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(54) Postage meter and postage indicia printed thereby

(57) A postage meter includes a printer (19) operated by electronic means (10) to print postage indicium on mail items. In order to accommodate the required data within the postage indicium data consisting of multi digits is represented by a lesser number of digits or by a single digit. The electronic means includes conversion

means responsive to input of data, for example, comprising postage amount and date each consisting of multi digits generates representation that data consisting of a lesser number of digits or a single digit and the electronic means controls the printer to print the generated representation of the data.

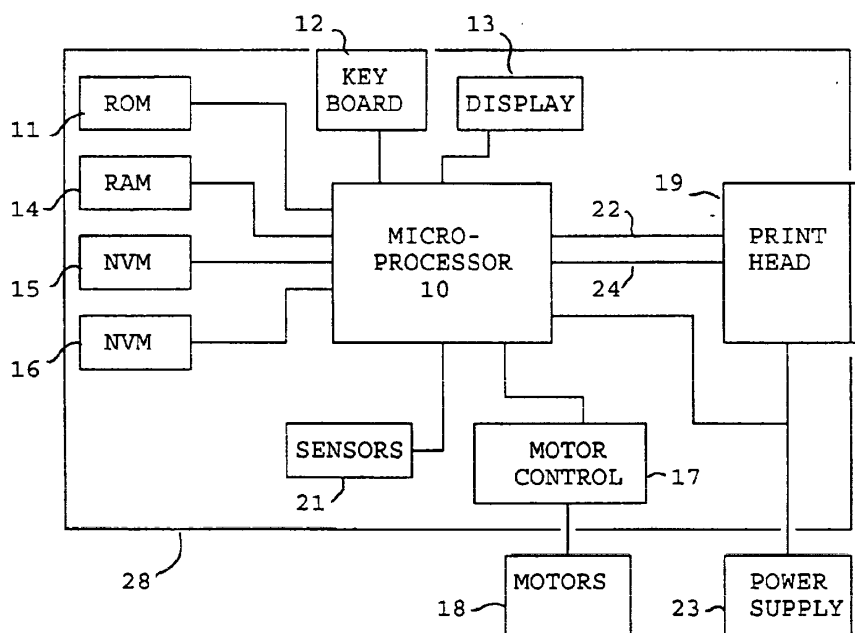


FIGURE 1



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 97 30 9141

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 8 March 2000	Examiner Schofield, 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	

EPO FORM 1503 03/82 (P4/C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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