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

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
27 February 2003 (27.02.2003)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 03/017034 A2

(51) International Patent Classification[7]: G06F

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US02/25388

(22) International Filing Date: 9 August 2002 (09.08.2002)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
09/932,441 17 August 2001 (17.08.2001) US

(71) Applicant: **EXPEDIA, INC.** [US/US]; 13810 SE Eastgate Way, Suite 400, Bellevue, WA 98005 (US).

(72) Inventors: **VAUGHAN, Richard, A.**; 4400 Wallingford Avenue North #2, Seattle, WA 98103 (US). **BRINKER, Jeffrey, T.**; 715 West Howe Street, Seattle, WA 98119-2953 (US). **MATOS, Tomas, A., D.**; 2439 204th Terrace NE, Sammamish, WA 98074 (US).

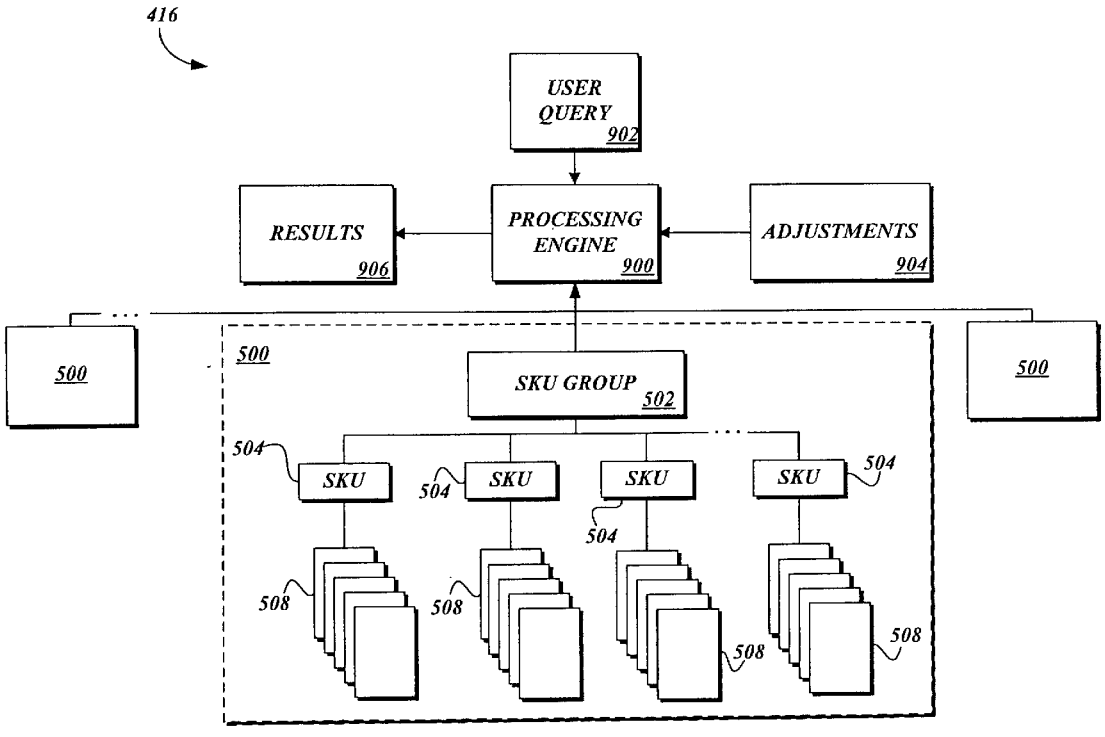
(74) Agent: **URIBE, Mauricio, A.**; Christensen O'Connor Johnson & Kindness PLLC, Suite 2800, 1420 Fifth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101-2347 (US).

(81) Designated States *(national)*: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States *(regional)*: ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR MANAGING INVENTORY



(57) Abstract: A system and method for managing in inventory data are provided. A travel server obtains inventory data from one or more inventory suppliers and stores the inventory data as SKU group, SKU and SKU inventory records. The travel server utilizes the SKU group, SKU and SKU inventory records to process user requests for available inventory and supplier inventory action requests.

WO 03/017034 A2

Published:

— *without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report*

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.