TITLE

HAND-HELD FUEL DISPENSER CONTROL DEVICE HAVING A CURRENT-LIMITING BATTERY PACK

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates generally to the art of fuel dispensers. More particularly, it relates to a hand-held device for use by an attendant to operate fuel dispensers in fueling environments.

BACKGROUND

[0002] In an unattended fueling environment—i.e., a self-service gas station—customers complete their transaction using a conventional island-type fuel dispenser with an integrated user interface. The customer uses the interface to select the fuel type and enter payment information. In this regard, the user interface is typically equipped with a card reader and a PIN pad for receipt of the payment information. Once payment is authorized, the customer uses the fuel dispenser to fuel their vehicle.

[0003] Alternatively, in attended fueling environments, which are common outside the United States, a fuel station attendant uses a hand-held device to receive payment information from the customer and authorize operation of a selected fuel dispenser. This hand-held device commonly contains a display, keypad, and magnetic card reader with which the attendant interacts.

[0004] In particular, the hand-held device operates similar to the user interface of the conventional island-type fuel dispenser except that it is carried by the attendant. In a routine transaction, a customer will pull their vehicle up to the fuel dispenser and tell the attendant the amount and type of fuel desired. The attendant will use the hand-held

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