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(54) **METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR THE BATCH DELIVERY OF MATERIAL TO A CONTINUOUS MATERIAL PROCESSOR**

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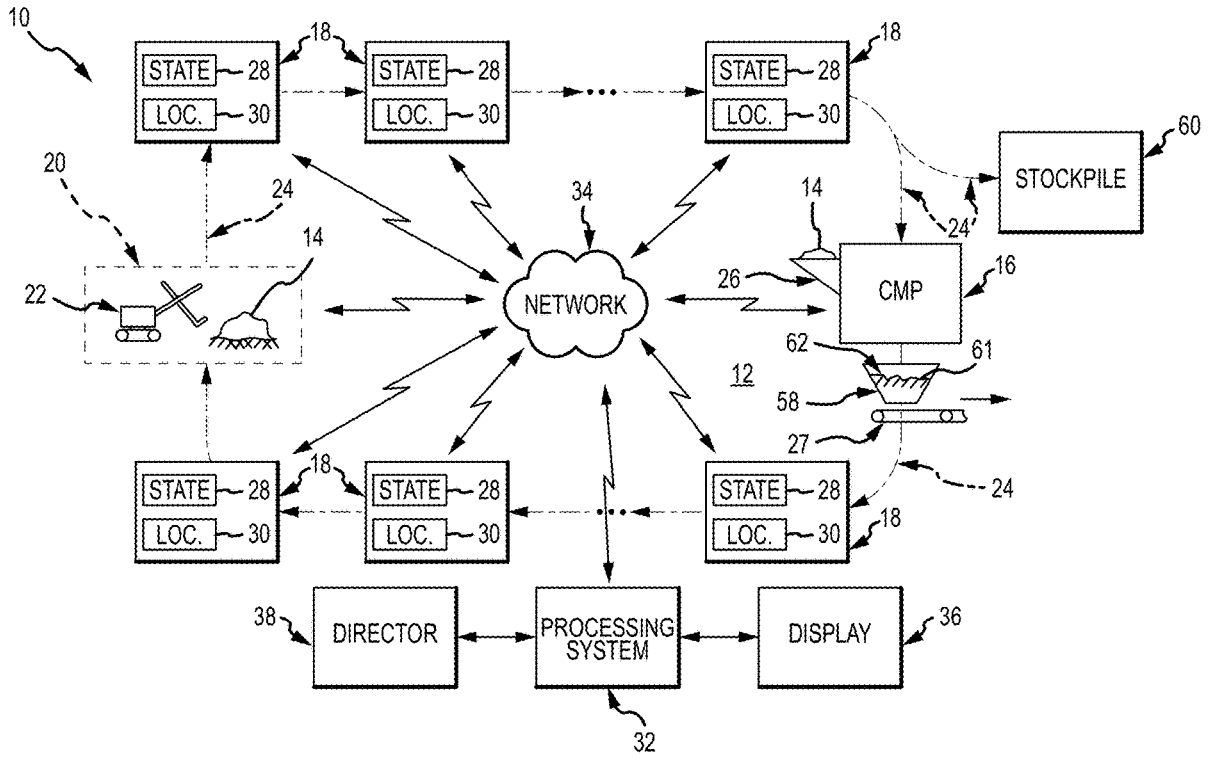
(57) **ABSTRACT**

Methods and systems of directing the movement of a plurality of batch delivery systems between a loading area and a continuous material processor determine a location of each of at least two of the plurality of batch delivery systems; determine a state of each of the located batch delivery systems; predict an estimated time of arrival at the continuous material processor of a loaded batch delivery system in transit from the loading area to the continuous material processor; predict a number of loaded batch delivery systems that will be located at the continuous material processor at a future time; estimate an idle time for the predicted number of loaded batch delivery systems at the continuous material processor; predict a time when the continuous material processor will be in a No-Material state; and direct the movement of at least one of the plurality of batch delivery systems to minimize at least one of the estimated idle time and the time when the continuous material processor will be in the No-Material state.