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(71) Applicant *(for all designated States except US)*: **BEONIC CORPORATION PTY LTD** [AU/AU]; Level 1, 459 Toorak Road, Toorak, Victoria 3142 (AU).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant *(for US only)*: **COHEN, Peter, Geoffrey** [AU/AU]; 29 Alexandra Avenue, Rose Park, S.A. 5067 (AU).

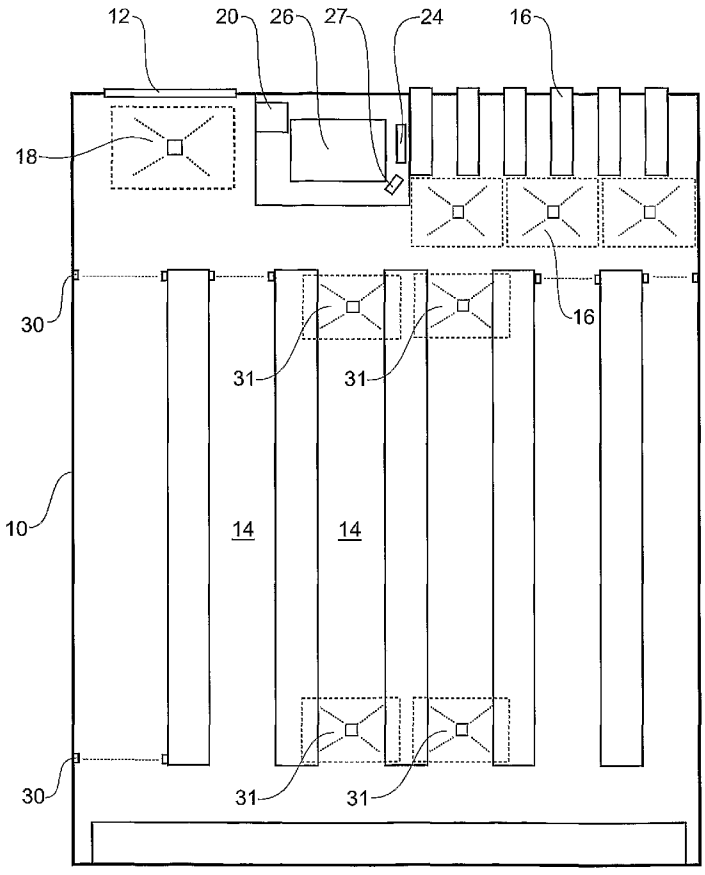
(74) Agent: **MADDERNS PATENT & TRADE MARK ATTORNEYS**; Level 1, 64 Hindmarsh Square, Adelaide, South Australia 5000 (AU).

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(54) Title: QUEUE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: A method and apparatus for rostering staff in a service region such as a supermarket (10) in which required staff numbers for a checkout (16), for instance, depends upon demand for that function at a selected time. The method including the steps of determining (18, 30) the number of persons entering at least one area in the region (12, 14), calculating the estimated time each person will spend in that area dependant upon selected factors and predicting future demands for staff for a selected portion of time ahead. The required number of staff can then be supplied to the checkout in time to cater for the predicted demand or redeployed to another area.

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