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(71) Applicant *(for all designated States except US)*: **TELEFONAKTIEBOLAGET L M ERICSSON (PUBL)** [SE/SE]; S-164 83 Stockholm (SE).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants *(for US only)*: **VIKBERG, Jari** [FI/SE]; Svalsätersvägen 12, S-153 38 Järna (SE). **LINDQVIST, Thomas** [SE/SE]; Wennerbergsgatan 49, S-431 39 Mölndal (SE). **NYLANDER, Tomas** [SE/SE]; Högtorpsvägen 28, S-139 34 Värmdö (SE).

(74) Agent: **HASSELGREN, Joakim**; Ericsson AB, Patent Unit LTE, S-164 80 Stockholm (SE).

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— *as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))*

— *as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))*

— *of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv))*

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: NETWORK GATEWAY CONFIGURED TO PROVIDE A HANDOVER, CONVERTING AND ROUTING FUNCTION

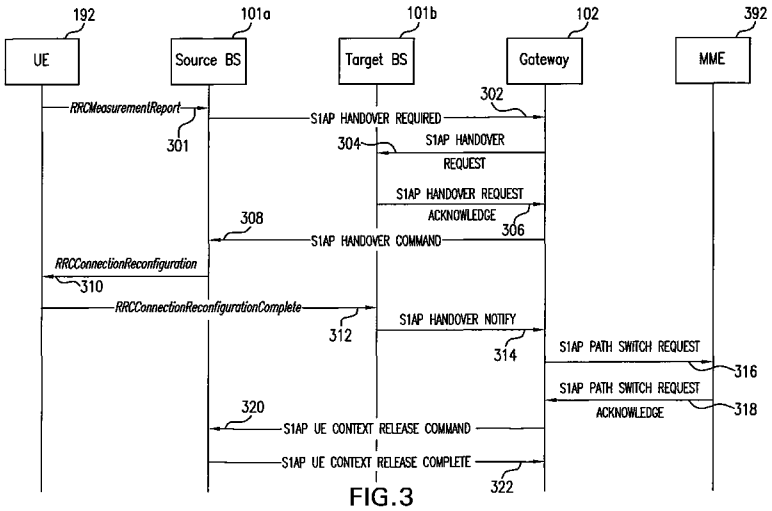


FIG.3

(57) Abstract: In one aspect, the invention provides an improved procedure for handing over a connection from a source network node to a target network node. In some embodiments, this procedure includes the following steps: (a) receiving, at a network gateway, a handover required message transmitted from the source network node; (b) generating, at the gateway, a handover request message in response to receiving the handover required message; and (c) transmitting, from the gateway, the handover request message to the target network node. In another aspect, the invention provides an improved network gateway that is configured to intercept and handle handover signaling.

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