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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **THOMSON LICENSING S.A.** [FR/FR]; 46, Quai A. Le Gallo, F-91200 Boulogne-Billancourt (FR).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **ROBERTS, Harold, Gene** [US/US]; 1414 Stoney Creek Circle, Carmel, Indiana 46032 (US). **ECOFF, Clint, Alan** [US/US]; 5836 N. Rural Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46220 (US).

(74) Agents: **TRIPOLI, Joseph, S.** et al.; Thomson Licensing Inc., 2 Independence Way Suite 2, Princeton, New Jersey 08540 (US).

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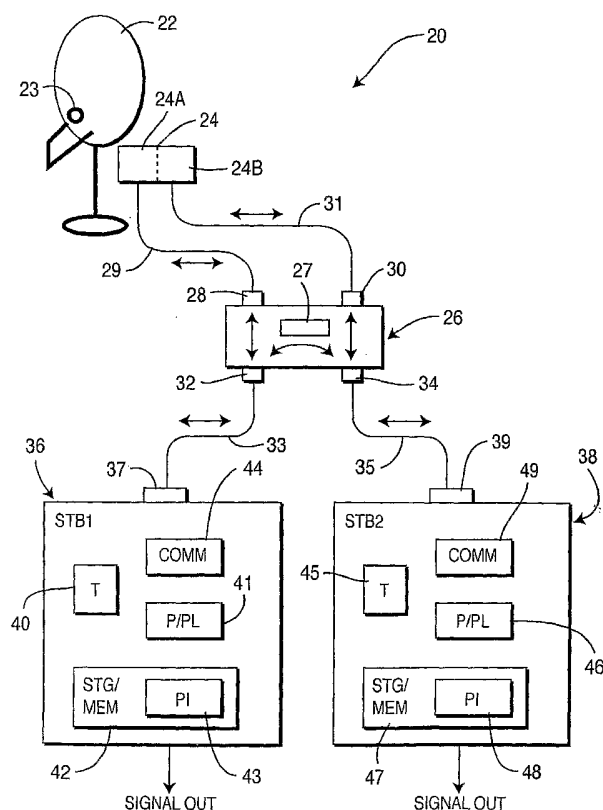
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(54) Title: APPARATUS FOR CONNECTING MULTIPLE DISEQC MASTER DEVICES TO SATELLITE RECEPTION DEVICES IN A VIDEO DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: A bridge (26) is provided for connecting multiple satellite receivers (36, 38) to multiple accessories (24A, 24B) in a video distribution system (20) such as a direct broadcast satellite system (DBS). The bridge (26) is designed for interposition between multiple satellite receivers (set top boxes or STBs) and controllable accessories (e.g. LNBs or multi-switches) of the video distribution system (20). The bridge (26) provides controlled communication between STBs and controllable accessories using, for example, customized vendor extensions to the DiSEqC communication protocol. The bridge (26) includes a communication protocol transceiver (27) for each STB port, a communication protocol transmitter (27) for each controllable accessory port, a mailbox for each STB port, a mailbox for the bridge, and a controller, processor, processing means or processing logic controlling or regulating video distribution system communication.



— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
H04H1/00

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)  
H04H H04N

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, WPI Data

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| Y          | column 2, line 21 - line 24; claim 1;<br>figure 11<br>column 6, line 45 - line 56<br>column 9, line 18 - line 38<br>-----<br>-/-- | 12,17                  |

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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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

De Haan, A.J.

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International Application No  
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## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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information on patent family members

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