

Location of terminals in a communications network.

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Publication date: 2015

Document Version
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Link back to DTU Orbit

Citation (APA):

Ubeda Castellanos, C., Jurado-Navas, A., Garcia Fernandez, J. A., & Fernandez Navarro, M. (2015). Location of terminals in a communications network. (Patent No. *WO2015135581*).

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International Bureau





(10) International Publication Number WO 2015/135581 A1

- (43) International Publication Date 17 September 2015 (17.09.2015)
- (51) International Patent Classification: G01S 5/10 (2006.01)
- (21) International Application Number:

PCT/EP2014/054875

(22) International Filing Date:

12 March 2014 (12.03.2014)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

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- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IR, IS, JP, KE, KG, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SA, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: LOCATION OF TERMINALS IN A COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

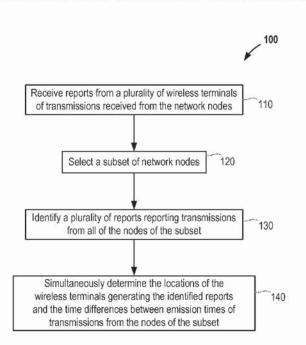


Figure 2

(57) Abstract: A method (400, 500) of identifying nodes in a communications network is disclosed, the nodes being for use in locating wireless terminals within the network based upon reports from the wireless terminals of transmissions received from the nodes. The method (400, 500) comprises prioritising combinations of nodes in which at least three nodes are located around a reference node in a configuration satisfying similarity criteria to an idealised star configuration, wherein an idealised star configuration comprises three nodes evenly angularly distributed around, and at the same distance from, a reference node. Also disclosed is a method (100, 200) for locating a plurality of wireless terminals in a communications network, the network comprising a plurality of network nodes at known locations, wherein the nodes emit wireless transmissions in an unsynchronised manner, such that a time difference exists between the emission time of corresponding transmissions from different nodes. The method comprises receiving reports from a plurality of wireless terminals of transmissions received from the network nodes (110, 210), selecting a subset of network nodes (120, 220) and identifying a plurality of reports reporting transmissions from all of the nodes of the subset (130, 230). The method further comprises simultaneously determining the locations of the wireless terminals generating the identified reports and the time differences between emission times of transmissions from the nodes of the subset (140, 240). Also disclosed are a computer program product for carrying out the above methods and a network element (300, 700, 800) configured to carry out the above methods.



TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, **Published**: KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

with international search report (Art. 21(3))