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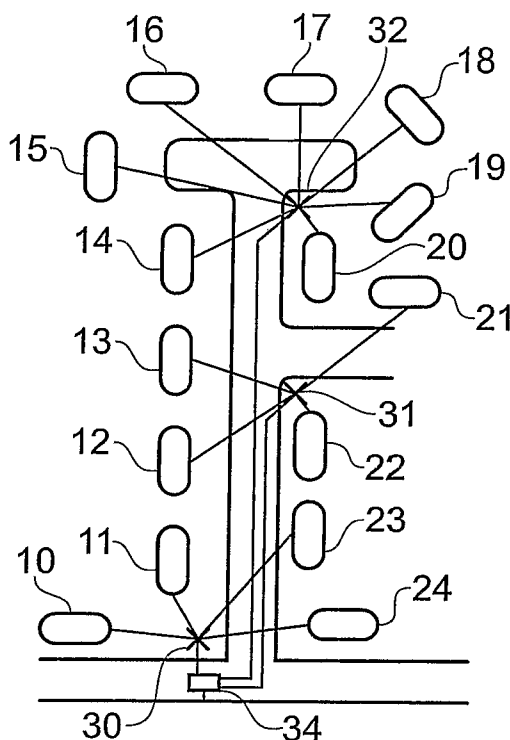
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(54) Title: A COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK



PRIOR ART

(57) Abstract: A distributed communications network comprising a plurality of nodes and a plurality of user devices, wherein each node comprises: a communications device for establishing bi-directional wireless communication with at least one user device, a communications device for establishing bi-directional communication with at least one other node; and a data processor in association with a local memory for storing information for presentation to users, and wherein at least one of the nodes further includes a communications device connected to a further communications network, and wherein nodes are grouped into clusters that cooperate with one another such that if a user requests information which is held in the local memory of a node within a cluster then the nodes cooperate to supply that information to the user and if a connection between a user and the further communications network is required, the nodes cooperate to establish it.

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