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(71) Applicant *(for all designated States except US)*: **SILVER SPRING NETWORKS, INC.** [US/US]; 575 Broadway Street, Redwood City, California 94063 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants *(for US only)*: **GRADY, Brian** [US/US]; 792 Bond Way, Mountain View, California 94040 (US). **PACE, James** [US/US]; 415 Bryant Street, #8, San Francisco, California 94107 (US). **VASWANI, Raj** [US/US]; 190 Trinity Lane, Portola Valley, California 94028 (US).

(74) Agent: **LABARRE, James A.**; Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC, P.O. Box 1404, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404 (US).

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Declarations under Rule 4.17:

— *as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))*

— *as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))*

[Continued on next page]

(54) **Title:** METHOD AND SYSTEM OF READING OF UTILITY METER DATA OVER A NETWORK

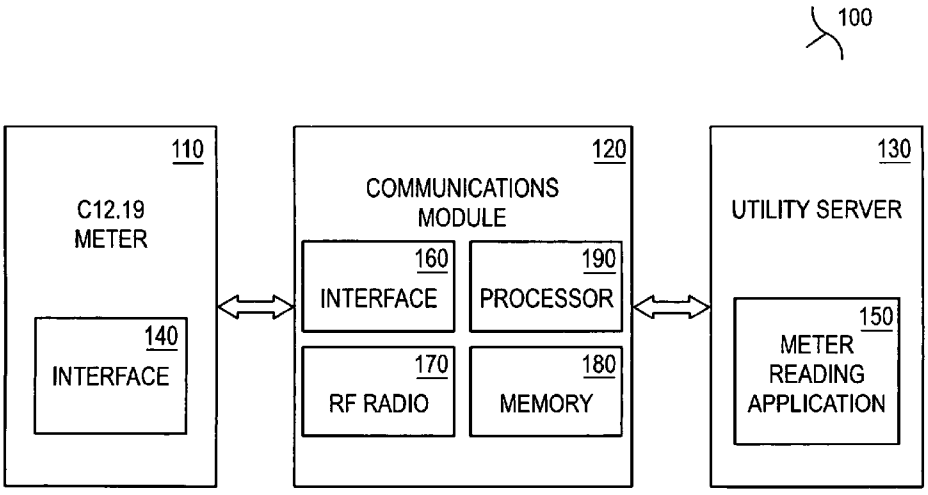


FIG. 1

(57) **Abstract:** A utility meter may be read by sending a request to read the meter from a meter reading application, which may be located on a utility server or on an access point to a network, to a communications module associated with the utility meter. The communications module initiates a session with the utility meter, makes requests fro data from the associated utility meter, receives the responses to requests for data from the utility meter, and terminates the session after receiving all the requested data from the meter. It then formats the responses with the data received from the utility meter, and transmits the formatted response to the meter reading application.

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