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(54) A system and method for providing reliable collision hazard detection

(57) In accordance with an embodiment of the invention, there is provided a system for detecting a collision hazard at a predefined area along a railroad including, one or more conductive loops, one or more train detectors, railway control interface and a processing unit. The one or more inductive loops may be adapted to sense a presence of a potentially hazardous object within the predefined area of the railroad and may be adapted to provide information indicative of a progress of the potentially hazardous object through the predefined area or a lack thereof. The one or more train detectors may be adapted to indicate a train approaching the system. The railway control interface may be adapted to receive railway control information that is indicative of an approach by a train to the predefined area and/or that is indicative of a passage of a train through the predefined area. The processing unit may be adapted to process data received from the one or more inductive loops, from the one or more train detectors and from the railway control interface. The processing unit may be adapted to switch from a standby state to an alert state when it is determined that a potentially hazardous object is substantially immobile while within the predefined area; and the processing unit may be adapted to switch from the standby state or from the alert state to an alarm state when it is determined that while a train is approaching the predefined area or while a train is passing through the predefined area, there is a potentially hazardous object within the predefined area.

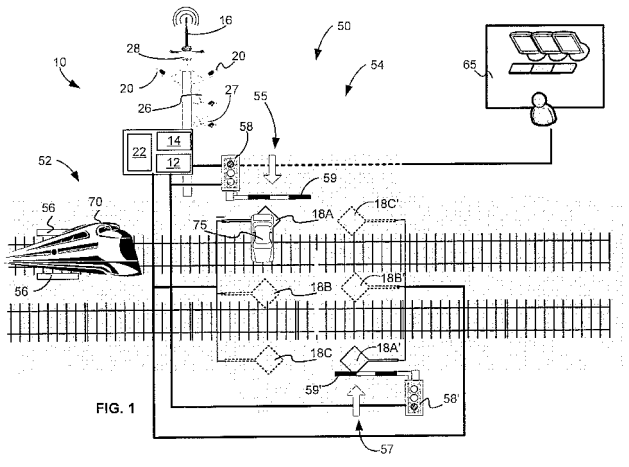

FIG. 1

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 08 16 9286

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
A	US 5 890 682 A (WELK JAMES E [CA]) 6 April 1999 (1999-04-06) * paragraph [0011] - paragraph [0024]; figure 1 *	1-9	INV. B61L29/30
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TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)

B61L

The present search report has been drawn up for all claims

Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
Munich	27 November 2009	Janhsen, Axel

CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS

X : particularly relevant if taken alone
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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82