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(54) Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR TRANSMITTING MESSAGES IN AN ANSWER-BACK PAGING SYSTEM

(57) Abstract

A method of transmitting messages in an answer-back paging system in which a primary station (10, 14, 16) transmits a series of messages addressed to respective secondary stations (20) on a down-link. The primary station then invites the secondary stations to transmit their responses, for example as CDMA signals, on an up-link. On receipt the primary station analyzes those responses which are deemed to be intelligible, matches them to the originally transmitted messages and transmits acknowledgements to the relevant secondary stations. The primary station then issues another invitation to those stations whose responses had not been detected requesting them to reply on the up-link. Those responses which are deemed intelligible are processed as before and acknowledgements are transmitted together with another invitation on the down-link. The cycle of operations is repeated until either a predetermined number of cycles have elapsed or it is considered that all the intelligible responses have been received. The method can be adapted to include handling requests for service as well as handling responses to messages sent on the down-link.

