(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
27 May 2004 (27.05.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/044807 A1

(51) International Patent Classification[7]: G06F 17/60

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/SG2002/000260

(22) International Filing Date:
7 November 2002 (07.11.2002)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(71) Applicant *(for all designated States except US)*: **SINGAPORE INSTITUTE OF MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY** [SG/SG]; 71 Nanyang Drive, Singapore 638075 (SG).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants *(for US only)*: **XU, Sheng** [CN/SG]; Blk 908, Jurong West Street 91, #10-217, Singapore 640908 (SG). **LENDERMANN, Peter** [DE/SG]; Blk 20, Bukit Batok Street 52, #21-01, Singapore 659244 (SG). **GOH, Kiah, Mok** [SG/SG]; Blk 654 Senja Road #17-254, Singapore 670654 (SG).

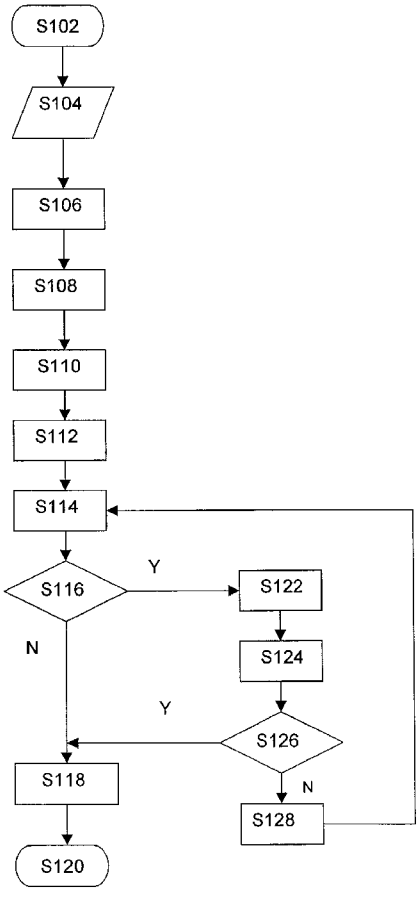
(74) Agent: **ELLA CHEONG MIRANDAH & SPRUSONS PTE LTD**; Robinson Road Post Office, P.O. Box 1531, Singapore 903031 (SG).

(81) Designated States *(national)*: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States *(regional)*: ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD FOR ESTIMATING A LEAD TIME OF A PROCESS



(57) Abstract: This invention provides a method for estimating a lead time of a process. This lead time may be that for a normal delivery, express delivery, earliest possible delivery, and so on. This lead time is necessary before a reasonably accurate quotation or process planning can be provided. A process capacity profile is first generated for each constituent process step. Any infeasible capacities within the capacity profile are identified and repaired. Likewise any critical cpacities are identified and repaired if necessary.

WO 2004/044807 A1

European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Declaration under Rule 4.17:

— *of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv)) for US only*

Published:

— *with international search report*

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.