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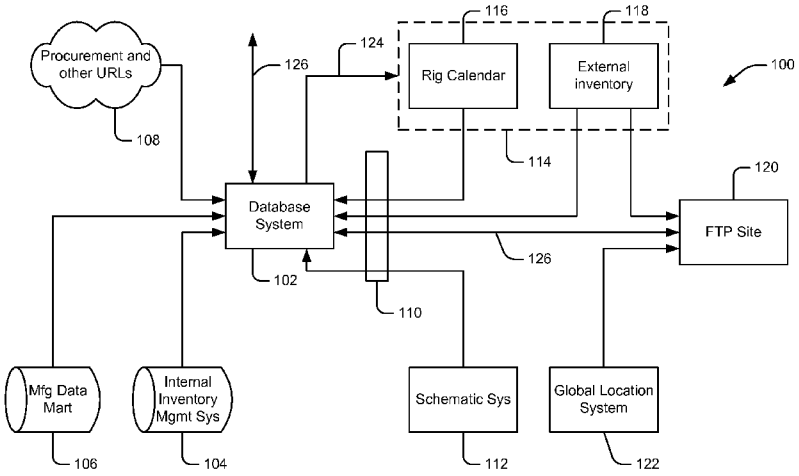


FIG. 1

(57) **Abstract**: A processor accesses a list of projects, a calendar including a start time when each of the projects is scheduled to begin, and a bill of materials for each of the projects. The bill of materials for each project includes the materials required for that project, wherein some of the materials are common to more than one of the projects. The processor allocates the materials among the projects according to the bill of materials for each project, wherein in allocating the materials the processor gives priority to the projects in order of their start times beginning with the start time nearest in time.

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