

ABSTRACT

MARKET CLEARANCE METHOD AND APPARATUS

- 5 The present invention provides a market clearance method and apparatus for allocating the products of one or more vendors to one or more customers, each of the products having an asking price and categorisable according to type, the apparatus including: means (100,103A) for
10 receiving and storing product information, including the asking price of the respective product and type of the respective product, means (200,201,202) for entering and storing one or more bids for the types of products, and means (102) for matching the lowest asking price of
15 products of a specified category of products with the highest bid for a product of that respective category if the highest bid is equal to or greater than the lowest asking price, wherein the category of products includes those products of a comparable type. In a preferred
20 embodiment, the apparatus is operable (102B) to determine respective representative prices for each of said categories from said respective prices of each product of said respective category.
- 25 Drawing suggested to accompany abstract: Figure 3.



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