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(71) Applicant *(for all designated States except US)*: **AGENCY FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH** [SG/SG]; 1 Fusionopolis Way, #20-10 Connexis, Singapore 138632 (SG).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants *(for US only)*: **ZHANG. Nengsheng, Allan** [SG/SG]; c/o Singapore Institute of Manufacturing Technology, 71 Nanyang Drive, Singapore 638075 (SG). **MA, Bin** [SG/SG]; c/o Singapore Institute of Manufacturing Technology, 71 Nanyang Drive, Singapore 638075 (SG). **LYE, Kong, Wei** [SG/SG]; c/o Singapore Institute of Manufacturing Technology, 71 Nanyang Drive, Singapore 638075 (SG).

(74) Agent: **POH, Chee, Kian, Daniel**; Marks & Clerk Singapore LLP, Tanjong Pagar, P.O. Box 636, Singapore 910816 (SG).

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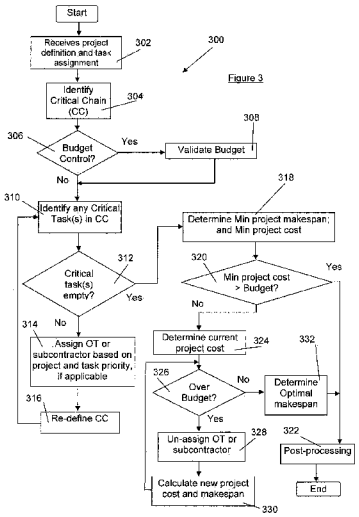
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[Continued on next page]

(54) **Title**: A COMPUTER IMPLEMENTED METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR OBTAINING AN OPTIMAL PROJECT MAKESPAN/COST



(57) **Abstract**: A computer implemented method/apparatus for obtaining an optimal project makespan or cost is disclosed herein. In a described embodiment, the method includes deriving a critical chain for a project at step (306). The method further includes allocating additional resource to at least one critical task of the critical chain at step (314) to obtain a minimum project makespan and deriving a current project cost for the project based on the minimum project makespan. At step (326), a comparison is made and if the current project cost is equal or less than a predetermined budget, the minimum project makespan is identified as the optimal project makespan at step (332). On the other hand, at step (326), if the current project cost is more than the predetermined budget, then steps (328) (and 330) is performed to adjust the allocation of the additional resource to the at least one critical task to derive a project cost which is equal or less than the budget; the project cost being associated with; a revised project makespan; and the revised project makespan is identified as the optimal project makespan at step (332).

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