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(54) **Title:** HYBRID RFID AND WIRELESS COMMUNICATION SYSTEM FOR TRACKING OF ASSETS AND PEOPLE AND
METHOD THEREOF

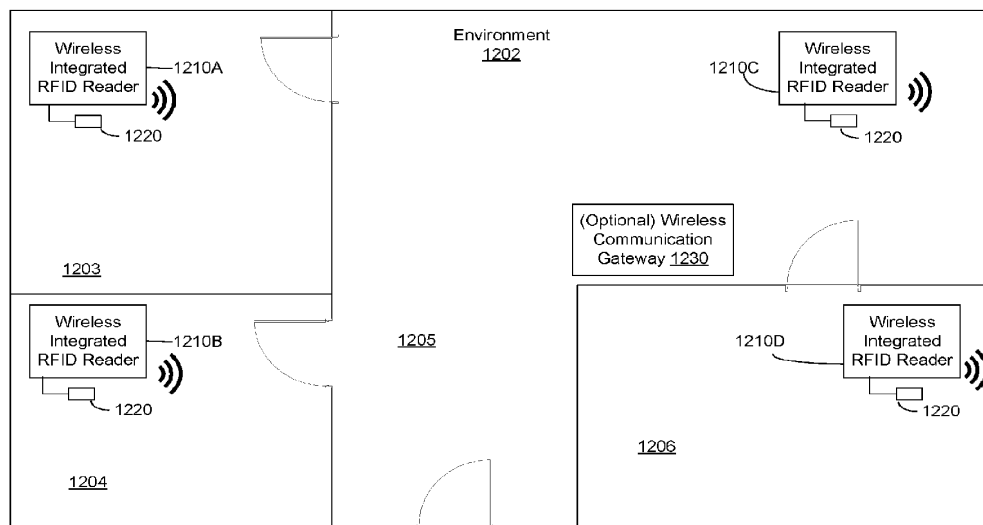


FIG. 12B

(57) **Abstract:** An improved radio frequency identification (RFID) reader system includes a plurality of wireless integrated RFID readers located in different locations in an environment, one or more RFID tags, each RFID tag configured to generate a radio frequency (RF) response signal based on data stored on the RFID tag, and a wireless communication gateway. Each of the wireless integrated RFID readers includes an RFID antenna, an electronics module coupled to the RFID antenna configured to operate the RFID antenna and interpret data signals received at the RFID antenna from one or more RFID tags, and a wireless communication system of a first type configured to wirelessly communicate with wireless nodes of the RFID reader system. The wireless communication gateway includes a wireless communication system of the first type configured to wirelessly communicate with the plurality of wireless integrated RFID readers.

[Continued on next page]

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