CLAIMS:

1. A multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO) antenna system comprising first and second folded or compacted loop antennas each having a longitudinal extent and mounted substantially parallel to each other on a dielectric substrate having a conductive groundplane, wherein the groundplane extends between the first and second antennas, but wherein the first and second antennas are mounted on the substrate within ground clearance ~~in~~ areas where there is no groundplane between each antenna and the substrate, and wherein the first and second antennas, in use, generate first and second radiation patterns and also cause currents to flow in the groundplane between the antennas so as to skew the first and second radiation patterns relative to each other by an angle greater than zero.

2. An antenna system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first and second antennas are mounted opposite each other on the substrate.

3. An antenna system as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein loops of the first and second loop antennas are substantially co-axial.

4. An antenna system as claimed in claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~, wherein each of the first and second loop antennas is configured as a loop of conductive track that is formed on a dielectric substrate in a compact manner by folding the loop over an edge of the substrate so to form first and second patches.

5. An antenna system as claimed in claim ~~any one of claims~~ 1 ~~to 3~~, wherein each of the first and second loop antennas is configured as a loop of conductive track that is formed on a dielectric substrate in a compact manner by forming first and second patches that are galvanically connected by way of vias in the substrate so as to define a compacted loop.

6. An antenna system as claimed in claim ~~any one of claims~~ 1 ~~to 3~~, wherein each of the first and second loop antennas is configured as a loop of conductive track that is formed on a dielectric substrate in a compact manner in a single plane by meandering or otherwise folding the conductive track.

7. An antenna system as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the first and second antennas are be identical to each other in construction and/or performance.

8. An antenna system as claimed in claim ~~any one of claims~~ 1 ~~to 6~~, wherein the first and second antennas are different to each other in construction and/or performance.

9. An antenna system as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein a first end of each of the first and second loop antennas is connected to an RF feed.

10. An antenna system as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein a second end of each of the first and second loop antennas is connected to ground.

11. An antenna system as claimed in claim ~~any one of claims~~ 1 ~~to 8~~, wherein both a first end and a second end of each of the first and second loop antennas is connected to ground, and further comprising a separate driving antenna for each of the first and second loop antennas.

12. An antenna system as claimed in claim 10 ~~or 11~~, wherein the second end of at least one of the first and second antennas is connected to ground by way of an inductive component.

13. An antenna system as claimed in claim 10 ~~or 11~~, wherein the second end of at least one of the first and second antennas is connected to ground by way of a switch that allows at least two different inductive components to be selectively switched in between the second end and ground.

14. An antenna system as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein a correlation coefficient ρ_e between the first and second antennas is no greater than 0.5 across predetermined frequency bands of operation.

15. An antenna system as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein, in use, the first and second radiation patterns are skewed relative to each other by an angle greater than 20 degrees.

16. An antenna system as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein, in use, the first and second radiation patterns are skewed relative to each other by an angle greater than 35 degrees.

17. An antenna system as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein, in use, the first and second radiation patterns are skewed relative to each other by an angle of substantially 50 degrees.

~~18. An antenna system substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to or as shown in Figures 3 to 15 of the accompanying drawings.~~

18~~19~~. A dongle for connection to a computer, the dongle comprising a~~n~~ multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO) antenna system ~~as claimed in any preceding claim~~ comprising first and second folded or compacted loop antennas each having a longitudinal extent and mounted substantially parallel to each other on a dielectric substrate having a conductive groundplane, wherein the groundplane extends between the first and second antennas, but wherein the first and second antennas are mounted on the substrate within ground clearance areas where there is no groundplane between each antenna and the substrate, and wherein the first and second antennas, in use, generate first and second radiation patterns and also cause currents to flow in the groundplane between the antennas so as to skew the first and second radiation patterns relative to each other by an angle greater than zero.

19~~20~~. A mobile phone handset comprising a~~n~~ multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO) antenna system ~~as claimed in any preceding claim~~ comprising first and second folded or compacted loop antennas each having a longitudinal extent and mounted substantially parallel to each other on a dielectric substrate having a conductive groundplane, wherein the groundplane extends between the first and second antennas, but wherein the first and second antennas are mounted on the substrate within ground clearance areas where there is no groundplane between each antenna and the substrate, and wherein the first and second antennas, in use, generate first and second radiation patterns and also cause currents to flow in the groundplane between the antennas so as to skew the first and second radiation patterns relative to each other by an angle greater than zero.