ABSTRACT

A SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR MANAGING A PURCHASE OF A PRODUCT FROM A VENDOR

In accordance with a first broad form, the present invention provides a method of managing a purchase of a product from a vendor, the said method being operable using a processing system, and including the steps of:

(i) receiving a plurality of purchase requests from a plurality of buyers, wherein each of said purchase requests includes information indicative of a product intended for purchase from the vendor by the respective buyers (400);

(ii) generating a collective purchase order based on the plurality of received purchase requests, said collective purchase order including information indicative of each product sought for purchase by the plurality of buyers, and, information indicative of a delivery location for the products to be purchased (700);

(iii) submitting the collective purchase order to the vendor to effect purchase of the products, wherein, by reference to a predetermined delivery cost criteria, a delivery cost is determined for delivering the purchased products together to the delivery location (700); and

(iv) allocating portions of the delivery cost amongst the plurality of buyers in accordance with a predetermined allocation criteria, wherein, the allocated portion of the delivery cost for each buyer is less than a delivery cost which would otherwise be incurred by each buyer by reference to the predetermined delivery cost criteria, if the products purchased in the collective purchase order are delivered separately to each respective buyer (800).

Figure 1