

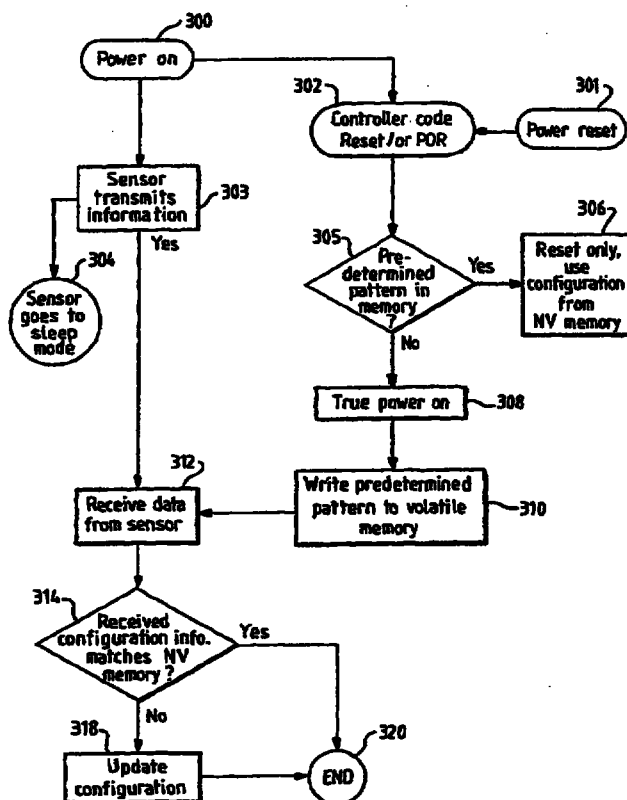
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(54) Title: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR IDENTIFYING HARDWARE**

(57) Abstract: A microprocessor (digital device) with microcode is incorporated in a mechanical device, having analog electrical signalling wires, to send a digital signal containing identifying data of the device to a central computer. The digital signal includes operating ranges and any other information that will allow the central computer system to recognize the mechanical device and automatically incorporate the device's operating characteristics into the total system without disruption. The digital signal is transmitted to the central computer system immediately after a power-on signal is detected by the microprocessor onboard the mechanical device.

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