It is a feature of the present invention to provide a method of fitting a hearing aid system that in an efficient manner allows the various parts of the hearing aid fitting procedure to be carried out by fitting personnel with different core competences.

It is another feature of the present invention to provide a method of fitting a hearing aid system that allows fitting personnel with different geographical locations to carry out the hearing aid fitting procedure together in a flexible manner.

It is yet another feature of the present invention to provide a hearing aid fitting system that allows the hearing aid fitting procedure to be carried out by a multitude of persons located in different geographical locations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The invention, in a first aspect, provides a method of fitting a hearing aid system according to claim 1.

According to the first aspect, there is provided a hearing aid fitting system, adapted for remote fitting of a hearing aid system, comprising a client, an external device, a control server, look-up means, and link means, wherein the client, external device, control server, look-up means and hearing aid system are adapted to communicate by link means; wherein said look-up means is adapted to allow a unique device identification to be searched based on a multitude of search term types; wherein said client comprises fitting software adapted to fit a hearing aid system, selection means, adapted to select a unique device identification using said look-up means, and connection software means adapted to connect to said control server, to provide to said control server a current computer network address of the client, the selected unique device identification and a hearing aid fitter identification, and to request said control server to establish a direct communication channel between said client and the external device having said unique device identification for the person holding said hearing aid fitter identification; wherein the external device comprises a unique device identification, external device software application means adapted to provide said unique device identification and a current computer network address of the external device to said control server, and redirecting means adapted to direct the content of the data transmitted over said direct communication channel to the hearing aid system; wherein said control server comprises interface means adapted to provide the direct communication channel

CLAIMS

1. A hearing aid fitting system, adapted for remote fitting of a hearing aid system, comprising a client, an external device, a control server, look-up means, and link means, wherein the client, external device, control server, look-up means and hearing aid system are adapted to communicate by link means;

- wherein said look-up means is adapted to allow a unique device identification to be searched based on a multitude of search term types;

- wherein said client comprises

fitting software adapted to fit a hearing aid system,

selection means, adapted to select a unique device identification using said look-up means, and

connection software means adapted to connect to said control server, to provide to said control server a current computer network address of the client, the selected unique device identification and a hearing aid fitter identification, and to request said control server to establish a direct communication channel between said client and the external device having said unique device identification for the person holding said hearing aid fitter identification;

- wherein the external device comprises

a unique device identification, external device software application means adapted to provide said unique device identification and a current computer network address of the external device to said control server, and redirecting means adapted to direct the content of the data transmitted over said direct communication channel to the hearing aid system;

- wherein said control server comprises

interface means adapted to provide the direct communication channel between the client and the external device based on the current computer network addresses and the selected unique device identification and based on an evaluation of whether the hearing aid fitter holding said hearing aid fitter identification is entitled to access the external device having said unique device identification.

2. The hearing aid fitting system according to claim 1, wherein said multitude of search term types includes at least two types from the group comprising: name of

hearing aid user, name of hearing aid fitting clinic, name of specific location in a hearing aid fitting clinic, name of hearing aid fitter and name of public institution.

3. The hearing aid fitting system according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said external device is adapted to allow storage of specific hearing aid fitter identifications, and wherein said interface means of the control server is adapted such that the evaluation, in order to allow access to the external device, comprises a comparison of the identification of a hearing aid fitter requesting access and a hearing aid fitter identification stored in the external device.

4. The hearing aid fitting system according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said client is granted access to said hearing aid fitter identification based on a user log-in.

~~5. The hearing aid fitting system according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said selection means and said software application means are integrated as part of the fitting software.~~

~~6.~~5. The hearing aid fitting system according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said look-up means is arranged as at least one independent server.

~~7.~~6. The hearing aid fitting system according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said external device is an embedded device.

~~8.~~7. The hearing aid fitting system according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said external device is configured such that the only possible user interaction is to insert the external device into a computer network connector.

~~9.~~8. The hearing aid fitting system according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said unique device identification is a unique hearing aid system identification that has been retrieved by the external device.

~~10.~~9. The hearing aid fitting system according to any one of claims 1 - ~~8~~7, wherein said unique device identification is a unique external device identification.

~~11.~~10. The hearing aid fitting system according to any one of claim 1 – ~~8~~7, wherein said look-up means is adapted such that some of said search terms types allow a unique hearing aid system identification to be found, and other of said search terms types allow a unique external device identification to be found.

~~12.~~11. The hearing aid fitting system according to any one of the preceding claims wherein said client comprises two sub parts: a thin client comprising web browsing means and a fitting server part comprising the fitting software, the corresponding graphical user interface and the ~~fitting~~ connection software means being adapted to request the control server to establish the direct communication channel between the fitting server part of the client and the external device.

~~13.~~12. The hearing aid fitting system according to claim ~~9~~11, wherein said thin client comprises a wireless Ethernet access point whereby said external device can connect to the internet through said client.

~~14.~~13. A method of fitting a hearing aid system comprising the steps of:

- providing a client, a look-up means, an external device, a control server and a hearing aid system;
- using the client and the look-up means to select a unique device identification;
- using the client to provide the selected device identification, a current computer network address of the client and a hearing aid fitter identification to the control server;
- using the external device to provide the unique device identification and a current computer network address of the external device to the control server;
- using said client to request the control server to establish a direct communication channel between the client and the external device;
- using the control server to evaluate whether the hearing aid fitter holding said hearing aid fitter identification is entitled to access the external device having said unique device identification;
- using the control server to establish the direct communication channel between the client and the external device; and
- using the client, the direct communication channel and the external device to remotely fit the hearing aid system.

~~15.~~14. The method according to claim ~~14~~13, comprising the steps of:

- storing the hearing aid fitter identification in the external device,

and wherein said step of evaluating whether the hearing aid fitter holding said hearing aid fitter identification is entitled to access the external device having said

unique device identification comprises the further step of:

- comparing the identification of a hearing aid fitter requesting access and a hearing aid fitter identification stored in the external device.

~~16.~~15. The method according to claim ~~14~~13, wherein the step of using the client to provide hearing aid fitter identification to the control server comprises a step of:

- obtaining said hearing aid fitter identification based on a user log-in.