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(54) Title: AUTONOMOUS NAVIGATION SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR A MANEUVERABLE PLATFORM

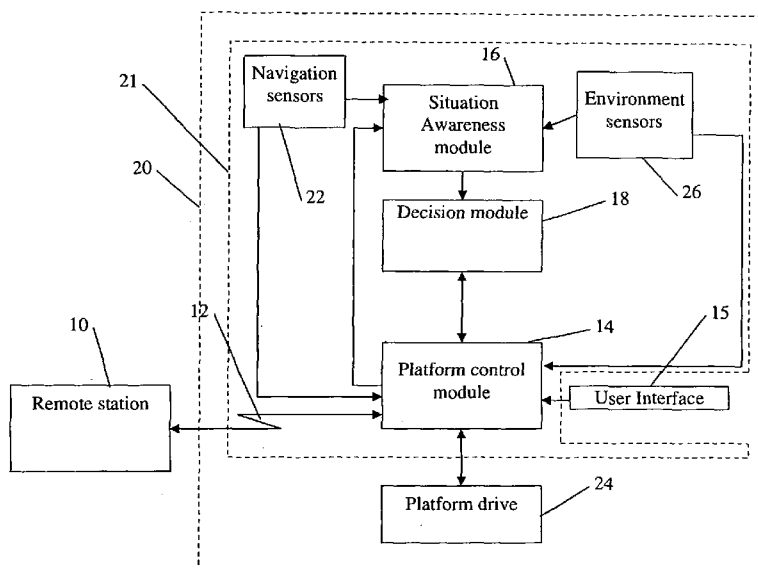


Fig. 1

(57) Abstract: ABSTRACT An automated method for autonomous navigation of a maneuverable platform is disclosed. The method includes providing an autonomous navigation system that includes a situation awareness module to receive data from one or more sensors on one or more identifying parameters selected from the group of identifying parameters that includes position, course and speed, relating to the platform and obstacles in the vicinity of the platform. The platform also includes a decision module to choose course and speed for the platform based on the identifying parameters of the obstacles in the vicinity of the platform and the data on the position of the platform. The method further includes providing the decision module with information on a mission that includes at least one task assigned to the platform; and periodically obtaining the data and choosing a preferred option using the decision module, based on the identifying parameters, by assigning, for each option from a set of options, each option defining a distinct combination of course and speed, a

grade which is indicative of the desirability of that option with respect to each of the obstacles and with respect to each of a plurality of objectives, for each option summing the grades assigned to that option with respect to all obstacles, wherein the preferred option is the option whose summed grades is indicative of the greatest desirability of that option.



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