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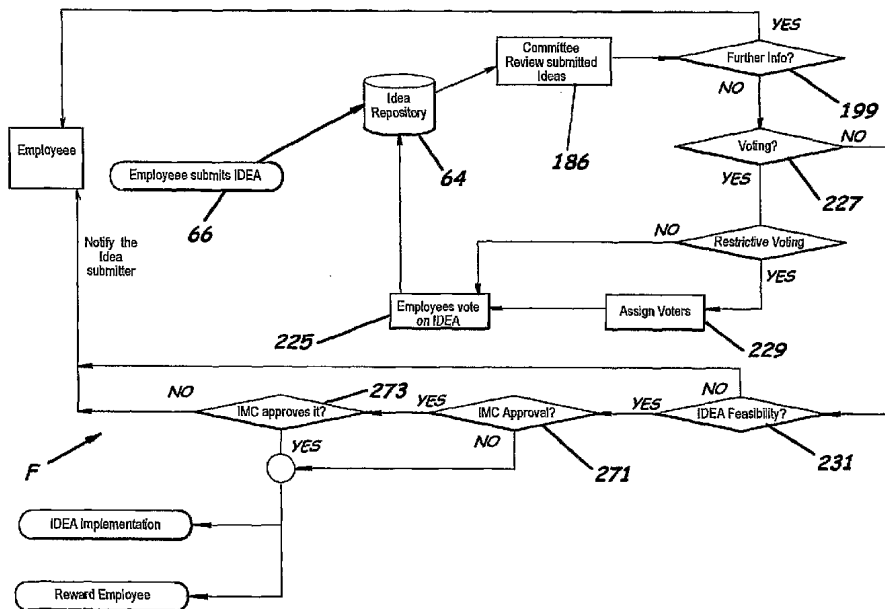
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(54) Title: INTEGRATED IDEA MANAGEMENT METHOD AND SOFTWARE WITH PROTECTION MECHANISM



(57) Abstract: An idea management system for a company or other entity is implemented in a computer network that can be accessed from employee work sites. The system has a pre-defined workflow and built in security process. Submitters of ideas and those authorized to review the submission are electronically notified about the review and evaluation process as it proceeds. Employees submit their ideas and documents explaining the ideas directly to the system. An established review group or committee reviews and otherwise processes the submitted ideas. Status records of implementation of approved ideas are maintained for monitoring purposes.

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**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

International application No.

PCT/US05/41749

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
 IPC: **G06Q 10/00( 2006.01),30/00( 2006.01)**  
  
 USPC: 705/1  
 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. : 705/1

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)  
 US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; IBM\_TDB: status, record, review, vote

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages          | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|---|-----------------------|
| X          | US 2003/0036947 A1 (SMITH, III et al.) 20 February 2003, (20.02.2003), see entire document. | 1-22                  |
| A          | US2003/0149681 A1 (FREES et al.) 07 August 2003 (07.08.2003), see entire document.          | 1-22                  |
| A          | US 7,159,178 B2 (VOGT et al.) 02 January 2007 (02.01.2007), see entire document.            | 1-22                  |
| A          | US 2002/0107722 A1 (LAURIN et al.) 08 August 2002 (08.08.2002), see entire document.        | 1-22                  |

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.  See patent family annex.

| * Special categories of cited documents:  |     |  |
|---|-----|--|
| "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance  | "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  |
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| "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed  |     |  |

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