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### (54) A method and apparatus for security tagging

(57) The electronic security alarm system (1) of the present invention detects the theft or loss of valuable items of personal property, for example briefcases, wallets, purses and such like.

The system includes an alarm unit (2) that monitors one or more tag units (14a, 14b) each of which is attached to a valuable item of property.

The alarm unit (2) has two main operating states. In the first state, the alarm unit (2) registers new tags (14a, 14b) when they are brought within a short distance of the alarm unit (the first state detection range (20)). In the second state these registered tag units (14a, 14b)

are monitored so that if any of them are moved outside a second distance (22) (the second state detection range) an alert is activated.

Once the alarm is activated it can be deactivated by either bringing the missing item back into the second state detection range (22) or by switching the alarm unit (2) into the first state.

Additionally, items may be registered whilst the alarm unit (2) is in the second state. This is achieved by registering the newly detected item if it passes within the first state detection range (20).



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)						
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim							
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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)						
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<p>The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Place of search</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Date of completion of the search</td> <td style="width: 34%;">Examiner</td> </tr> <tr> <td>THE HAGUE</td> <td>8 April 2003</td> <td>Sgura, S</td> </tr> </table>				Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	THE HAGUE	8 April 2003	Sgura, S
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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							
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ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.  
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08-04-2003

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