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Declarations under Rule 4.17:

- as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))
- as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))

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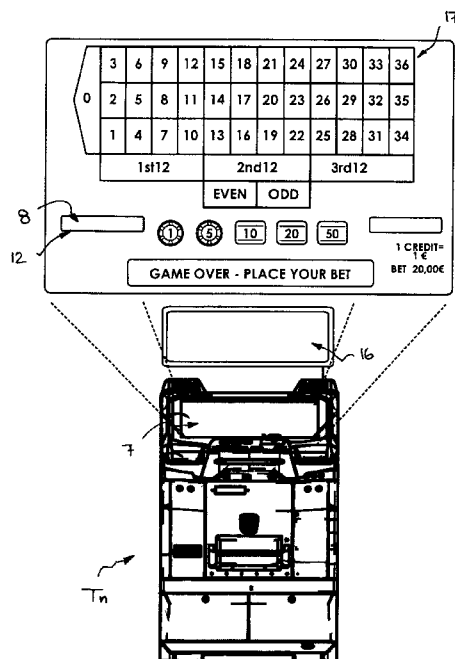
(54) **Title:** MULTIPLAYER GAMING SYSTEM

FIG. 1

(57) **Abstract:** The present invention generally relates to gaming systems for playing ball games where a ball is launched into a gaming area. More particularly, the present invention relates to a multiplayer gaming system comprising a ball game device having a launching mechanism for launching a ball into a gaming area to start a game, the gaming system further comprising a start control means for controlling start of the launching mechanism and a plurality of gaming terminals for a plurality of players, said gaming terminals including an input device for inputting a prediction and/or a bet for the outcome of a game. In accordance with the present invention, the input device of each gaming terminal includes start signal input means for inputting a start signal for starting the launching mechanism, wherein the start control means of the gaming system includes a random signal generator for randomly selecting one of the plurality of gaming terminals for each game to generate the start signal and a display signal generator for generating a display signal indicative of the gaming terminal selected for the generation of the start signal.



— *of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv))*

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