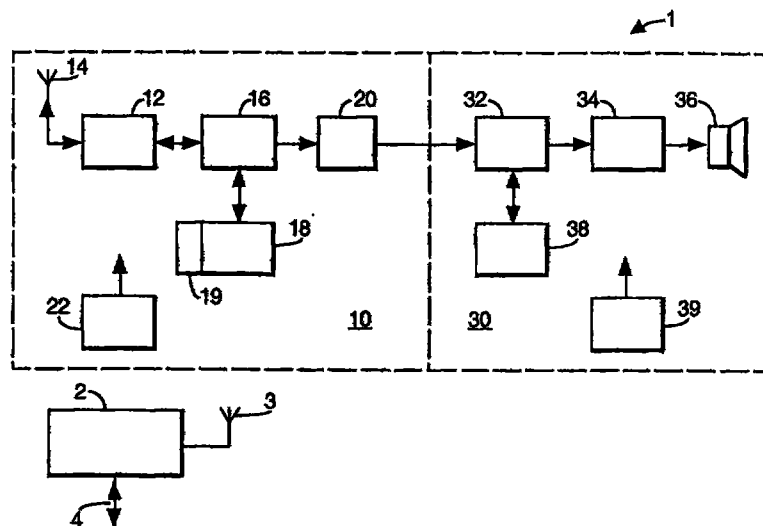




INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁷ : G08G 1/0967, G06K 7/10	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/34931 (43) International Publication Date: 15 June 2000 (15.06.00)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/EP99/09794 (22) International Filing Date: 8 December 1999 (08.12.99) (30) Priority Data: 98310082.7 9 December 1998 (09.12.98) EP (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): SHELL INTERNATIONALE RESEARCH MAATSCHAPPIJ B.V. [NL/NL]; Carel van Bylandtlaan 30, NL-2596 HR The Hague (NL). (72) Inventor; and (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): EDMONDSON, Jon, Bert [US/GB]; 2 York Road, Waterloo, London, Greater London SE1 7NA (GB).		(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the</i> <i>claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of</i> <i>amendments.</i>

(54) Title: TRANSPONDER COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM



(57) Abstract

A unit (1) for use in a vehicle is interrogated and identified by a fixed interrogator (2). A wireless form of communication is established between the unit (1) and interrogator (2) to permit transfer of data to the unit (1). As well as appropriate communication circuitry (12) and an identification store (19), the unit (1) includes processing of the incoming data by a microprocessor (32) to provide an audio signal for energising a loud speaker (36) in the unit (1) to provide a sound output for the vehicle occupants. The unit is powered by internal batteries (22, 38) to be usable even when the vehicle ignition is turned off. The unit (1) is made self-contained to be mounted wherever convenient. The principle can be extended to providing data to control a visual display in the unit (1). The unit (1) may be provided with a user-interactive input such as a keypad (48). A radio link is described but other wireless means of communication are feasible.