(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
25 September 2008 (25.09.2008)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2008/116199 A3

(51) International Patent Classification:
H04Q 7/38 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2008/057941

(22) International Filing Date: 21 March 2008 (21.03.2008)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:

60/896,251	21 March 2007 (21.03.2007)	US
12/051,218	19 March 2008 (19.03.2008)	US

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(81) Designated States *(unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available)*: AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SV, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States *(unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available)*: ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Declarations under Rule 4.17:

— *as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))*

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR DISTRIBUTING AND ACQUIRING OVERHEAD FLOW DATA IN A MULTI-FREQUENCY NETWORK

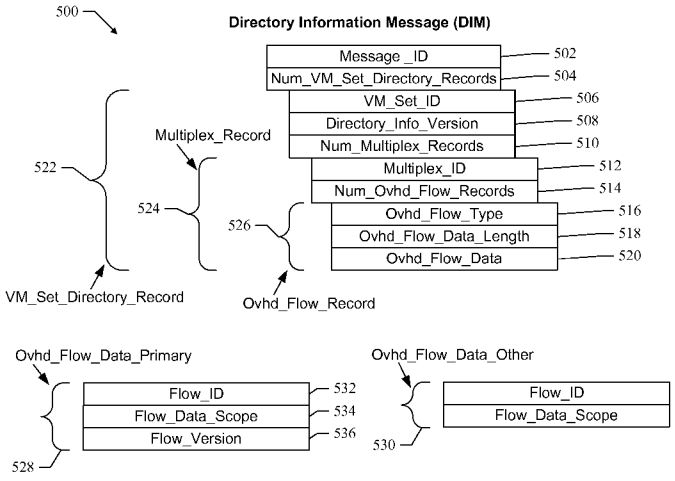


FIG. 5

(57) Abstract: Methods and apparatus for distributing and acquiring overhead flow data in a multi-frequency network. In an aspect, a method includes generating initial acquisition flows (IAFs) that describe how content multiplexes are distributed in the multi-frequency network and provide flow identifiers for overhead flows associated with the content multiplexes, and transmitting the IAFs on pre-assigned flow identifiers. Another method includes receiving IAFs that describe how content multiplexes are distributed in the multi-frequency network and specify flow identifiers for overhead flows associated with the content multiplexes, wherein the IAFs are received using pre-assigned flow identifiers, processing the IAFs to determine VM sets associated with current wide and local areas of the multi-frequency network, determining overhead flow related information associated with selected content multiplexes in the VM sets, and acquiring overhead flow data associated with the selected content multiplexes using the associated flow identifiers.

WO 2008/116199 A3

— *as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))*

Published:

— *with international search report*

— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
20 November 2008