The claims defining the invention are as follows:

1. An asset management system comprising:

a data storage arranged to store:

visual data indicative of a visual representation of an asset, the visual representation including visual representations of components of the asset;

component data indicative of characteristics of components of the asset including component operational data indicative of operation of the components, the component operational data being time stamped so as to include timing data; and

spatial data including component location data indicative of location of the components relative to the asset in a first coordinate format according to a defined coordinate system;

a plurality of communication-enabled things disposed at the asset, each communication-enabled thing arranged to obtain component operational data indicative of operation of at least one component of the asset and to communicate the component operational data to the data storage;

a user interface arranged to facilitate access to the stored visual data, the user interface controllable by a user to display a visual representation of a selected portion of an asset that includes visual representations of components of the asset, and to facilitate virtual navigation by a user through the asset by displaying visual representations of adjacent portions of the asset in response to receipt of navigation instructions from the user;

wherein the user interface is arranged to facilitate display of component operational data adjacent a component as the user navigates through the visual representations of portions of the asset, the component operational data derived from at least one communication-enabled thing associated with the component;

wherein the user interface comprises a user manipulatable timeline associated with the displayed selected portion of the asset, the timeline usable by a user to select a time and in response the user interface using the time stamps associated with the component operational data to facilitate display of component operational data associated with the selected time for all components shown on the selected portion of the asset.

2. An asset management system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the user interface is arranged to automatically display component information adjacent a component as the user navigates through the visual representation of the asset when the visual representation of the component is displayed by the user interface.

3. An asset management system as claimed in claim 2, wherein at least some of the component information displayed adjacent a component is based on user defined criteria.

4. An asset management system as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein:

the spatial data includes actor location data indicative of location of an actor at the asset; and

the visual representation of the asset includes a visual representation of the actor at a location corresponding to the location of the actor at the asset.

5. An asset management system as claimed in claim 4, comprising a plurality of machine-readable markers disposed at distributed locations at the asset, wherein the actor includes a location device arranged to determine the location of the location device relative to the machine-readable markers and thereby the location of the actor relative to the asset.

6. An asset as claimed in claim 4, wherein a location device of the actor is arranged to determine the location of the actor relative to the asset using simultaneous localisation and mapping (SLAM) techniques.

7. An asset management system as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the user interface uses a second coordinate format different to the first coordinate format, and the system is arranged to convert location data between the first and second coordinate formats.

8. An asset management system as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7, comprising an edge server disposed between a wide area network and the communication-enabled things, the edge server arranged to process data obtained from the communication-enabled things and to communicate processed data to the data storage through the wide area network.

9. An asset management system as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8, comprising an analysis engine arranged to automatically analyse the component data and carry out an action in response to the analysis.

10. An asset management system as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the system is arranged to carry out an action in response to location of an actor at the asset.

11. An asset management system as claimed in any one of claims 4 to 6, or any one of claims 7 to 10 when dependent on claim 4, wherein:

the actor includes a robot; and

the system is arranged to cause the robot to carry out a defined action in response to defined criteria.

12. A method of managing an asset, the method comprising:

storing visual data indicative of a visual representation of an asset at a data storage, the visual representation including visual representations of components of the asset;

storing component data indicative of characteristics of components of the asset including component operational data indicative of operation of the components at the data storage, the component operational data being time stamped so as to include timing data;

storing spatial data including component location data indicative of location of the components relative to the asset in a first coordinate format according to a defined coordinate system;

disposing a plurality of communication-enabled things at the asset, each communication-enabled thing arranged to obtain component operational data indicative of operation of at least one component of the asset and to communicate the component operational data to the data storage;

facilitating access to the stored visual data using a user interface, the user interface controllable by a user to display a visual representation of a selected portion of an asset that includes visual representations of components of the asset, and to facilitate virtual navigation by a user through the asset by displaying visual representations of adjacent portions of the asset in response to receipt of navigation

instructions from the user; and

facilitating display on the user interface of component operational data adjacent a component as the user navigates through the visual representations of portions of the asset, the component operational data derived from at least one communication-enabled thing associated with the component;

wherein the user interface comprises a user manipulatable timeline associated with the displayed selected portion of the asset, the timeline usable by a user to select a time and in response the user interface using the time stamps associated with the component operational data to facilitate display of component operational data associated with the selected time for all components shown on the selected portion of the asset.

13. A method as claimed in claim 12, comprising automatically displaying component information adjacent a component as the user navigates through the visual representation of the asset when the visual representation of the component is displayed by the user interface.

14. A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein at least some of the component information displayed adjacent a component is based on user defined criteria.

15. A method as claimed in any one of claims 12 to 14, wherein:

the spatial data includes actor location data indicative of location of an actor at the asset; and

the visual representation of the asset includes a visual representation of the actor at a location corresponding to the location of the actor at the asset.

16. A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the actor includes a location device and the method comprises providing a plurality of machine-readable markers disposed at distributed locations at the asset, and determining the location of the location device relative to the machine-readable markers and thereby the location of the actor relative to the asset.

17. An asset as claimed in claim 15 or claim 16, comprising determining the location of the actor relative to the asset using simultaneous localisation and mapping (SLAM) techniques.

18. A method as claimed in any one of claims 12 to 17, wherein the user interface uses a second coordinate format different to the first coordinate format, and the method comprises converting location data between the first and second coordinate formats.

19. A method as claimed in any one of claims 12 to 18, comprising processing data obtained from the communication-enabled things using an edge server disposed between a wide area network and the communication-enabled things, and communicating processed data to the data storage through the wide area network.

20. A method as claimed in any one of claims 12 to 19, comprising automatically analysing the component data using an analysis engine and carrying out an action in response to the analysis.

21. A method as claimed in any one of claims 12 to 19, comprising carrying out an action in response to location of an actor at the asset.

22. A method as claimed in any one of claims 15 to 17, or any one of claims 18 to 21 when dependent on claim 15, wherein:

the actor includes a robot; and

the method further comprises causing the robot to carry out a defined action in response to defined criteria.