Title: SYSTEM, PROGRAM PRODUCT, AND METHODS FOR MANAGING CONTRACT PROCUREMENT

Abstract: A system (30) to facilitate contract procurement and contract management through an online contract procurement and management web site over a computer network (33), program product (71), and associated methods are provided. The system (30) includes an electronic contracting network server (35) accessible to a computer network (33), a database (41) accessible to the electronic contracting network server (35) through the computer network (33), a plurality of electronic contracting entity member user computers (47) in communication with electronic contracting network server (35) through the computer network (33), and a plurality of potential contractor member user computers (61) also in communication with the electronic contracting network server (35) through the computer network (33). The system (30) also includes an electronic contracting program product (71) stored at least partially in memory (39) of the electronic contracting network server (35) and position to perform various automated contract procurement and contract management functions.
(88) Date of publication of the international search report:  
24 May 2007

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.
**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

**A  CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**

IPC(8) - G06Q 99/00 (2007 01)

USPC - 705/80

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)

USPC - 705/80

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

USPC - 705/50, 705/1, 705/37, 705/405

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

USPTO West, Google terms - virtual room, contract procurement, qualification information, online bidding

**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>
</table>

**D  Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C**

- **A** document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- **E** earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date
- **L** document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- **O** document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- **P** document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

**T** later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

**X** document of particular relevance. The claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

**Y** document of particular relevance. The claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

**&** document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search: 02 February 2007 (02 02 2007)

Date of mailing of the international search report: 02 MAR 2007

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Facsimile No 571-273-3201

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (April 2002)
**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

**Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)**

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. [ ] Claims Nos.:
   because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. [ ] Claims Nos.:
   because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. [ ] Claims Nos.: 4-20, 24-48, 53-67 and 71-75
   because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

**Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)**

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. [ ] As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.

2. [ ] As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.

3. [ ] As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. [ ] No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.: 

**Remark on Protest**

- [ ] The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- [ ] The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- [ ] No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

Form PCT/ISA/210 (continuation of first sheet (2)) (April 2005)