



- (51) **International Patent Classification:**
G06Q 10/06 (2012.01) *G05B 17/02* (2006.01)
- (21) **International Application Number:**
PCT/US2013/045301
- (22) **International Filing Date:**
12 June 2013 (12.06.2013)
- (25) **Filing Language:** English
- (26) **Publication Language:** English
- (30) **Priority Data:**
61/660,373 15 June 2012 (15.06.2012) US
- (71) **Applicant:** EXXONMOBIL RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING COMPANY [US/US]; 1545 Route 22 East, P.O.box 900, Annandale, NJ 08801-0900 (US).
- (72) **Inventors:** WARRICK, Philip, H.; 10100 Oakton Drive, Oakton, VA 22124 (US). KOCIS, Gary, R.; 8859 Glenridge Court, Vienna, VA 22182 (US). BALASUBRAMANIAN, Jayanthi; 3866 Billberry Drive, Fairfax, VA 22033 (US). SMITH, David, C.; Dairy Cottage, Knellers Lane, Amhurst, Southampton, Hampshire SO40 7EB (GB).
- (74) **Agents:** SHANELY, Matthew, T et al.; Exxonmobil Research and Engineering Company, 1545 Route 22 East, P.O. Box 900, Annandale, NJ 08801-0900 (US).
- (81) **Designated States** (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available*): AE, AG, AL, AM,

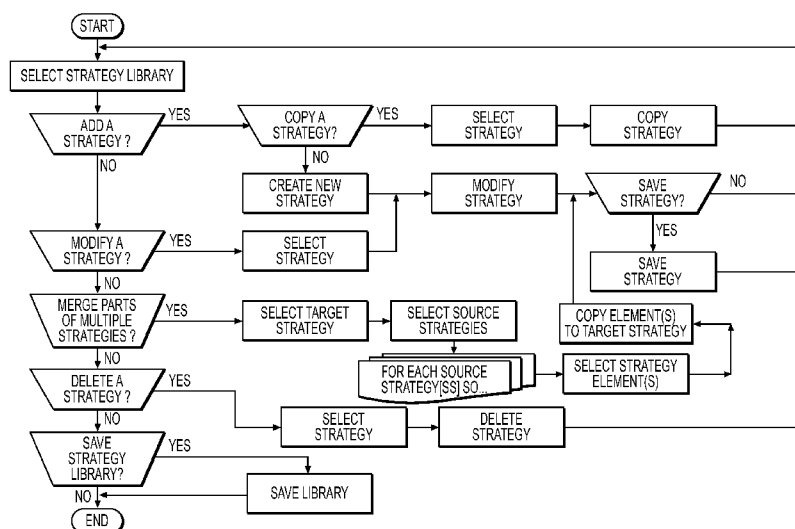
AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, 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, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- with international search report (Art. 21(3))
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments (Rule 48.2(h))

- (88) **Date of publication of the international search report:**
30 January 2014

(54) **Title:** DECISION SUPPORT TOOL FOR OPERATION OF A FACILITY

- (57) **Abstract:** A decision support tool to assist decision-making in the operation of a facility. The decision support tool allows the user to compare the performance of different strategies for the operation of the facility so that the organization can make better-informed judgments about which approach to use. The decision support tool can also allow for the modification of strategies to improve their performance.

