of the first data
stream might, for example, be the end part of the first
data stream. Thus, the data handling means may be
20 operable to provide at least two parts of the first data
stream to the data output means, the two parts being
spaced apart from each other on the route.

Alternatively or in addition, the cross-referable
data may comprise location data corresponding
25 substantially to a location on the route followed by the
person. The location data might be acquired when route
information is being recorded. The location data might,
for example, be derived from a global navigation
satellite system such as Global Positioning System (GPS),
30 GLONASS and Europe's GALILEO system.

Alternatively or in addition, at least one of the
plurality of data streams may comprise a plurality of
cross-referable data, the plurality of cross-referable

data being related respectively to spaced apart elements of a data stream.

Alternatively or in addition, the data handling means may be operable to identify, in dependence upon the cross-relatable data, one of the further data stream and the first data stream from the data store as the other of the further data stream and the first data stream is being output by the data output means, in readiness for providing the one of the further data stream and the first data stream to the data output means. Thus, real time or at least near real time switching from one data stream to the next can be provided for.

In addition, the data handling means may be operable to convey the identified one of the further data stream and the first data stream from the data store as the other of the further data stream and the first data stream is being output by the data output means.

Alternatively or in addition, the plurality of data streams may comprise first and second data streams, two of the first, second and further data streams being cross-referable by a first kind of cross-referable data and a different two of the first, second and further data streams being cross-referable by a second kind of cross-referable data, the first and second kinds of cross-referable data being different to each other. For example, the first kind of cross-referable data might be GPS data and the second kind of cross-referable data might be time data. Thus, the first, second and further data streams can be provided to the data handling means in a substantially co-related manner.

Alternatively or in addition, the plurality of data streams may comprise two further data streams and the data handling means may be operable to select between

providing a first and a second of the further data streams to the data output means. More specifically, the data handling means may be operable to select between the first and second of the further data streams in response to a user input. For example, where the second of the two further data streams corresponds to information relating to a route diversion, a selection can be made to present the second data stream temporarily to a user of the apparatus.

In addition, the plurality of data streams may further comprise a third further data stream and the data handling means may be operable to select the second and third further data streams, perhaps in response to a user input. The second and third further data streams may overlap at least in part and the data handling means may be operable to provide the second and third further data streams in turn to the data output means. For example, the second further data stream may correspond to a diversion to the first further data stream and the third further data stream may correspond to a diversion to the second further data stream.

Alternatively or in addition, the first further data stream may be co-relatable with at least one additional data stream for output thereof by the data output means.

More specifically, the apparatus may be configured such that upon selection by the data handling means of the second further data stream, the first further data stream and its co-relatability with the at least one additional data stream is maintained. Thus, upon re-selection of the first further data stream, e.g. upon removal of the route diversion, the first further data stream and the at least one additional data stream can be output in a co-related manner. Thus, the need to re-

relate the at least one additional data stream with the first further data stream can be avoided.

Alternatively or in addition, the data store may be configured to store the first data stream and the further data stream such that each comprises first and second different kinds of cross-referable data.

More specifically, the plurality of data streams may comprise two further data streams and the data handling means may be operable to provide the first data stream and one of the two further data streams in a predetermined manner to the data output means and in a co-related manner in dependence upon the first kind of cross-referable data, the data handling means being further operable to select one of the two further data streams for provision to the data handling means in dependence upon the second kind of cross-referable data. Thus, for example, the first kind of cross-referable data might be location data and the first of the two further data streams may correspond to information relating to following a route around a right hand corner, and the second of the two further data streams may correspond to information relating to following a route around a left hand corner. The data handling means may select an appropriate one of the two further data streams in dependence upon a second kind of cross-referable data.

The apparatus for providing assistance in management of a route may be configured to present information for use in training of persons to follow the route.

Alternatively or in addition, the apparatus for providing assistance in management of a route may be configured to present information for use in route-risk assessment or route planning.

Indeed, it is to be understood that the term management of a route is to be construed as covering in particular but not exclusively training of a person to follow a route, route-risk assessment, route planning, route re-planning, route familiarisation, analysis of a performance of a person following a route.

Where the term management of a route is used with reference to apparatus for providing assistance in the management of a route followed by an operator controlled vehicle the term management of a route is to be construed as covering in particular but not exclusively analysis of the performance of the vehicle with reference to the different kinds of information of the route followed by the person.

The apparatus for providing assistance in management of a route may be configured to present information relating to one route selectable from a plurality of routes.

More specifically, the apparatus may be configured such that the selection from a plurality of routes may only be made by a person other than a person to whom the apparatus is giving assistance. For example, the apparatus may be configured such that the selection from a plurality of routes may be made by a trainer, a supervisor or similar such person.

Alternatively or in addition, the data store may be configured to store data streams corresponding to information of first and second routes, a data stream of each of first and second routes comprising at least two consecutive data streams, at least one of the consecutive data streams being common to the first and second routes, and the data handling means being operable to provide a data stream for one of the first and second routes in

dependence upon the cross-referable data such that the consecutive data streams are co-related to a selected route.

Alternatively or in addition, the different
5 information of a route followed by a person may comprise at least two selected from the group consisting of: video, sound, comments, graphics, location, acceleration in one or more axes, direction of travel, and fuel consumption, a plurality of engine and gearbox management
10 data and throttle position of a motor vehicle.

Alternatively or in addition, the data handling means may be further configured to optionally provide for user editing of the first and further data streams. For example, user editing may be selected by a user to
15 optimise the co-relation of the first and further data streams. According to this embodiment the first and further data streams may comprise information relating to a shared part of the route, i.e. the first and further data streams may overlap. The feature of user editing
20 can be useful to change a co-relation of the first and further data streams effected by the data handling means. For example, user editing may be useful where a change from one data stream to the other takes place at or too near to a busy junction or where the cross-referable data
25 is of limited accuracy providing for imperfect co-relation by the data handling means.

In addition, the apparatus may be configured for user initiated storage in the data store of user edited first and further data streams.

30 In a form of the invention the data store may be configured to store the plurality of data streams and the cross-referable data in respective mark-up documents and the data handling means may be operative to access data

stored in the mark-up documents, read the stored data and provide the stored data to the data output means.

The use of a mark-up language in an electronic system can provide for advantageous performance, e.g. in
5 respect of portability or data handling efficiency. In the present invention, the mark-up documents present the data in a form that can permit the data stream information type and the location data to be identified and accessed by tags. The tags enable the data handling
10 means to navigate through and read the stored mark-up documents.

The mark-up documents may be extensible mark-up documents, which permit the creation of structured documents and data structures, which reflect the content
15 of the documents directly and without regard to where the content appears in a document structure.

Alternatively or in addition, the apparatus for providing assistance in the management of a route followed by a person may be apparatus for providing
20 assistance in the management of a route followed by an operator controlled object.

More specifically, the operator controlled object may be an operator controlled vehicle.

More specifically, the operator controlled vehicle
25 may be an operator controlled land vehicle.

More specifically, the operator controlled land vehicle may be an operator controlled motor vehicle.

In an application of the first aspect of the present invention the first data stream may correspond to
30 information of a route followed by a first person and the further data stream may correspond to information of the route followed by a second person. Thus, for example, information relating to the performance of two different

persons, such as an expert and a trainee, can be output in a co-related manner.

In another application of the first aspect of the present invention the first data stream may correspond to information of a route followed by a first person and the further data stream may be based on a combination of information of the route followed by the first person and information of the route followed by a second person. Thus, for example, information relating to the performance of a first person, such as an expert, can be output in a co-related manner with information based on a combination of information for the expert and a second person, such as a trainee. More specifically, the combination of information could comprise aberrant performance of the second person obtained by comparison of the first and second persons' information. For example, where the route is being followed by an operator controlled vehicle the aberrant performance might relate to excessive acceleration of the trainee.

According to a second aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of providing assistance in management of a route followed by a person, the method comprising:

operating a data handling means of an apparatus to provide a plurality of data streams stored in a data store of the apparatus to a data output means, the plurality of data streams corresponding to different kinds of information of a route followed by a person, and

operating a data output means of the apparatus to output the plurality of data streams to a user such that the plurality of data streams are co-related to the route followed by the person, in which

the plurality of data streams comprises a first data stream and a further data stream, the first and further data streams corresponding to different route information to each other,

5 the plurality of data streams are stored such that they are not combined in the data store and such that the plurality of data streams comprise cross-referable data, and

10 the step of operating the data handling means comprises providing the first and further data streams in a predetermined manner to the data output means and in dependence upon the cross-referable data such that the first and further data streams are output by the data output means in a substantially co-related manner.

15 According to a third aspect of the present invention there is provided a computer program product for configuring a computer to provide assistance in management of a route followed by a person by causing the computer to carry out the steps of:

20 storing a plurality of data streams in a data store of the computer, the plurality of data streams corresponding to different kinds of information of a route followed by a person,

operating a data output means of the computer to
25 output the plurality of data streams to a user such that they are co-related to the route followed by the person,

operating a data handling means of the computer to provide the stored plurality of data streams to the data output means, in which

30 the plurality of data streams comprises a first data stream and a further data stream, the first and further data streams corresponding to different route information to each other,

the step of storing comprises storing the plurality of data streams such that they are not combined in the data store and such that the plurality of data streams comprise cross-referable data, and

5 the step of operating the data handling means comprises providing the first and further data streams in a predetermined manner to the data output means and in dependence upon the cross-referable data such that the first and further data streams are output by the data
10 output means in a substantially co-related manner.

It is to be appreciated that the second and third aspects of the present invention may comprise any one or more of the features described above with reference to the first aspect of the present invention.

15 According to a further aspect of the present invention there is provided apparatus for providing assistance in management of a route followed by a person, the apparatus comprising a data store configured to store a first data stream and a further data stream
20 corresponding to information of a route followed by a person, data output means operable to output the first and further data streams to a user such that they are co-related to the route followed by the person, and data handling means operable to provide the first and further
25 data streams to the data output means, in which the data store is configured such that the first and further data streams are not combined in the data store and such that the first and further data streams comprise cross-referable data, and the data handling means is operable
30 to provide first and further data streams in a predetermined manner to the data output means and in dependence upon the cross-referable data such that the

first and further data streams are output by the data output means in a substantially co-related manner.

The further aspect of the present invention may comprise any one or more of the features described above with reference to the first to third aspects of the present invention.

A specific embodiment of the present invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which

10 Figure 1 is a block diagram representation of apparatus and a computer program product according to the invention;

15 Figure 2 is a flow chart representation of how an existing route is modified for operation with the present invention;

Figure 3 is a flow chart representation of how information of a route is presented to a user in accordance with the invention;

20 Figure 4 is a Unified Modelling Language (UML) representation of data structures used in the present invention; and

Figure 5 is a representation of how the data structures of Figure 4 are co-related for presentation to a user.

25 Figure 1 is a block diagram representation of a personal computer 10 (which constitutes apparatus for providing assistance in management of a route followed by a person). The personal computer 10 comprises a computer memory 12 (which constitutes a data store), a VDU and
30 loudspeaker 14 (which constitutes data output means) and data handling means 16 constituted as at least one of control firmware, control software and control hardware. The personal computer 10 also comprises user operable

input/output means 18 of a typical kind (e.g. a keyboard, CD-ROM drive, mouse, microphone, etc) that provides for user control and the input of data to and output of data from the personal computer. Figure 1 also shows a
5 computer program product 20, such as a CD-ROM, containing a computer program to configure the personal computer 10 to operate in accordance with the invention as described below. The computer program on the computer program product 20 is transferred to the personal computer 10 by
10 means of the input/output means 18.

According to this specific embodiment the personal computer 10 is configured to present information to persons being trained to follow a route in an operator controlled motor vehicle, such as a bus.

15 Considering Figure 1 in more detail upon configuring the personal computer 10 with the computer program from the computer program product 20, the data store is configured to store a plurality of data streams corresponding to different information of the route
20 followed by the operator controlled motor vehicle. More specifically, the different information of the route comprises a video data stream of all or parts of the entire route along with sound data, graphical data, location data, acceleration data in one or more axes,
25 turning characteristic data, fuel consumption data, throttle position data, and other engine management and vehicle data, such as may be provided by a vehicle engine management system. A further data stream may contain a series of comments configured to be presented in
30 graphical form on the VDU 14 of the personal computer. The further data stream may alternatively contain other data such as audio, graphical, video or text data. In the specific example given in the immediately following

paragraph, the further data stream is a fresh video data stream for at least a part of the route. The various data streams are stored in the data store 12 such that they are not combined in the data store. Instead each of
5 the data streams is stored in the data store 12 along with at least one kind of cross-referable data. The cross-referable data is typically GPS data or time data and is put into use as described below.

Focussing on a specific example of further data
10 stream, the data store 12 stores a fresh video data stream for a part, e.g. an end part, of the route, which represents a modification to an originally recorded route. Alternatively the fresh video data may be for the whole route recorded during a different season from that
15 of the originally recorded data, e.g. during winter as opposed to during summer. Thus, the fresh video data stream and the video data stream of the entire route correspond to different route information to each other either in the sense of overlapping with each other and
20 being for different parts of the route or in the sense of being coextensive with each other but relating to different seasons.

Figure 2 is a flow chart representation 30 of how an existing route is modified to take account of the fresh
25 video data stream for the end part of the route. As a first step 31 an existing video data stream is input into the apparatus. The existing data stream is co-relatable with a plurality of data streams corresponding to different information, of a kind detailed above with
30 reference to Figure 1, such as acceleration and fuel consumption data. Then the fresh video data stream is obtained along with its GPS data 32. The fresh data stream may be obtained by re-filming the appropriate part

of the route while GPS data recordings are made. Alternatively, the fresh video data stream may have already been filmed and stored with its GPS data, e.g. as part of a different route on which the apparatus is operable. In either case the fresh video data stream is input with the GPS data to the personal computer (PC) 34. The fresh video data stream and the GPS data are stored in the data store 12 as described above.

In the following step 36 the fresh video data stream is checked, perhaps manually by presenting the fresh data stream to a supervisor or other such system operator, to ensure that it is appropriate, e.g. as to whether or not it relates to the route being changed. Then the data handling means 16 operates to match the fresh video data stream and the existing video data stream (which constitutes co-relation) on the basis of their respective GPS data 38 and the matched video data streams are presented to a user as a changed continuous data stream for review. The changed data stream comprises the original video data stream until the end, changed part of the route is reached at which point the fresh video data stream is presented to the supervisor instead of the remaining part of the existing video data stream.

At this stage, the supervisor may optionally manually edit the matching of the fresh video data stream and the existing video data stream 40. Optional manual editing may be used, for example, if the switch from the existing to the fresh video data stream takes place at an inconvenient part of the route, such as at a corner. Alternatively, the GPS data may, under certain circumstances be deemed to be insufficiently accurate to provide a seamless or near seamless switch to the fresh video data stream. At any rate, optional editing

involves in effect adjusting an extent of overlap of the two video data stream or a switch point on the route from the existing video data stream to the fresh video data stream. In the event that optional manual editing is to be used the fresh video data must comprise an unchanged part of route to provide for an overlap with the existing video data stream.

The above steps are repeated as many times as are required to modify or update the route, with further fresh data streams obtained at step 32.

The route modification process concludes with the supervisor saving whatever change has been made to the matching of the two video data streams by the data handling means 42 in readiness for presentation to persons to be trained by use of the apparatus.

Figure 3 is a flow chart representation of how information of a route changed in accordance with the method of Figure 2 is presented to a user. As a first step 52 operation of the personal computer 10 of Figure 1 is initiated to present information to one or more persons being trained. Then the data handling means 16 operates 54 to provide the video data stream and the other above noted data streams in a co-related manner for presentation on the VDU 14 to the persons being trained. Whilst the various data streams are being presented, the data handling means 16 accesses the fresh video data stream stored in the data store in readiness for presentation to the persons being trained 56. Monitoring of cross-relatable data of the various data streams being presented and comparison thereof with the cross-relatable data of the fresh video data stream provides the means for accessing the fresh video data stream. The accessing of the fresh video data stream in readiness for

presentation is carried out on a separate thread of the data handling means to the ongoing presentation of the various data streams. When the changed part of the route is reached the data handling means switches 58 from the
5 existing video data stream to the fresh video data stream on the basis of cross-reference data, such as GPS data, in each of the existing and the fresh video data streams. The switch in video data streams take into account any change saved as a result of the optional manual editing
10 process. Thus, the modified route is presented to the persons being trained in a real or at least near real time manner.

Where the fresh video data stream constitutes a diversion, the diversion can be deselected such that the
15 presented data stream comprises the existing video data stream alone. As the apparatus has continued to store the existing video data stream in its entirety along with its related data for the entire route, the return to the existing video data stream is readily accomplished
20 without the need to recreate the related data for the formerly diverted part of the route.

Nesting of the fresh video data stream with one or more further fresh video data streams can be accomplished in accordance with the above description. For example,
25 the fresh video stream might be a first diversion and a further fresh video data stream might be a second diversion to part of the first diversion.

The control program executed by the data handling means and data structure containing the stored data are
30 in Extensible Mark-up Language (XML). Complete details of the XML program and data structure are not provided here as their creation is a routine matter for the programmer of ordinary skill, for example in accordance

with XML programming principles and techniques as described by Beginning XML, 3rd Edition, Wiley Publishing Inc., 2004.

Figure 4 is a static diagram representation 60 of data structures and program control used in the present invention. The data structures shown in Figure 4 are, in common with Figures 1 to 3, representative of a wide range of data structures of different kinds of information. As the representation is in Unified Modelling Language (UML) the syntax will be recognised by the programmer of ordinary skill. The representation shows an IObserver element 62, a VideoControl element 64 along with a Clip element 66, which is a video data stream for use by the program of the present invention. Clip element 66 is representative of a series of such Clip elements queued by the controlling program to present a continuous stream of video data formed from the series of clips.

The IObserver element 62 is the agent of the controlling program. The VideoControl element 64 is capable of initiating and responding to an event, as is reflected by the 'Update' and 'VideoEvent' functions shown in Figure 4.

The representation of Figure 4 also has a MapControl element 68, which relates to a graphic display of a route being presented by the program of the present invention, and a HighlightsControl element 70, along with a Highlight element 72, which is highlight data for use by the program of the present invention. Like the VideoControl element 64 the MapControl element 68 is capable of initiating and responding to an event whereas the MapControl element 68 is only capable of responding to an event. As can be seen, each of the Highlight 72

and Clip 66 elements relate respectively to highlight (e.g. comment) data and video data which are each associated with cross-referable data. In the case of the Clip elements 66 the cross-referable data is the start and finish time of the video data. In the case of the Highlight element 72 the cross-referable data is location data.

A GeoVideoService element 74 provides a means of cross-referring data of different kinds, such as the different kinds of data of the Highlight 72 and Clip elements 66. The cross-referral of the data is by reference to the GeoVideoEventsArgs element 76 and provides for co-location of data streams on the basis of different cross-referable data. The co-location of the data streams having the same and different cross-referable data is in accordance with the description given above with reference to Figures 1 to 3. The Geo-Point element 78 relates to the syntactical form of GPS data used by the program of the present invention.

Figure 5 shows how data structures of Figure 4 are co-related for presentation to a user. The data structures of Figure 4 include Clip elements 66 for an existing route (not shown) and a diversion (not shown). The Clip elements 66 for the existing route and the diversion are respectively expressed in XML in terms of a Diversion Admin Class and a Route Admin Class, as referred to below in the brief description of Annex A. Referring again to Figure 5, the Clip element or data structure for the existing route 72 is matched to the Clip element or data structure for the diversion 74 by means of matching operation 76. Matching operation 76 corresponds to step 38 in Figure 2. Matching of the data structure for the existing route 72 and the data

structure for the diversion 74 proceeds, perhaps with manual editing should it be required (as discussed above with reference to Figure 2), until a best match is achieved 78. When the best match is achieved the result 5 80 is two data structures that are properly co-relatable for subsequent output to a user of the apparatus.

Annex A contains significant information relating to the XML data structures and program control used in the present invention and described with reference to Figures 10 4 and 5. More specifically, information is provided for a Diversion Admin Class and a Route Admin Class, followed in turn by the GeoVideoService Class information and the GeoVideoEventArgs Class information.

ANNEX**VideoRouteTrainer.Admin.DiversionAdmin Class**

Inherits From Inovas.VideoRouteTrainer.Admin.RouteAdmin Class

5 Attributes

Members	Description
videoDiversion	Placeholder for the diversion Video Control
intersection1	Array containing two GeoVideoEventArguments representing the start of the diversion
intersection2	Array containing two GeoVideoEventArguments representing the end of the diversion
geoVideoServiceDiversion	The GeoVideo Service representing the diversion being added
geoVideoExistingRoute	The GeoVideo Service representing the existing route
geoVideoServiceDiversionComplete	The GeoVideo Service that will represent the addition of both routes
mainMin1	Geo Video event argument representing the minimum position on the existing route for the start intersection.
mainMax1	Geo Video event argument representing the maximum position on the existing route for the start intersection.
diversionMin1	Geo Video event argument representing the minimum position on the diversion route for the start intersection.
diversionMax1	Geo Video event argument

	representing the maximum position on the diversion route for the start intersection.
mainMin2	Geo Video event argument representing the minimum position on the existing route for the end intersection.
mainMax2	Geo Video event argument representing the maximum position on the existing route for the end intersection.
diversionMin2	Geo Video event argument representing the minimum position on the diversion route for the end intersection.
diversionMax2	Geo Video event argument representing the maximum position on the diversion route for the end intersection.
routeDiversionDetails	Filenames and details of the diversion route
clipDetails	List of video clips for the completed route

Operations

Members	Description
Clear	Clears all of the Geo Video Services and the Clips array
FindIntersections	Populates both of the intersection arrays and displays the intersection push pins on the map
findIntersection1	Populates the start intersection array
findIntersection2	Populates the end intersection array
ViewIntersection1	Synchronises both GeoVideo Services (and all of their

	IObservers) to the Start Intersection
ViewIntersection2	Synchronises both GeoVideo Services (and all of their IObservers) to the end Intersection
CreateDiversion	Creates the completed Geo Video Service for the addition of the diversion to the existing route.
createDiversionWaypoints	From the data create the new routes waypoints
createDiversionClips	Create the list of video clips for the new route
createAlternateEnding	Only add the diversion route after the End Intersection point No start intersection is selected.
createNormalDiversion	Add the new diversion route between the start and end intersection points Both intersection points are selected
createAlternateBeginning	Only add the diversion route before the Start Intersection point No end intersection is selected.
UpdateIntersection1	Moves the start intersection point to a new location Updates all GeoServices and their IObservers Is only valid if on both routes and before the end intersection
UpdateIntersection2	Moves the end intersection point to a new location Updates all GeoServices and their IObservers Is only valid if on both routes and after the start intersection
checkPossibleIntersection	Checks to see if a given point is acceptable to use a an intersection between two routes

VideoRouteTrainer.Admin.RouteAdmin Class**Attributes**

Members	Description
mapMain	Placeholder for the map control
videoMain	Placeholder for the Main Video Control
geoVideoServiceMain	GeoVideo Service representing a new route
newWaypoints	A list of new waypoints that are to be added
videoFileName	The filename of the video being added
gpsFileName	The file name of the GPS being added
inWay	The First waypoint of the route
outWay	The last waypoint on the route

5 Operations

Members	Description
DisplayNewRoute	Draws the new GPS waypoints onto the main mapping control Loads the waypoints into the GeoVideo Service
DisplayNewVideo	Loads the new Video file into the video control
RemoveNewRoute	Removes the new route from the all of the controls
checkGeoFile	Checks the the selected file is ok and is a valid file
getWaypoints	
trimAndFixGPSData	Ensures the GPS coordinates are trimmed to 2 DP and that they are compatable with any regional

	variations NB assumes inputted coordinates have decimal point (.)
drawRoute	Draws the selected route onto the map window and zooms to it
showVideo	Shows the new route video
EditWaypoints	Show or Hide the Waypoint markers and set the Waypoint edit events
getGpsIdFromWaypoint	Returns the GPSId of a given GeoVideoEventArgs The GPSId is the Database GPS record the waypoint belongs to.
InsertWaypoint	Inserts a Waypoint (GeoVideoEventArgs) into the current route. Redraws the route to show the newly inserted waypoint.
checkForIdenticalWaypoint	Checks for Identical way points in the new route and removes them

VideoRouteTrainer.GeoVideo.GeoVideoService Class

Attributes

Members	Description
primaryVideo	Collection of Waypoints for the Primary Video
lastPosition	Represents the last known good position along a route
lastWaypointId	The ID of the waypoint immediately before the present position
nextWaypointId	The ID of the Waypoint immediately ahead of the present position
wayPointsDataService	The Data set containing all

	of the route information
spiderDataService	The Data set containing all of the route information for the spider map
xyPositionTolerance	Tolerance of user clicking on the map

Operations

GeoVideoService	Default Constructor
AddPrimaryWaypoint	Adds one way point to the primary video Waypoint collection
AddPrimaryWaypoints	Consumes an XML file conforming to the Inovas GeoData Schema and populates the GeoVideoService
RemoveAllWaypoints	Remove all the waypoints from the primary collections
addSeondryWaypoint	Adds one way point to the secondary video Waypoint collection
CompletePrimary	Completes the collection of Waypoints by deriving the remaining fields
CompleteSeondry	Completes the collection of Waypoints by deriving the remaining fields
completeWaypoints	Derives the routeTime & routeDistance fields
twoWaypointDistance	Gets the distance between two Waypoints
getPrimaryLocationFromVideoControl	Works out the

	coordinates from the clip and clip time
GetWaypointFromDistance	Gets a way point from a given distance
GetWaypointFromRouteTime	Gets a way point from a given route time
getWaypointFromDistance	Sets the lastPosition GeoVideoEventArgs to be the point defined by the PrimaryRoute object and the given distance
getRouteDistanceFromXY	Works out the distance along the given set of waypoint from the given x and y coords
getSpeed	Works out the average speed between two Waypoints
getAngle	Workds out the heading angle between two way points
SnapPrimaryWaypointToLine	Snap the collection of way point to the given line
setLastandNextWaypointIds	Sets the Waypoint Id variables so the synch engine can report the waypoints it is between
dumpPrimaryVideo	
Lookup	Gets a complete GeoVideoEventArgument from a Partial one if possible

VideoRouteTrainer.GeoVideo.GeoVideoEventArgs Class

Attributes

Members	Description
x	X Coordinate
y	Y Coordinate
z	Z Coordinate
currentPositionMedia	The time in seconds of the current media CLIP
distanceOffset	The distance to offset along the route
playState	The current playstate of the media player
positionChange	Has the media been repositioned
routeDistance	The current total route distance from the start
routeTime	The current total route time from the start
clipId	The currently playing clip number
bearing	The bearing (degrees) of the route at this point
currentSpeed	The current speed of the route at this point
percentageComplete	The percentage of the route that has passed at this point
databaseId	The Id of the way point in the database

Claims

1. Apparatus for providing assistance in management of a route followed by a person, the apparatus
5 comprising

a data store configured to store a plurality of data streams corresponding to different kinds of information of a route followed by a person,

data output means operable to output the plurality
10 of data streams to a user such that they are co-related to the route followed by the person, and

data handling means operable to provide the stored plurality of data streams to the data output means, in which

15 the plurality of data streams comprises a first data stream and a further data stream, the first and further data streams corresponding to different route information to each other,

the data store being configured such that the
20 plurality of data streams are not combined in the data store and such that the plurality of data streams comprise cross-referable data, and

the data handling means is operable to provide the first data stream and the further data stream in a
25 predetermined manner to the data output means and in dependence upon the cross-referable data such that the first and further data streams are output by the data output means in a substantially co-related manner.

30 2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the first data stream and the further data stream corresponds to information of different parts of the route to each other.

3. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the first data stream corresponds to the whole of the route and the further data stream corresponds to only part of the route.

5 4. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the first data stream corresponds to a first half of the route and the further data stream corresponds to a second half of the route.

10 5. The apparatus of any preceding claim wherein the data handling means is operable to provide at least a part of the first data stream and at least a part of the further data stream at different times to the data output means.

15 6. The apparatus of any preceding claim wherein the first data stream and the further data stream corresponds to the same kind of information.

20 7. The apparatus of any of claims 1 to 5 wherein the first data stream and the further data stream corresponds respectively to different kinds of information.

8. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the first data stream corresponds to video data and the further data stream corresponds to comment data.

25 9. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein The comment data represents a fresh comment recorded on account of a change to the route.

30 10. The apparatus of any preceding claim wherein the plurality of data streams comprises at least two data streams corresponding respectively to information of a different kind.

11. The apparatus of any preceding claim wherein one of the plurality of data streams and the further data stream corresponds to the same kind of information.

12. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the one of the plurality of data streams and the further data stream corresponds to information of the same part of the route.

13. The apparatus of any preceding claim wherein
5 the data handling means is configured for user operable selection between the one of the plurality of data streams and the further data stream.

14. The apparatus of any preceding claim wherein,
10 upon presentation of information of a route followed by a person to a user of the apparatus, the data handling means operates to provide the further video data stream and the existing video data stream at different times to the data output means and in dependence upon the cross-referable data.

15 15. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the first data stream is a video data stream and the further data stream is a video data stream of only a changed part of the route.

16. The apparatus of any preceding claim wherein
20 the data handling means is operable to provide only a part of the first data stream to the data output means.

17. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the data handling means is then operable to provide the further data stream to the data output means.

25 18. The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the data handling means is then operative to provide another part of the first data stream to the data output means.

19. The apparatus of any of claims 1 to 15 wherein
30 the data handling means is operable to provide at least two parts of the first data stream to the data output means, the two parts being spaced apart from each other on the route.

20. The apparatus of any preceding claim wherein the cross-referable data comprises location data corresponding substantially to a location on the route followed by the person.

5 21. The apparatus of claim 20 operable such that the location data is acquired when route information is being recorded.

22. The apparatus of claim 21 wherein The location data is derived from a global navigation satellite system
10 such as Global Positioning System (GPS), GLONASS and Europe's GALILEO system.

23. The apparatus of any preceding claim wherein at least one of the plurality of data streams comprises a plurality of cross-referable data, the plurality of
15 cross-referable data being related respectively to spaced apart elements of a data stream.

24. The apparatus of any preceding claim wherein the data handling means is operable to identify, in dependence upon the cross-relatable data, one of the
20 further data stream and the first data stream from the data store as the other of the further data stream and the first data stream is being output by the data output means, in readiness for providing the one of the further data stream and the first data stream to the data output
25 means.

25. The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the data handling means is operable to convey the identified one of the further data stream and the first data stream from the data store as the other of the further data stream
30 and the first data stream is being output by the data output means.

26. The apparatus of any preceding claim wherein the plurality of data streams comprises first and second

data streams, two of the first, second and further data streams being cross-referable by a first kind of cross-referable data and a different two of the first, second and further data streams being cross-referable by a second kind of cross-referable data, the first and second kinds of cross-referable data being different to each other.

27. The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the first kind of cross-referable data is GPS data and the second kind of cross-referable data is time data.

28. The apparatus of any preceding claim wherein the plurality of data streams comprises two further data streams and the data handling means is operable to select between providing a first and a second of the further data streams to the data output means.

29. The apparatus of claim 28 wherein the data handling means is operable to select between the first and second of the further data streams in response to a user input.

30. The apparatus of claim 28 or 29 wherein the plurality of data streams further comprises a third further data stream and the data handling means is operable to select the second and third further data streams

31. The apparatus of any preceding claim wherein said selection is in response to a user input.

32. The apparatus of any preceding claim 30 or 31 wherein The second and third further data streams overlap at least in part and the data handling means is operable to provide the second and third further data streams in turn to the data output means.

33. The apparatus of any preceding claim wherein the first further data stream is co-relatable with at

least one additional data stream for output thereof by the data output means.

34 The apparatus of claim 33 configured such that upon selection by the data handling means of the second
5 further data stream, the first further data stream and its co-relatability with the at least one additional data stream is maintained.

35. The apparatus of any preceding claim wherein the data store is configured to store the first data
10 stream and the further data stream such that each comprises first and second different kinds of cross-referable data.

36. The apparatus of claim 35 wherein the plurality of data streams comprises two further data streams and
15 the data handling means is operable to provide the first data stream and one of the two further data streams in a predetermined manner to the data output means and in a co-related manner in dependence upon the first kind of cross-referable data, the data handling means being
20 further operable to select one of the two further data streams for provision to the data handling means in dependence upon the second kind of cross-referable data.

37. The apparatus of any preceding claim configured to present information relating to one route selectable
25 from a plurality of routes.

38. The apparatus of claim 37 configured such that the selection from a plurality of routes is only made by a person other than a person to whom the apparatus is giving assistance.

30 39. The apparatus of any preceding claim wherein the data store is configured to store data streams corresponding to information of first and second routes, a data stream of each of first and second routes

comprising at least two consecutive data streams, at least one of the consecutive data streams being common to the first and second routes, and the data handling means being operable to provide a data stream for one of the
5 first and second routes in dependence upon the cross-referable data such that the consecutive data streams are co-related to a selected route.

40. The apparatus of any preceding claim wherein the different information of a route followed by a person
10 comprises at least two selected from the group consisting of: video, sound, comments, graphics, location, acceleration in one or more axes, direction of travel, and fuel consumption, a plurality of engine and gearbox management data and throttle position of a motor vehicle.

15 41. The apparatus of any preceding claim wherein the data handling means is further configured to optionally provide for user editing of the first and further data streams.

42. The apparatus of claim 41 wherein first and
20 further data streams comprise information relating to a shared part of the route, the user editing enabling a user to optimise the co-relation of the first and further data streams.

43. The apparatus of claim 41 or 42 configured for
25 user initiated storage in the data store of user edited first and further data streams.

44. The apparatus of any preceding claim wherein the data store is configured to store the plurality of data streams and the cross-referable data in respective
30 mark-up documents and the data handling means is operative to access data stored in the mark-up documents, read the stored data and provide the stored data to the data output means.

45 The apparatus of claim 44 wherein the mark-up documents present the data in a form that can permit the data stream information type and the location data to be identified and accessed by tags, said tags enabling the
5 data handling means to navigate through and read the stored mark-up documents.

46. The apparatus of claim 44 or 45 wherein The mark-up documents are extensible mark-up documents, which permit the creation of structured documents and data
10 structures, which reflect the content of the documents directly and without regard to where the content appears in a document structure.

47. The apparatus of any preceding claim wherein the apparatus for providing assistance in the management
15 of a route followed by a person is apparatus for providing assistance in the management of a route followed by an operator controlled object.

48. The apparatus of claim 47 wherein the operator controlled object is an operator controlled vehicle.

20 49. The apparatus of any preceding claim operable such that the first data stream corresponds to information of a route followed by a first person and the further data stream corresponds to information of the route followed by a second person.

25 50. The apparatus of any of claims 1 to 47 operable such that the first data stream corresponds to information of a route followed by a first person and the further data stream is based on a combination of information of the route followed by the first person and
30 information of the route followed by a second person.

51. A method of providing assistance in management of a route followed by a person, the method comprising:

operating a data handling means of an apparatus to provide a plurality of data streams stored in a data store of the apparatus to a data output means, the plurality of data streams corresponding to different
5 kinds of information of a route followed by a person, and

operating a data output means of the apparatus to output the plurality of data streams to a user such that the plurality of data streams are co-related to the route followed by the person, in which

10 the plurality of data streams comprises a first data stream and a further data stream, the first and further data streams corresponding to different route information to each other,

the plurality of data streams are stored such that
15 they are not combined in the data store and such that the plurality of data streams comprise cross-referable data, and

the step of operating the data handling means comprises providing the first and further data streams in
20 a predetermined manner to the data output means and in dependence upon the cross-referable data such that the first and further data streams are output by the data output means in a substantially co-related manner.

52. A computer program product for configuring a
25 computer to provide assistance in management of a route followed by a person by causing the computer to carry out the steps of:

storing a plurality of data streams in a data store of the computer, the plurality of data streams
30 corresponding to different kinds of information of a route followed by a person,

operating a data output means of the computer to output the plurality of data streams to a user such that they are co-related to the route followed by the person,

operating a data handling means of the computer to
5 provide the stored plurality of data streams to the data output means, in which

the plurality of data streams comprises a first data stream and a further data stream, the first and further data streams corresponding to different route information
10 to each other,

the step of storing comprises storing the plurality of data streams such that they are not combined in the data store and such that the plurality of data streams comprise cross-referable data, and

15 the step of operating the data handling means comprises providing the first and further data streams in a predetermined manner to the data output means and in dependence upon the cross-referable data such that the first and further data streams are output by the data
20 output means in a substantially co-related manner.

53. Apparatus for providing assistance in management of a route followed by a person, the apparatus comprising a data store configured to store a first data stream and a further data stream corresponding to
25 information of a route followed by a person, data output means operable to output the first and further data streams to a user such that they are co-related to the route followed by the person, and data handling means operable to provide the first and further data streams to
30 the data output means, in which the data store is configured such that the first and further data streams are not combined in the data store and such that the first and further data streams comprise cross-referable

data, and the data handling means is operable to provide first and further data streams in a predetermined manner to the data output means and in dependence upon the cross-referable data such that the first and further data
5 streams are output by the data output means in a substantially co-related manner.

1/5

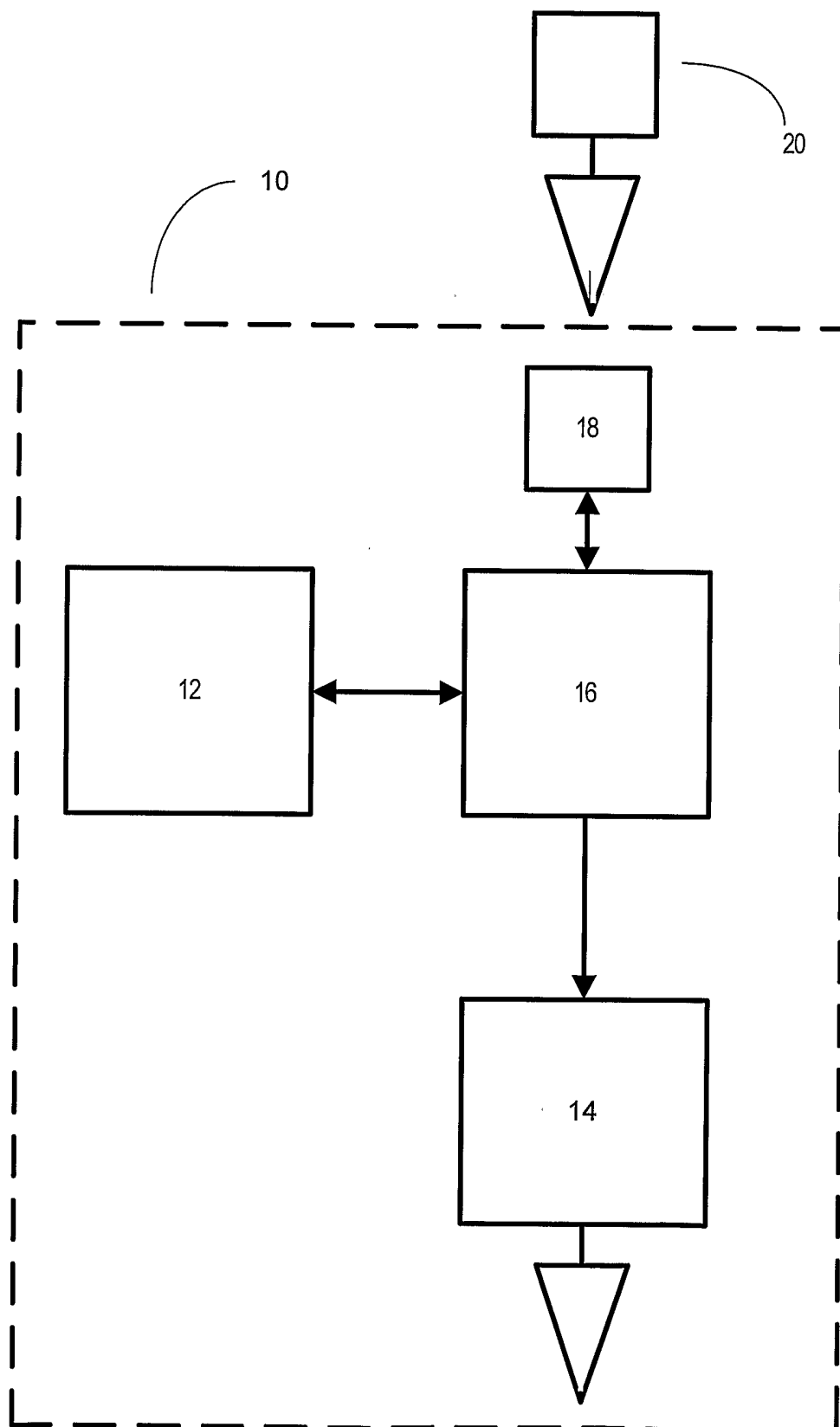


Fig. 1

2/5

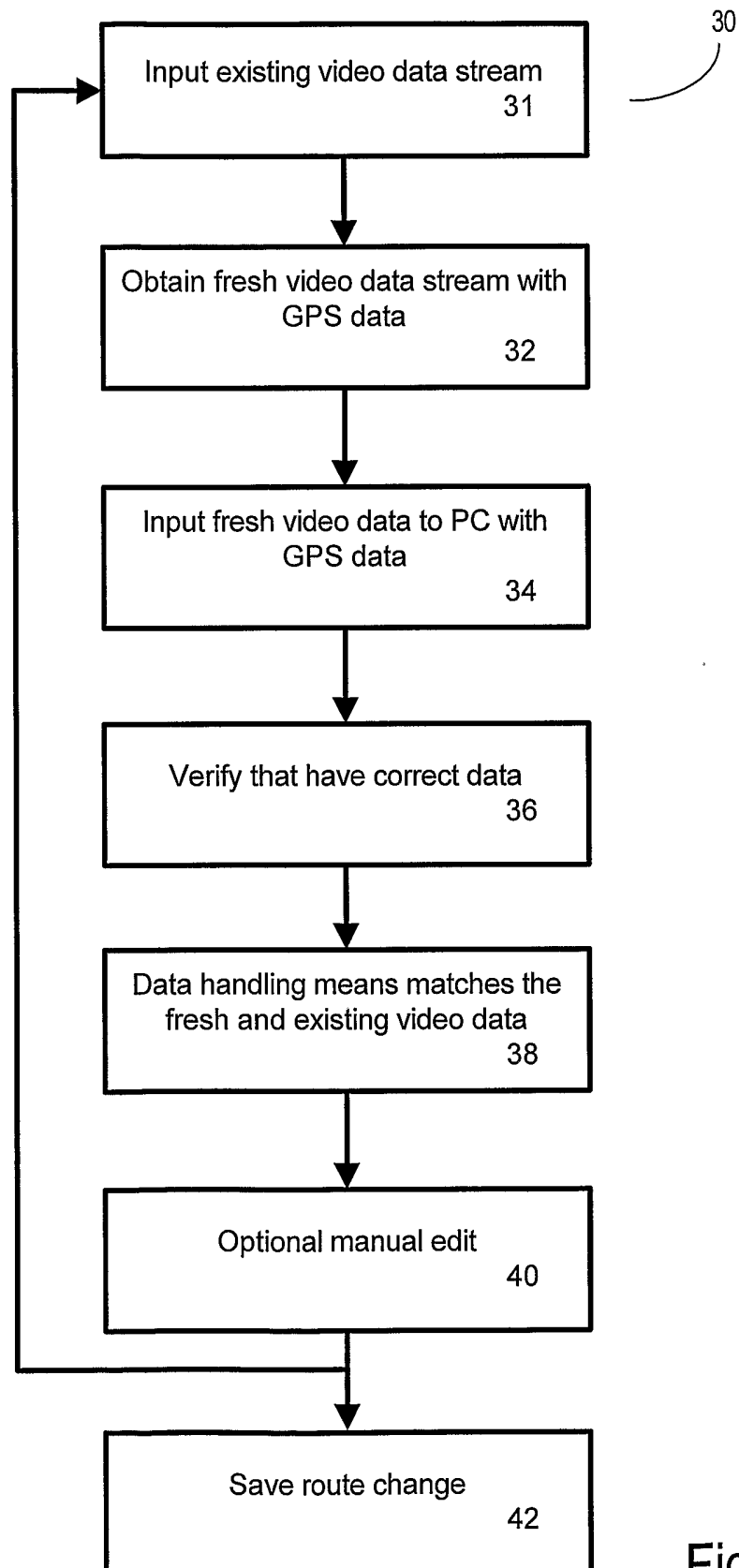


Fig. 2

3/5

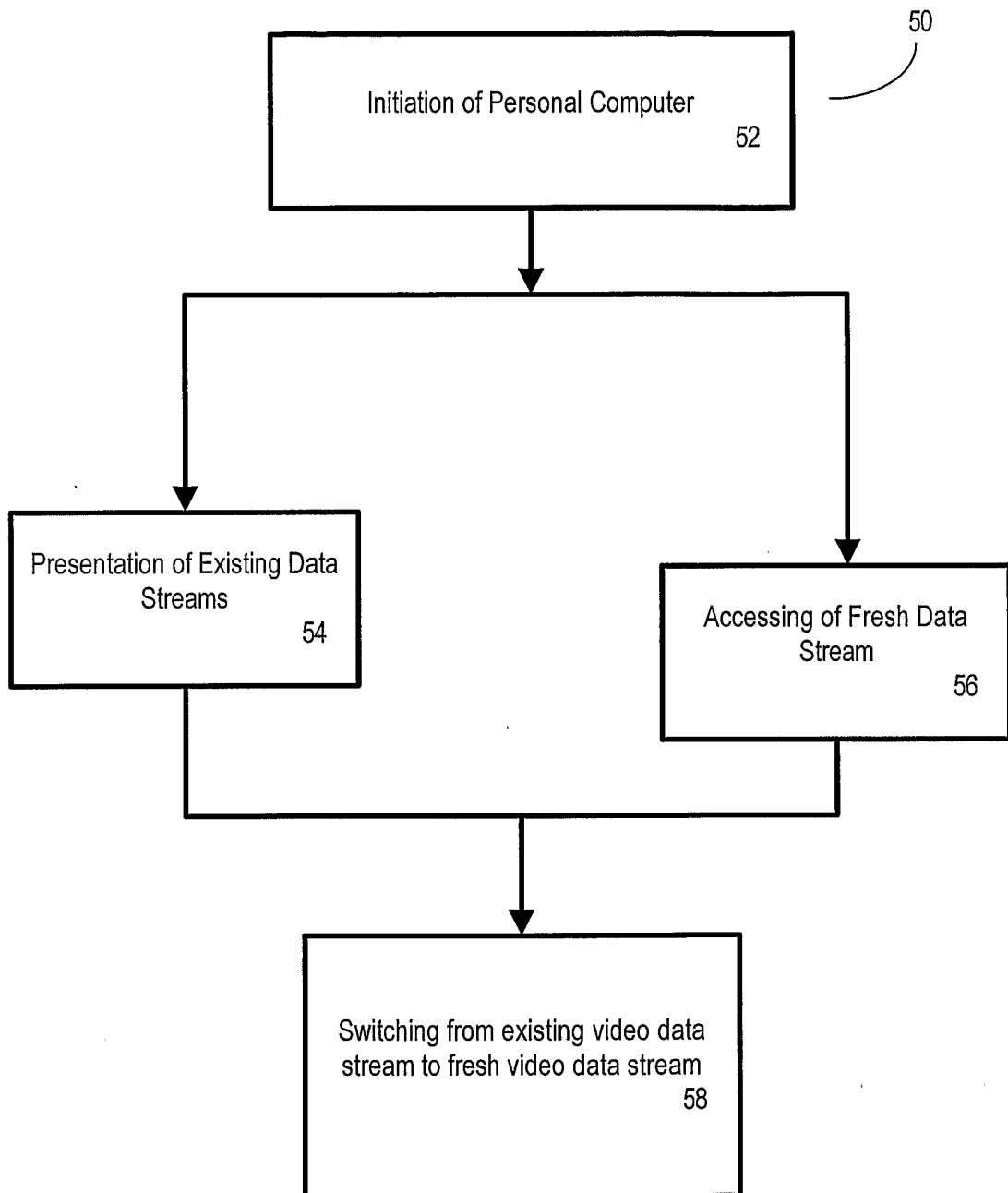


Fig. 3

4/5

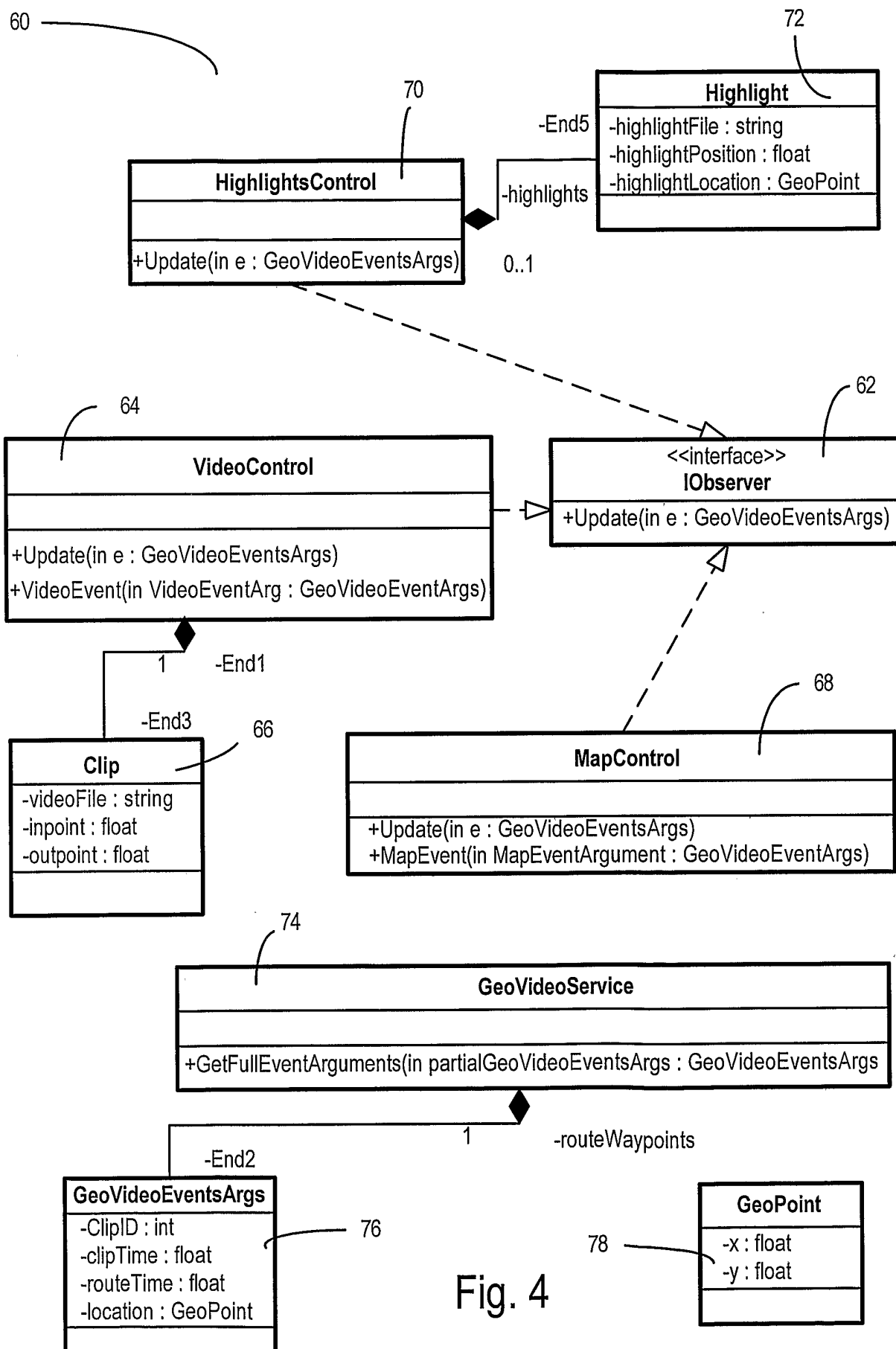


Fig. 4

5/5

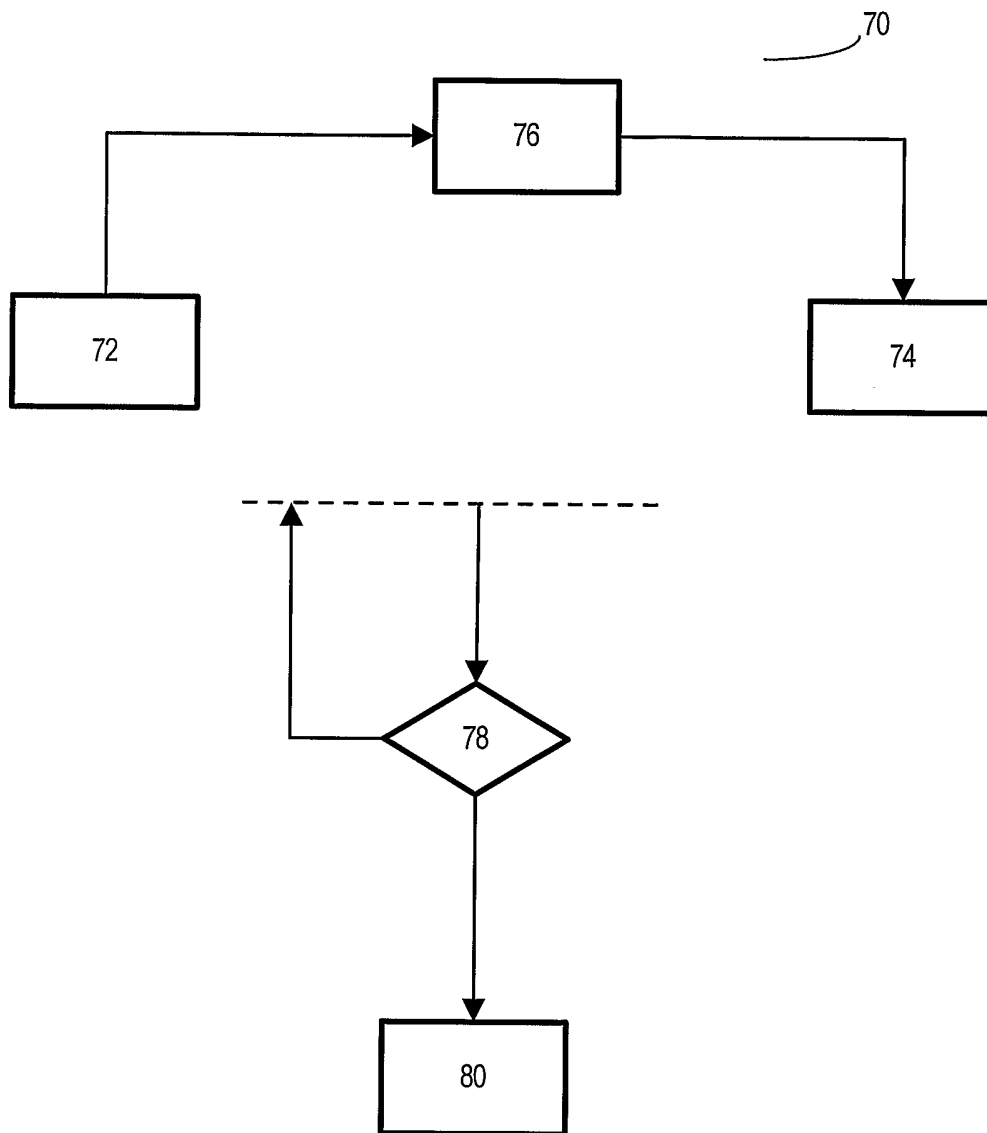


Fig. 5

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/GB2006/001317

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. G08G1/123

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)
G08G

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

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	EP 1 191 501 A (MARK IV INDUSTRIES GESELLSCHAFT MIT BESCHRAENKTER HAFTUNG) 27 March 2002 (2002-03-27) the whole document	1-37, 39-48, 51-53
Y	WO 99/16036 A (ELDRIDGE, MARTIN, E) 1 April 1999 (1999-04-01) page 6, line 9 - line 20 page 8, line 3 - line 17 page 9, line 7 - line 20; figures 1a,1b,2 ----- -/--	1-37, 39-48, 51-53

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☒ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the International 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 special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *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
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *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.
- *&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

21 August 2006

Date of mailing of the international search report

28/08/2006

Name and mailing address of the ISA/
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Wagner, U

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/GB2006/001317

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 664 948 A (DIMITRIADIS ET AL) 9 September 1997 (1997-09-09) page 5, line 1 - line 31 page 5, line 51 - line 65 page 6, line 17 - line 31 page 7, line 19 - line 60; figures 1-8 -----	1-37, 39-48, 51-53
A	US 2002/057212 A1 (HAMILTON LULA RENEE ET AL) 16 May 2002 (2002-05-16) abstract -----	1,51-53
A	US 2004/082318 A1 (LANE DAVID E [US]) 29 April 2004 (2004-04-29) abstract -----	1,51-53

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/GB2006/001317

Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☒ Claims Nos.: 38, 49, 50
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box II.2

Claims Nos.: 38,49,50

Subclaims 38,49 and 50 do not contain technical features that could characterise the apparatus they are dependent. For example, claim 38 characterises an apparatus by the feature that a selection is made by a different person. It is, however, no technical feature of an apparatus who is using it.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guideline C-VI, 8.5), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be overcome.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/GB2006/001317

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 1191501	A	27-03-2002	DE 10047094 A1	18-04-2002
WO 9916036	A	01-04-1999	NONE	
US 5664948	A	09-09-1997	NONE	
US 2002057212	A1	16-05-2002	NONE	
US 2004082318	A1	29-04-2004	AU 2003279254 A1	13-05-2004
			CA 2503132 A1	06-05-2004
			EP 1554826 A1	20-07-2005
			WO 2004038967 A1	06-05-2004