METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING NETWORK BROADCAST INFORMATION TO WLAN ENABLED WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICES

ABSTRACT

A method of providing network broadcast information to a wireless device from a wireless local area network (WLAN) includes the steps of receiving, from one or more available cellular networks or a network database, cellular network broadcast information associated with the one or more available cellular networks; providing the cellular network broadcast information in a generic container message which varies in content and format according to one or more cellular standards associated with the one or more available cellular networks; and causing the generic container message to be regularly broadcasted for receipt and use by a wireless device. Alternatively, the steps include regularly broadcasting a network interworking indicator which indicates whether cellular network broadcast information is available for receipt from the WLAN; receiving a probe request from a wireless device; and causing the cellular network broadcast information to be sent to the wireless device in the generic container message.

Fig. 4