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(54) Methods and apparatus for modifying a firmware variable in an electronic postage meter.

(57) Methods and apparatus for modifying a firmware variable in an electronic postage meter. A program is stored e.g. in ROM (14) for operation of the electronic postage meter, data is provided e.g. in a non-volatile memory (24) external to the stored program which data is capable of modifying a variable in the program to change the action of the program, and such external data is accessed during operation of the electronic postage meter to change the action of the program in accordance with the presence of the external data.

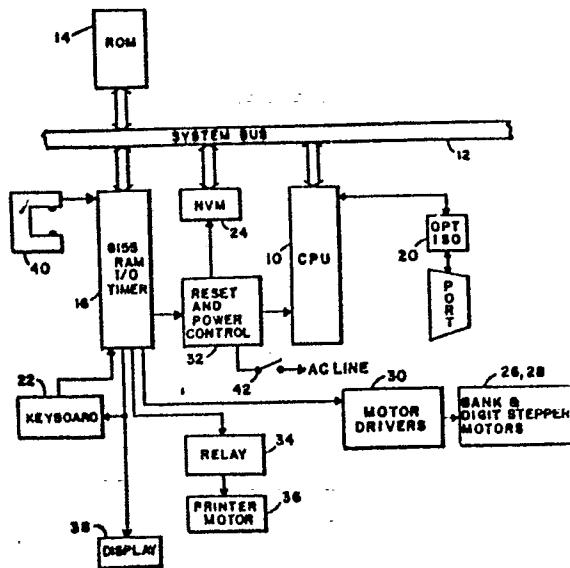


FIG. 1

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT | | | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. ³) |
|--|---|-------------------|--|
| Category | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages | Relevant to claim | |
| X, D | US-A-4 301 507 (SODERBERG et al.) * Column 3, line 38 - column 5, line 32; column 11, line 11 - column 13, line 68; column 18, line 19 - column 20, line 64; figures * | 1,2,4-8 | G 07 B 17/02 |
| A, D | --- | 10 | |
| X | GB-A-2 079 223 (RONEO ALCATEL) * Page 9, line 62 - page 10, line 13; page 10, line 45 - page 11, line 31; figures * | 1,2,4-8 | |
| A | --- | 10 | TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. ³) |
| X | US-A-4 280 179 (JONES et al.) * Column 13, line 55 - column 15, line 37; figures * | 1,2,4-8 | |
| A | --- | 10 | |
| A | GB-A-2 094 522 (PITNEY BOWES INC.) * Page 4, line 104 - page 5, line 3; figures * | 1,2,4-8,10 | G 07 B G 01 G |
| | --- | -/- | |
| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims | | | |
| Place of search | Date of completion of the search | Examiner | |
| THE HAGUE | 22-05-1987 | MEYL D. | |
| CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS | | | |
| X : particularly relevant if taken alone | T : theory or principle underlying the invention | | |
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| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT | | | Relevant to claim | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 3) |
|---|---|--|---------------------|--|
| Category | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages | | | |
| A | US-A-4 325 440 (CROWLEY et al.) * Column 3, lines 11-35; column 14, line 42 - column 21, line 2; figures * --- | | 1,2,4- 8,10 | |
| A | HASLER MITTEILUNGEN, vol. 37, no. 1, April 1978, pages 1-7; B. GRÜNING: "Die Frankiermaschine Hasler Mailmaster" * Figures 7,9 * | | 3 | |
| | | | | TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 3) |
| | | | | |
| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims | | | | |
| Place of search THE HAGUE | Date of completion of the search 22-05-1987 | | Examiner MEYL D. | |
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