

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
11 October 2001 (11.10.2001)

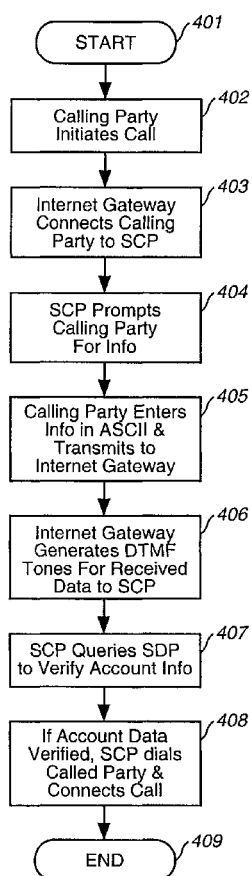
PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 01/76222 A1

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: **H04M 17/00**
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/US01/10454
- (22) International Filing Date: 30 March 2001 (30.03.2001)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
09/538,708 30 March 2000 (30.03.2000) US
- (71) Applicant: **MCIWORLDCOM, INC.** [US/US]; 515 East Amite Street, Jackson, MI 19201 (US).
- (72) Inventors: **LIU, Yali**; 2678 Carnation Drive, Richardson, TX 75082 (US). **LIU, Tong**; 2678 Carnation Drive, Richardson, TX 75082 (US).
- (74) Agent: **GROLZ, Edward, W.**; Scully, Scott, Murphy & Presser, 400 Garden City Plaza, Garden City, NY 11530 (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, 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, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR INTERNET-BASED TELEPHONE ACCESS TO PREPAID CARD AND PIN SYSTEMS



(57) Abstract: A method of providing a pre-paid telephone calling card services to a calling party initiating a voice-based connection to a called party telephone using an internet-based IP Phone process running on a personal computer. The method comprises initiating an A-leg connection between the IP Phone process and an Internet Gateway utilizing a computer network connecting the personal computer and the Internet Gateway (402), establishing a telephone connection between the internet gateway and a SCP (step 403). Once this connection is established, the SCP transmits a request to the calling party through the IP Phone process to provide account and call information (step 404). The calling party responds with the requested account and call information using the IP Phone process (step 405). The Internet Gateway then transmits the information to the SCP using DTMF tones (step 406). The SCP responds by transmitting an account query from the SCP to verify account and balance information for the calling party (step 407). If the account data is successfully verified, B-leg connections are connected in order to establish the voice-based connection between the calling party and the called party (step 408).



Published:

— with international search 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.