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(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.

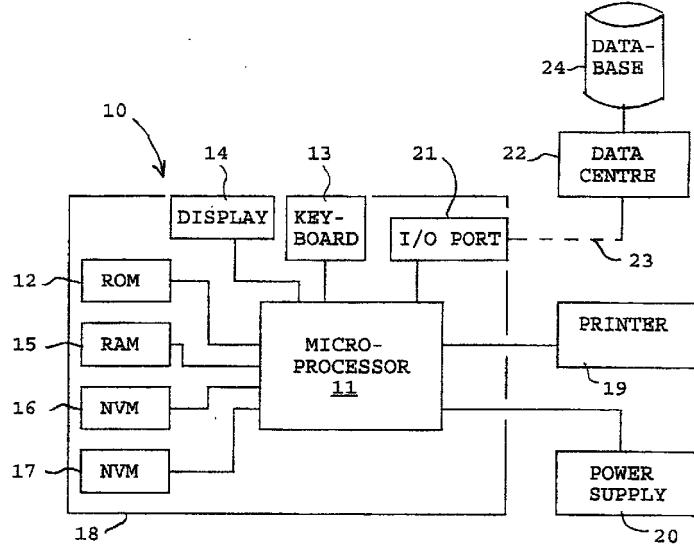


FIGURE 1



European Patent  
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## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 00 30 5817

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		21 March 2001	Kirsten, K
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		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	
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			

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
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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.

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