means for transmitting a portion of data from the data buffer in response to a decoded access grant adapted in accordance with the received busy signal.

46. A non-transitory computer readable medium encoded with computer executable instructions configured to perform the following steps: receiving a plurality of access requests for transmission on the shared resource from a respective plurality of remote stations; allocating a portion of the shared resource to zero or more of the requesting remote stations in response to the plurality of access requests, the allocation comprising zero or one common accessgrant to a subset of the requesting remote stations; transmitting the common access grant to the remaining remote stations on one or more common grant channels; measuring the utilization of the shared resource; and transmitting a multi valued tri-valued busy signal when the measured utilization exceeds a pre-determined threshold.

47. A non-transitory computer readable medium encoded with computer executable instructions configured to perform the following steps: receiving data for transmission; storing the data in a data buffer; generating an access request message; transmitting the access request message; receiving one or more common grant channels from a base station; decoding an access grant comprising a common grant on one of the one or more common grant channels; receiving a tri-valued busy signal from the base station; and transmitting a portion of data from the data buffer in response to a decoded access grant adapted in accordance with the received busy signal.

48. The apparatus of claim **1**, wherein the busy signal corresponds to no more than one transmitted bit.

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