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- (72) **Inventor:** ERIKSSON, Patric; Karlavägen 18, 114 31 STOCKHOLM (SE).
- (74) **Agent:** KELJSER BERGÖÖ, Malin; ROUSE AB, Dock-
eting, PO Box 42, 683 21 HAGFORS (SE).
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(54) **Title:** PURCHASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND METHOD

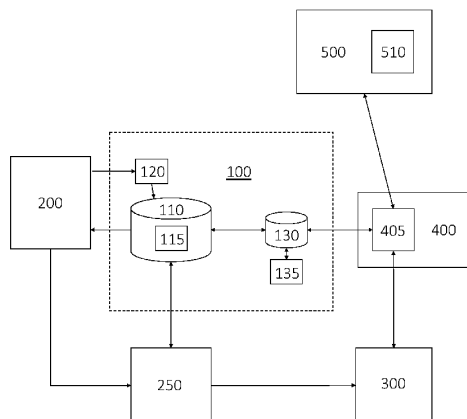


Figure 1

(57) **Abstract:** A purchase management system (100) comprises a central database arrangement (110) and a purchasing authorization database module (130), arranged to communicate with a transaction authorization module (405), operated by a payment provider (400) operating a payment card network, and thus arranged within the payment card network. The central database arrangement (110): receives, from a purchasing entity (200), purchasing rules applying to a purchasing group (250); adds a selected purchasing group (250) as metadata linked to a first transaction ID; adds the purchasing rules applying to said purchasing group (250); and transfers the metadata to the purchasing authorization database module (130). The purchasing authorization database module (130) receives a purchase approval request from the transaction authorization module (405); decides on the purchase approval request based on whether the requested purchase fulfils the purchasing rules; responds to the transaction authorization module (405) with approval or rejection of the purchase approval request; and transfers the transaction information to the central database arrangement (110). The central database arrangement (110) transfers the transaction information to the purchasing entity (200), thereby allowing the information about the purchase to be automatically entered into administrative systems of the purchasing entity (200).

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