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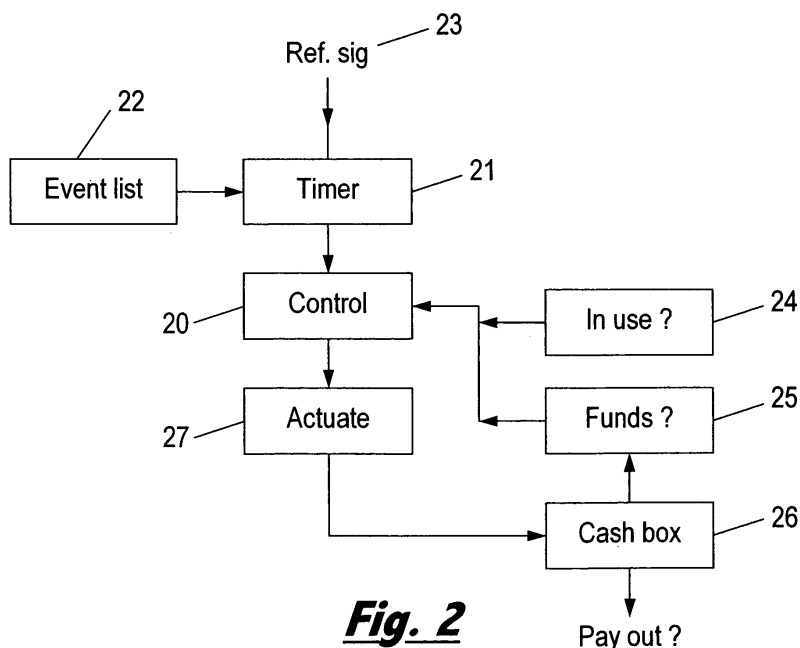
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(54) **Operation of amusement or gaming machines**

(57) A plurality, e.g. three or more machines 10-14 are associated, and also associated with a display device located as a top-box 18. Each machine 10-14, and also the top-box 18 has a fully independent controller 20 with its own timer 21. The respective timers 21 are however synchronised by use of a common time reference signal

23, so that events determined by a respective event list 22 in the control program can occur in all the machines and the top-box at the same time. A sensor 24 determines if the machine is in use, and 25 if there is sufficient funds, so that an event such as a bonus prize can be given by all machines in the group which are in use.





EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 5 January 2009	Examiner Lavin Liermo, Jesus
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			

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Application Number
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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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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