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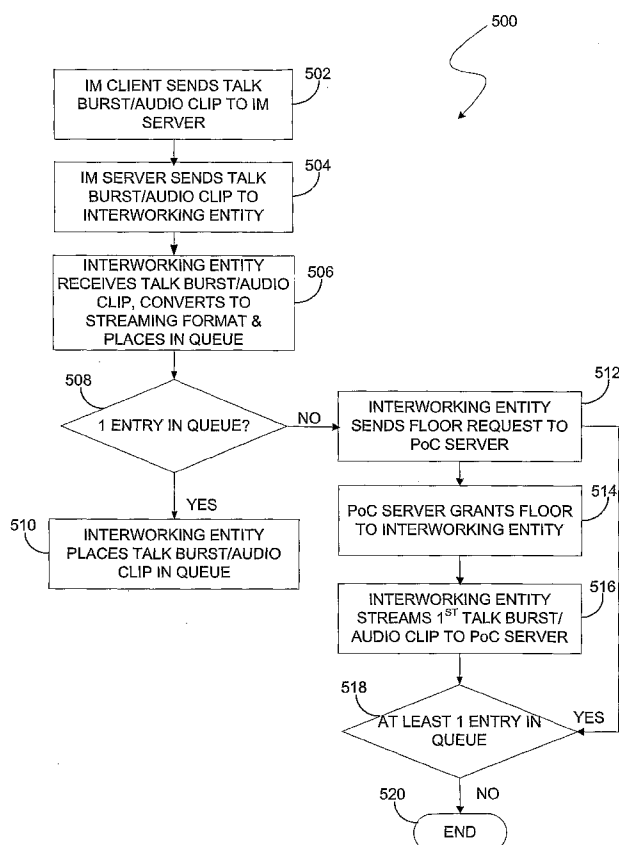
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR INTERWORKING BETWEEN PUSH-TO-TALK OVER CELLULAR (POC) SYSTEMS AND INSTANT MESSAGING (IM) SYSTEMS



(57) Abstract: A method and apparatus for interworking between push-to-talk over cellular (PoC) systems and instant messaging (IM) systems is provided. An interworking entity that behaves like a PoC client to a PoC server and as an IM client to the IM server is provided. The interworking entity may be implemented as part of the PoC server or the IM server. The interworking entity listens to talk bursts from the PoC server and when it receives a talk burst the interworking entity sends the message to the IM client via the IM server. In an embodiment, the interworking entity listens to talk bursts or audio clips from the IM server and when it receives them, stores them in a temporary storage memory and converts them to a streaming format. The interworking entity then requests the floor from the PoC server, and, once the floor is granted, streams the stored audio clip or talk burst to the PoC server. The PoC server then distributes the clips to the PoC clients.

**Declarations under Rule 4.17:**

- *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))*

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