CLAIMS

1. A method of controlling a station, the method comprising:

receiving a first signal from an access point, the first signal comprising information indicating a time period;

deactivating the station after receiving the first signal and before expiry of the time period; and

activating the station upon expiry of the time period.

2. The method according to claim 1,

wherein the station is activated upon expiry of the time period to receive a second signal from the access point.

3. The method according to claim 2,

wherein the second signal is one signal of a prescheduled series of periodic signals.

4. The method according to claim 2 or 3,

wherein the time period is indicated by a duration between transmitting of the first signal from the access point and transmitting of the second signal from the access point.

5. The method according to any one of claims 2 to 4,

wherein the second signal comprises a traffic indication map.

6. The method according to any one of claims 2 to 4,

wherein the second signal comprises a traffic indication map segment.

7. The method according to claim 2,

wherein the second signal comprises buffered data.

8. The method according to any one of claims 2 to 4,

wherein the second signal comprises an indication for the station to transmit a subsequent polling signal to the access point.

9. The method according to claim 8, the method further comprising:

transmitting the subsequent polling signal to the access point; and

receiving a data signal comprising buffered data from the access point.

10. The method according to any one of claims 2 to 4,

wherein the second signal comprises an indication for the station to be awake to receive a data signal.

11. The method according to any one of claims 2 to 10, the method further comprising:

transmitting a prior polling signal to the access point.

12. The method according to claim 11,

wherein the prior polling signal is a prior Powersave-Poll signal.

13. The method according to claim 11,

wherein the prior polling signal is a trigger frame.

14. The method according to claim 1,

wherein the station is activated upon expiry of the time period to transmit a second signal to the access point.

15. The method according to any one of claims 2 to 4 and 14,

wherein the second signal is an authentication request signal.

16. The method according to any one of claims 2 to 4, 14 and 15,

wherein the first signal is a probing response signal.

17. The method according to any one of claims 2 to 4 and 14 to 16, further comprising:

transmitting a prior probing request signal to the access point.

18. The method according to any one of claims 2 to 4 and 14 to 17, further comprising:

transmitting a third signal to the access point, wherein the third signal is an authentication request signal.

~~15~~19. A method of controlling an access point, the method comprising:

determining a time period;

transmitting a first signal to a station, the first signal comprising information indicating the time period; and

processing a second signal upon expiry of the time period.

~~16~~20. The method according to claim ~~15~~19,

wherein processing the second signal comprises transmitting the second signal.

~~17~~21. The method according to claim ~~15~~19 or 20, the method further comprising:

receiving a prior polling signal transmitted from the station; and

determining whether to transmit the first signal.

~~18~~22. A method of communication between an access point and a plurality of stations, the method comprising:

transmitting a first signal from an access point to a plurality of stations, the first signal comprising information indicating a time period;

deactivating the plurality of stations after the plurality of stations receives the first signal but before expiry of the time period; and

activating the plurality of stations upon expiry of the time period.

~~19~~23. The method according to claim ~~18~~22,

wherein the plurality of stations is activated upon expiry of the time period to receive a second signal from the access point.

~~20~~24. The method of communication according to claim ~~19~~23,

wherein the second signal comprises an indication of one or more stations of the plurality of stations to transmit a subsequent polling signal to the access point.

~~21~~25. A station comprising:

a receiving circuit configured to receive a first signal from an access point, the first signal comprising information indicating a time period;

a deactivation circuit configured to deactivate the station after receiving the first signal and before expiry of the time period; and

an activation circuit configured to activate the station upon expiry of the time period.

~~22~~26. An access point comprising:

a transmitting circuit configured to transmit a first signal to a station, the first signal comprising information indicating a time period; and

a further circuit configured to process a second signal upon expiry of the time period.

~~23~~27. A communication system comprising:

an access point; and

a plurality of stations;

wherein the access point is configured to transmit a first signal to the plurality of stations, the first signal comprising information indicating a time period;

wherein the plurality of stations is configured to be deactivated after the plurality of stations receives the first signal but before expiry of the time period; and

wherein the plurality of stations is configured to be activated upon expiry of the time period.

CLAIMS

1. A method of controlling a station, the method comprising:

   receiving a first signal from an access point, the first signal comprising information indicating a time period;

   deactivating the station after receiving the first signal and before expiry of the time period; and

   activating the station upon expiry of the time period.

2. The method according to claim 1,

   wherein the station is activated upon expiry of the time period to receive a second signal from the access point.

3. The method according to claim 2,

   wherein the second signal is one signal of a prescheduled series of periodic signals.

4. The method according to claim 2 or 3,

   wherein the time period is indicated by a duration between transmitting of the first signal from the access point and transmitting of the second signal from the access point.

5. The method according to any one of claims 2 to 4,

   wherein the second signal comprises a traffic indication map.

6. The method according to any one of claims 2 to 4,

   wherein the second signal comprises a traffic indication map segment.

7. The method according to claim 2,

wherein the second signal comprises buffered data.

8. The method according to any one of claims 2 to 4,

wherein the second signal comprises an indication for the station to transmit a subsequent polling signal to the access point.

9. The method according to claim 8, the method further comprising:

transmitting the subsequent polling signal to the access point; and

receiving a data signal comprising buffered data from the access point.

10. The method according to any one of claims 2 to 4,

wherein the second signal comprises an indication for the station to be awake to receive a data signal.

11. The method according to any one of claims 2 to 10, the method further comprising:

transmitting a prior polling signal to the access point.

12. The method according to claim 11,

wherein the prior polling signal is a prior Powersave-Poll signal.

13. The method according to claim 11,

wherein the prior polling signal is a trigger frame.

14. The method according to claim 1,

wherein the station is activated upon expiry of the time period to transmit a second signal to the access point.

15. The method according to any one of claims 2 to 4 and 14,

wherein the second signal is an authentication request signal.

16. The method according to any one of claims 2 to 4, 14 and 15,

wherein the first signal is a probing response signal.

17. The method according to any one of claims 2 to 4 and 14 to 16, further comprising:

transmitting a prior probing request signal to the access point.

18. The method according to any one of claims 2 to 4 and 14 to 17, further comprising:

transmitting a third signal to the access point, wherein the third signal is an authentication request signal.

19. A method of controlling an access point, the method comprising:

determining a time period;

transmitting a first signal to a station, the first signal comprising information indicating the time period; and

processing a second signal upon expiry of the time period.

20. The method according to claim 19,

wherein processing the second signal comprises transmitting the second signal.

21. The method according to claim 19 or 20, the method further comprising:

receiving a prior polling signal transmitted from the station; and

determining whether to transmit the first signal.

22. A method of communication between an access point and a plurality of stations, the method comprising:

transmitting a first signal from an access point to a plurality of stations, the first signal comprising information indicating a time period;

deactivating the plurality of stations after the plurality of stations receives the first signal but before expiry of the time period; and

activating the plurality of stations upon expiry of the time period.

23. The method according to claim 22,

wherein the plurality of stations is activated upon expiry of the time period to receive a second signal from the access point.

24. The method of communication according to claim 23,

wherein the second signal comprises an indication of one or more stations of the plurality of stations to transmit a subsequent polling signal to the access point.

25. A station comprising:

a receiving circuit configured to receive a first signal from an access point, the first signal comprising information indicating a time period;

a deactivation circuit configured to deactivate the station after receiving the first signal and before expiry of the time period; and

an activation circuit configured to activate the station upon expiry of the time period.

26. An access point comprising:

a transmitting circuit configured to transmit a first signal to a station, the first signal comprising information indicating a time period; and

a further circuit configured to process a second signal upon expiry of the time period.

27. A communication system comprising:

an access point; and

a plurality of stations;

wherein the access point is configured to transmit a first signal to the plurality of stations, the first signal comprising information indicating a time period;

wherein the plurality of stations is configured to be deactivated after the plurality of stations receives the first signal but before expiry of the time period; and

wherein the plurality of stations is configured to be activated upon expiry of the time period.