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(54) Title: DETECTING REMOVAL OF A MODULAR COMMUNICATION CARD FROM A UTILITY METER

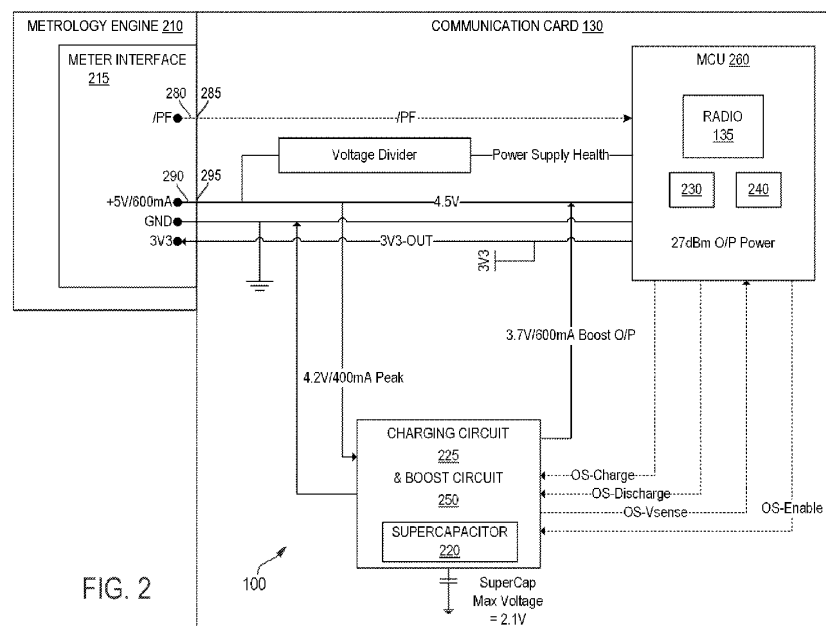


FIG. 2

(57) **Abstract:** Techniques described enable a modular communication card to alert of its removal from a device. A method described herein includes monitoring, at a modular communication card for sending communications from a utility meter, a power fail signal received from a card of the utility meter. According to the method, the modular communication card monitors a power supply signal that supplies power to components of the modular communication card while the modular communication card is installed on the utility meter. The method includes detecting a change in the power fail signal, indicating a loss of power. The method further includes detecting that the power supply signal is outside an operational voltage range. The method further includes, responsive to the change and the power supply signal being outside, determining that the modular communication card has been removed from the utility meter. Additionally, the method includes transmitting an alert indicating the removal.

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