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71 Applicant: **ALCATEL BUSINESS SYSTEMS LIMITED**
P.O. Box 3 South Street

Romford Essex, RM1 2AR(GB)

72 Inventor: **Abumehdi, Cyrus**
114 Copse Hill
Harlow Essex CM19 4PR(GB)
Inventor: **Herbert, Raymond John**
34 Sterling Avenue
Leigh-on-Sea Essex(GB)

74 Representative: **Loughrey, Richard Vivian**
Patrick et al
HUGHES CLARK & CO 63 Lincoln's Inn Fields
London WC2A 3JU(GB)

54 **Franking system.**

57 Communication between a franking meter (29) and external peripheral devices (30,32,33) associated therewith is provided by means of radiation signals transmitted into the ambient environment of the meter (29) and devices (30,32,33). The meter (2a) and each device (30,32,33) is provided with a transmitter (20) and a receiver (21) connected to the

operational circuits (10,25) thereof. It is preferred to use modulated infra-red radiation. When satisfactory communication is prevented by obstacles, a satellite device (36) is provided to receive radiated signals from the meter (29) and other devices (30,32,33) and to re-transmit these signals either directly or after a delay.

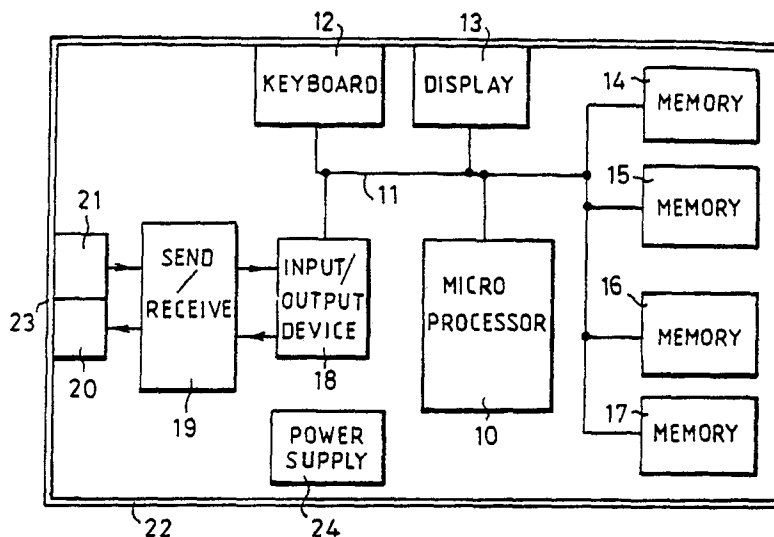


FIG.1.



EP 89 31 3223

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
Y	FR-A-2565720 (SOCIETE D'ETUDE ET DE CONSTRUCTION D'APPAREILS DE PRECISION) * page 3, line 23 - page 5, line 5; figures *	1-3, 6	G07B17/02
A	----	4, 5, 7	
Y	US-A-4251874 (CHECK, JR.) * column 4, line 52 - column 5, line 31 * * column 7, line 26 - column 8, line 42; figures 1-4 *	1-3, 6	
A	----		
A	GB-A-2188876 (PITNEY BOWES) * page 1, line 47 - page 3, line 18; figures 1, 2 *	1, 3, 5, 6	
A	----		
A	US-A-4138735 (ALLOCA ET AL.) * column 2, line 3 - column 3, line 4; figures 1, 2 *	1, 3, 5	
A	----		
A	US-A-4326254 (UCHIMURA ET AL.) * column 2, line 31 - column 3, line 49; figures 1-6 *	1, 6	
A	----		TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
A	GB-A-2173741 (PITNEY BOWES) ----		G07B
A	EP-A-0186881 (PITNEY BOWES) -----		G01G
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 19 SEPTEMBER 1990	Examiner RAKOTON DRAJAONA C.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			