

## ABSTRACT

### **Systems and methods for providing and operating a secure communication network**

5 Systems and methods for providing and operating a communication network (100) are provided, wherein the communication network comprises: a first control node (101); and at least one second control node (103), wherein the first control node and the second control node form a first-level communication network (113) which communicatively couples the first control node to the

10 second control node, wherein the first control node comprises a first intermediary node communication module (123) for forming a first second-level communication network (121) between the first control node (101) and a first intermediary node (105), wherein the first intermediary node communication module is adapted to receive an anonymous request (143)

15 from the first intermediary node (105), the anonymous request (143) being based on a first user request (141) transmitted from a first user node (109) to the first intermediary node (105), wherein the first control node (101) is adapted to transmit the anonymous request (143) to the second control node (103), wherein the second control node (103) is adapted to receive the

20 anonymous request (143) from the first control node, to determine anonymous response data (145) responding to the anonymous request, and to transmit the anonymous response data (145) to the first control node (101), wherein the first control node (101) is adapted to receive the anonymous response data (145) from the second control node (103); wherein the first

25 intermediary node communication module (123) is further adapted to transmit the anonymous response data (145) to the first intermediary node (105) for transmission of response data (147), which are based on the anonymous response data, to the first user node (109).

30 (Fig. 1)