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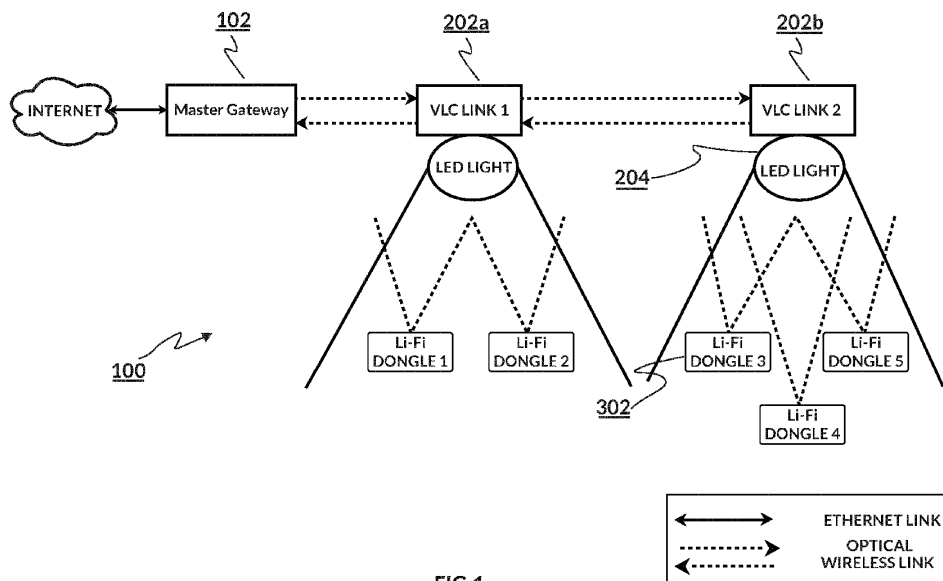


FIG.1

(57) Abstract: A communication system is provided, comprising a plurality of network members, each one comprising at least one first communication interface adapted to communicatively couple to any other one of the of said plurality of network members and a user device via optical wireless communication (OWC); at least one gateway member, comprising at least one second communication interface adapted to communicatively couple to any one of said plurality of network members via optical wireless communication (OWC), said at least one second communication interface is further adapted to communicatively couple to at least one external communication network; at least one portable access member, removably connectable to a user device and comprising at least one third communication interface adapted to communicatively couple said user device to any one of said plurality of network members via optical wireless communication (OWC), and wherein said communication system is adapted to form any one of a duplex ring network topology and a

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