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United States Patent [19]

Baumann

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[54] **USER AUTHENTICATION IN A COMMUNICATION SYSTEM UTILIZING BIOMETRIC INFORMATION**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** **455/410**; 455/411; 455/550

[58] **Field of Search** 455/410, 411, 455/550, 557; 436/13.1, 428, 427, 430

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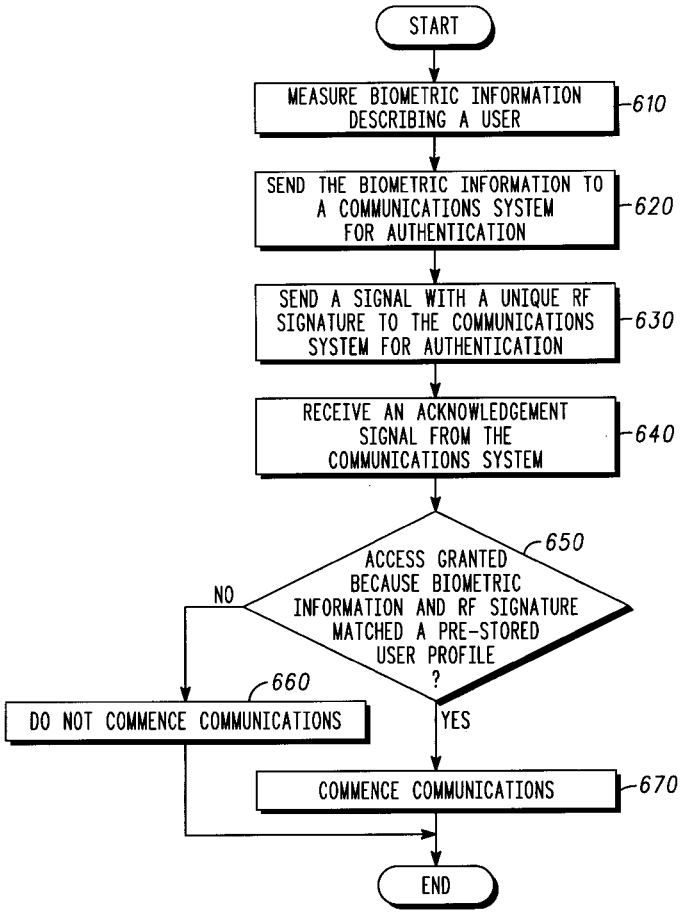
[57] **ABSTRACT**

A method and apparatus for authenticating subscriber units **(30)** and users **(25)** in a communications system includes a communications node **(200)** which receives biometric information describing a user **(25)**, and measures an RF signature of the subscriber unit **(30)**. The biometric information and RF signature are compared against a valid user profile to determine authenticity of the user **(25)** and the subscriber unit **(30)**. The biometric information can include retinal scan data, fingerprint data, or other data. The RF signature can include spectral content, phase or frequency characteristics, or other identifying features.

14 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets



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