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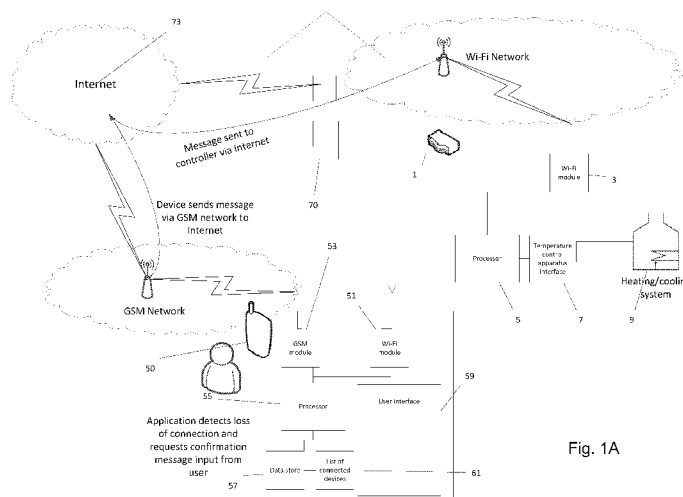
(54) **Title:** APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR CONTROL OF THERMAL APPLIANCES

Fig. 1A

- (57) **Abstract:** A mobile communications device for controlling a thermal appliance. The device comprises a first communications interface configured to communicate over a wireless local area network and a second communications interface configured to communicate over a wide area network. The device also comprises a processor coupled to the communications interfaces and configured to send, via the local area network, commands to control operation of the thermal appliance, and to receive, via the local area network, information relating to operation of the thermal appliance. Additionally, the device comprises a user interface for obtaining user input to control the thermal appliance and for providing a user with information relating to operation of the thermal appliance; wherein the processor is further configured to: monitor connection of the first communication interface with the wireless local area network, determine whether to trigger an alert in response to loss of connection of the first communication interface to the wireless local area network, and to send a command, based on user input provided in response to a triggered alert, to the thermal appliance via the second communications interface.