



Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets



(11) **EP 1 067 483 A3**

(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:
16.05.2001 Bulletin 2001/20

(51) Int. Cl.⁷: **G07B 17/00**

(43) Date of publication A2:
10.01.2001 Bulletin 2001/02

(21) Application number: **00305817.9**

(22) Date of filing: **10.07.2000**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
**AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU
MC NL PT SE**

Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV MK RO SI

(30) Priority: **09.07.1999 GB 9916242**

(71) Applicant: **NEOPOST LIMITED**
Romford, Essex RM1 2AR (GB)

(72) Inventor: **Gilham, Dennis Thomas**
Ingatestone, Essex CM4 9LT (GB)

(74) Representative:
Loughrey, Richard Vivian Patrick
HUGHES CLARK & CO
114-118 Southampton Row
London WC1B 5AA (GB)

(54) **Method and system for providing information to machine users**

(57) A postage metering system is described in which during a transaction between postage metering apparatus and a remote data centre for example for the purpose of refunding a value of credit in the postage metering apparatus, the remote data centre transmits to the postage metering apparatus a message that is unrelated to the transaction. The data centre may transmit a

message selected for a specific postage metering apparatus by storing a plurality of messages and selecting a message from the plurality of messages in dependence upon a profile of the postage metering apparatus or of a user thereof that is determined by an identification of the postage metering apparatus.

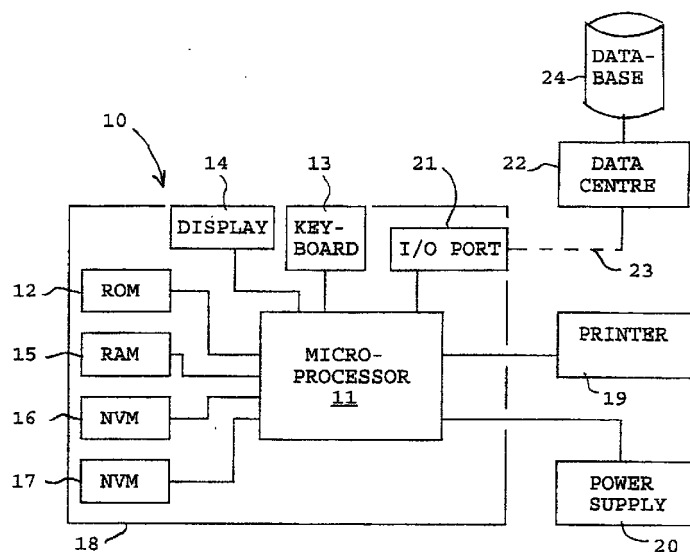


FIGURE 1

EP 1 067 483 A3



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 00 30 5817

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.7)
X	US 5 058 008 A (SCHUMACHER KARL H) 15 October 1991 (1991-10-15)	1,2	G07B17/00
A	* claim 1; figure 5C * ---	3-9	
A	FR 2 665 003 A (ALCATEL SATMAM) 24 January 1992 (1992-01-24)	1-9	
	* claim 1 * ---		
A	US 5 786 748 A (BURNS PATRICK E ET AL) 28 July 1998 (1998-07-28)	1-9	
	* claim 1; figure 1 * ---		
A	WO 98 57302 A (RAHRIG JOHN G ;RILEY DAVID W (US); GRAVELL LINDA V (US); PINTSOV L) 17 December 1998 (1998-12-17)	1-9	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7) G07B
	* claim 1; figure 1 * ---		
A	EP 0 892 367 A (PITNEY BOWES) 20 January 1999 (1999-01-20)	1-9	
	* claim 1; figure 3 * ---		
A	EP 0 845 762 A (PITNEY BOWES) 3 June 1998 (1998-06-03)	1-9	
	* claim 1; figure 1 * -----		
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 21 March 2001	Examiner Kirsten, K
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 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 00 30 5817

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

21-03-2001

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
US 5058008	A	15-10-1991	NONE		
FR 2665003	A	24-01-1992	NONE		
US 5786748	A	28-07-1998	NONE		
WO 9857302	A	17-12-1998	AU	7961998 A	30-12-1998
			AU	7963898 A	30-12-1998
			AU	8255898 A	30-12-1998
			AU	8256698 A	30-12-1998
			AU	8567098 A	30-12-1998
			AU	8567298 A	30-12-1998
			BR	9805995 A	31-08-1999
			BR	9806225 A	21-03-2000
			CN	1234890 T	10-11-1999
			CN	1234891 T	10-11-1999
			EP	0925558 A	30-06-1999
			EP	0931299 A	28-07-1999
			EP	0925663 A	30-06-1999
			EP	0920679 A	09-06-1999
			EP	0966728 A	29-12-1999
			EP	0960394 A	01-12-1999
			WO	9857303 A	17-12-1998
			WO	9857460 A	17-12-1998
			WO	9857304 A	17-12-1998
			WO	9857305 A	17-12-1998
			WO	9857306 A	17-12-1998
EP 0892367	A	20-01-1999	US	6041319 A	21-03-2000
			CA	2243217 A	14-01-1999
EP 0845762	A	03-06-1998	CA	2221674 A	21-05-1998