METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ESTABLISHING A CALL THROUGH A PACKET BASED NETWORK

Abstract: A method and apparatus for establishing a collect call (Fig.1) originated through a packet based network (150) is provided. In accordance with various embodiments of the invention, a system is described that facilitates voice communication between a calling party and a called party while the costs of the communication are charged to the calling party. In one embodiment, the called party is queried as to whether they wish to accept the costs associated with the pending voice communication session, prior to the two parties being placed in voice communication with each other. In another embodiment, services are provided for generating an electronic offer to participate in a voice communication session with a destination party, with the offer being contingent upon the satisfaction of a set of one or more offeror-stipulated conditions.
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC(7) : H04L 12/66
US CL : 370/352
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
U.S. : 370/352, 356, 351, 400, 260, 493, 379/379, 93.07, 210.01, 93.05, 93.01, 93.09, 114, 112, 88.17, 900

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category *</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>US 4,933,966 (HIRD et al) 12 June 1990 (12.06.1990), Fig. 8, column 21, lines 50-67, columns 22-28, and column 29, lines 1-61.</td>
<td>1-35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>US 6,026,087 A (MIRASHRAFI et al) 15 February 2000 (15.02.2000), Fig. 1, column 3, lines 01-67 and column 4, lines 1-42.</td>
<td>1-35</td>
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* Special categories of cited documents:

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