Operating panel for an elevator providing options of indicating additional floor information

The present invention relates to an operating panel for an elevator.

Elevators generally serve as transportation means for transporting persons or goods between various levels or floors e.g. in a building. Operating panels may be used by a user of the elevator, inter alia, for indicating to an elevator control to which level an elevator cabin shall travel. For example, a cabin operating panel (COP) is generally mounted within the cabin of the elevator. Conventionally, the COP comprises multiple buttons for selecting one of a plurality of floors. By pressing or touching one of the buttons, the user may indicate to which floor or level the cabin shall be transferred. The COP may include information means for indicating e.g. which floors have already been selected as travel targets. For example, a button which has been activated by a user may subsequently be illuminated and/or change its colour. Furthermore, the COP may include a display on which an information concerning e.g. a current position of the elevator cabin may be indicated.

Operation panels have been proposed which allow indicating of additional information to a user of the elevator, such additional information comprising e.g. details of facilities provided at a floor. For example, EP 1 870 367 A1 describes a destination floor registration device enabling access to further floor information. WO2007/116465 on the other hand, discloses a car operation panel for an elevator has a touch panel display for displaying destination floor buttons and capable of specifying a destination floor when a button is touched by a passenger. Another example may be found in US2015/019226 which also discloses data processing apparatus, speech recognition and synthesis apparatus, and a network interface to enable voice-driven provision of information obtained both locally within the elevator and from a remote source.

There may be a need for an alternative operation panel for an elevator which enables, inter alia, simple and intuitive release of information relating to a target floor. There may also be a need for an elevator comprising such operation panel. Such needs may be met with the subject-matter of the independent claims. Advantageous embodiments are defined in the dependent claims.

According to an aspect of the present invention, an operating panel for an elevator is proposed, the operation panel comprising a plurality of buttons, a plurality of touch-sensitive areas, an output device, a control unit and a data storage device. Each of the

Claims

1. Operating panel (1) for an elevator, comprising:
a plurality of buttons (3) for selecting one of a plurality of target floors;
a plurality of touch-sensitive areas (5), each of the plurality of touch-sensitive areas (5) being associated to one of the buttons (3);
an output device (7, 8) for outputting information (17, 19);
a control unit (9) being connected to each of the buttons (3) and to each of the touch-sensitive areas (5) and to the output device (7, 8);
a data storage device (11) comprising at least one data folder stored therein, wherein each data folder comprises information relating to one of the target floors;
wherein the control unit (9) is adapted to, upon triggering one of the touch-sensitive areas (5), reading one of the plurality of data folders comprising information relating to the target floor selectable by the button (3) to which the touch-sensitive area (5) is associated and outputting the information via the outputting device (7, 8), and
characterised in that the control unit (9) is furthermore adapted to, upon triggering once more the one of the touch-sensitive areas (5), reading another data folder comprising another information relating to the target floor selectable by the button (3) to which the touch-sensitive area (5) is associated and outputting the information via the outputting device (7, 8).

2. Operating panel of claim 1, wherein, for at least some of the target floors, various information is stored in a plurality of data folders on the data storage device (11), and
wherein the control unit (9) is adapted to, reacting to each one of a sequence of triggerings of one of the touch-sensitive areas (5), sequentially reading a predetermined correlated one of the plurality of the data folders comprising information relating to the target floor selectable by the button (3) to which the touch-sensitive area (5) is associated and outputting the information via the outputting device (7, 8).

3. Operating panel of one of the preceding claims, wherein each of the touch-sensitive areas (5) is arranged in a direct neighbourhood to the associated one of the buttons (3).