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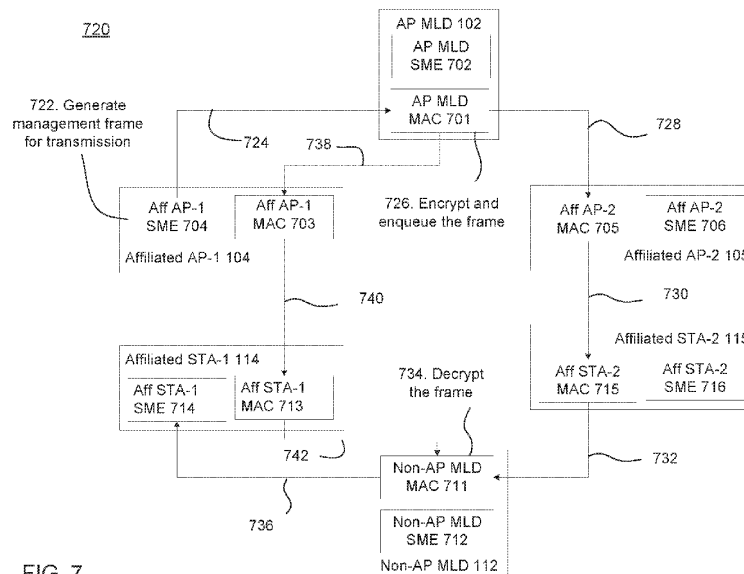


FIG. 7

(57) **Abstract:** An aspect of the disclosure provides a method of communication between a first multi-link device (MLD) and a second MLD, the first MLD being affiliated with a first station (STA) and a third STA, the second MLD being affiliated with a second STA and a fourth STA. Such a method includes receiving, by the first multi-link device (MLD) from the first station (STA), a management frame comprising a header indicating address information associated with the second MLD. Such a method further includes encrypting, by the first MLD, the management frame based on a security association established between the first MLD and the second MLD. Such a method further includes sending, by the first MLD, the encrypted management frame toward the second MLD via one of the first STA and the third STA.

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