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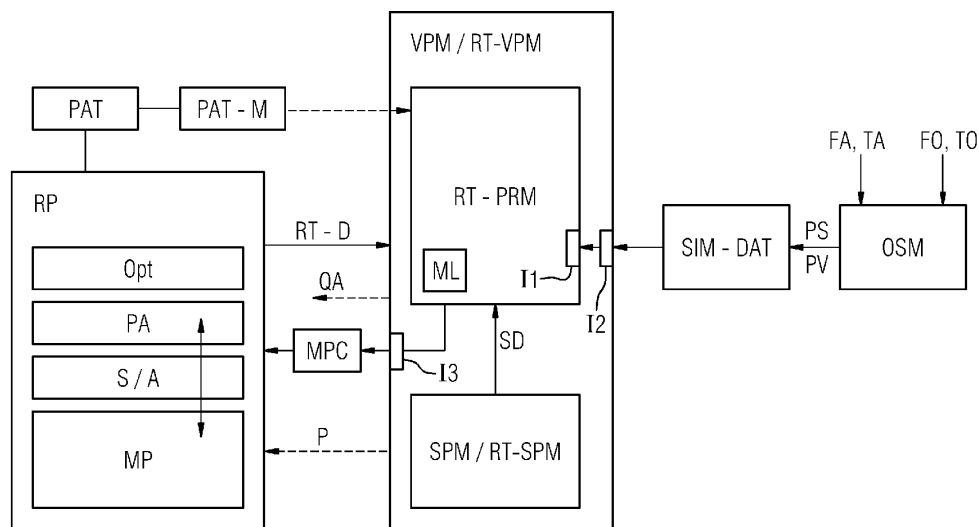
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(54) Title: METHOD OF OPERATION OF A PROCESS PLANT, SOFT SENSOR AND DIGITAL PROCESS TWIN SYSTEM

FIG 2



(57) Abstract: What is proposed is a method of operation of a process plant with at least one automation component (PA) to control an industrial process (MP) within the process plant with at least one input ingredient and at least one output product, the method comprising the steps of : - generating quality attributes of the industrial process as a function of process variables and process parameters using a non-real-time simulation model (OSM) of the industrial process, - using the generated quality attributes and related process variables as input for a machine learning model (ML) which is used as real-time process model (RT-PRM), - using the real-time process model (RT-PRM) as a soft sensor to estimate quality attributes (QA) of the output product as a function of measured or simulated process variables of the industrial process, and - optimizing the performance of the process plant based on the estimated quality attributes (QA) of the output product. Additionally, a corresponding digital process twin system is proposed. The proposed method and system allow

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process operations and control that are faster, more efficient, and more reliable.