WE CLAIM:

1. A method, comprising:

preparing, at a user equipment, a mobile originated short message service message; and

identifying, in the message, a particular external identifier from a set of external identifiers assigned to an application.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the application comprises a machine type communication application.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the identifying comprises setting an application port identifier to a predetermined value.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the identifying comprises encoding the particular external identifier as part of a payload of the message.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the identifying comprises encoding an internet protocol address assigned to the user equipment as part of a payload of the message.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the identifying comprises encoding a shared secret key as part of a payload of the message.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

transmitting the message from the user equipment.

8. A method, comprising:

receiving, at a network element, a mobile originated short message service message; and

determining, from the message, a particular external identifier from a

set of external identifiers assigned to an application.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the application comprises a machine type communication application.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein the particular external identifier is determinable from an application port identifier set to a predetermined value.

11. The method of claim 8, wherein the particular external identifier is determinable from the particular external identifier being encoded as part of a payload of the message.

12. The method of claim 8, wherein the particular external identifier is determinable from an internet protocol address assigned to the user equipment being encoded as part of a payload of the message.

13. The method of claim 8, wherein the particular external identifier is determinable from a shared secret key encoded as part of a payload of the message.

14. The method of claim 8, further comprising:

mapping between the external identifier and information in the message using a query.

15. The method of claim 8, wherein the query comprises a home subscriber server query.

16. The method of claim 8, further comprising:

forwarding the message based on the particular external identifier.

17. An apparatus, comprising:

means for performing a process, the process comprising the method according to any of claims 1-16.

18. An apparatus, comprising:

at least one processor; and

at least one memory and computer program code,

wherein the at least one memory and the computer program code can be configured to, with the at least one processor, cause the apparatus at least to perform a process, the process comprising the method according to any of claims 1-16.

19. A computer program product encoding instructions for performing a process, the process comprising the method according to any of claims 1-16.

20. A non-transitory computer readable medium encoded with instructions that, when executed in hardware, perform a process, the process comprising the method according to any of claims 1-16.