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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))

[Continued on next page]

(54) **Title:** CONTINUOUS CHARTING OF NON-UNIFORMITY SEVERITY FOR DETECTING VARIABILITY IN WEB-BASED MATERIALS

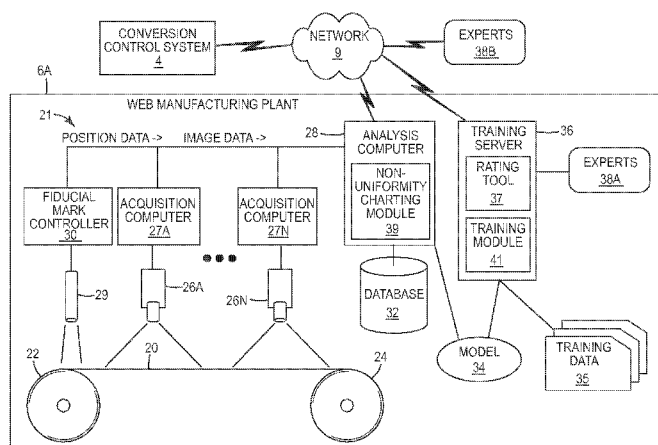


FIG. 2

(57) **Abstract:** A computerized inspection system is described for detecting the presence of non-uniformity defects in a manufactured web material and for providing output indicative of a severity level of each defect. The system provides output that provides the severity levels of the non-uniformity defects in real-time on a continuous scale. Training software processes a plurality of training samples to generate a model, where each of the training samples need only be assigned one of a set of discrete rating labels for the non-uniformity defects. The training software generates the model to represent a continuous ranking of the training images, and the inspection system utilizes the model to compute the severity levels of the web material on a continuous scale in real-time without limiting the output to the discrete rating labels assigned to the training samples.



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