

(43) International Publication Date
6 April 2006 (06.04.2006)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2006/036650 A1

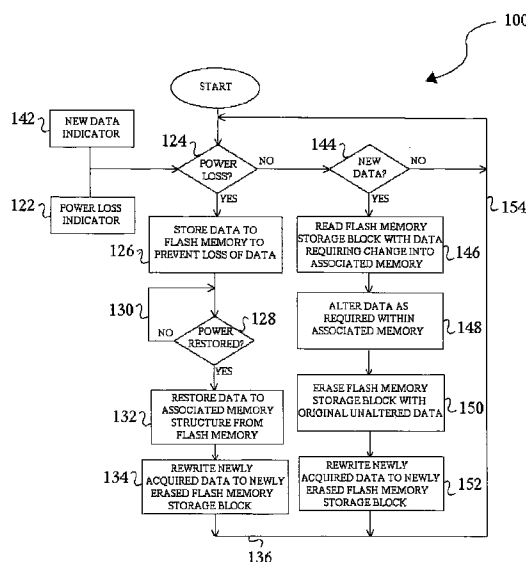
- (51) **International Patent Classification** : **G08B 23/00**
 (21) **International Application Number**: PCT/US2005/033606
 (22) **International Filing Date**: 20 September 2005 (20.09.2005)
 (25) **Filing Language**: English
 (26) **Publication Language**: English
 (30) **Priority Data**: 10/949,603 24 September 2004 (24.09.2004) US
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 (81) **Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available)**: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, LY, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
 (84) **Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available)**: ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
Published:
 — with international search report
 — before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

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[Continued on next page]

- (54) Title:** METHOD OF USING FLASH MEMORY FOR STORING METERING DATA



- (57) Abstract:** A multi-segmented non-volatile flash memory structure is employed in combination with at least one associated memory structure for storing, updating, and preserving meter data. By initially storing meter data in the associated memory, meter data is buffered until either a predetermined amount of data is obtained or until power to the meter is disabled (124), at which point the stored meter data is copied into selected blocks of flash memory (126). The various locations for transferring data are respectively determined by flash pointers indicating which segments or blocks of flash memory to utilize. In some embodiments, the size of the associated memory structure corresponds to the size of each segment of flash memory to maximize data transfer when the associated memory structure is full and also to reduce the number of times the flash memory is written to, thus increasing the potential active lifespan of the flash memory.



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