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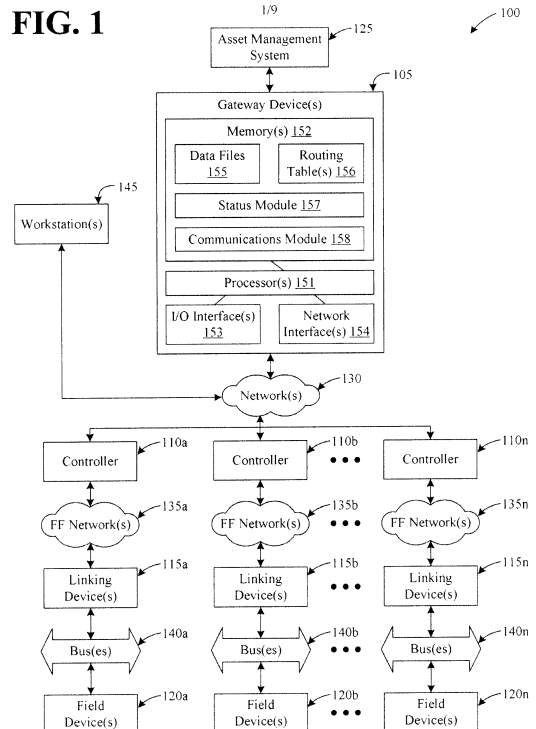
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(54) **Systems and methods for facilitating communication with foundation fieldbus linking devices**

(57) Systems (100) and methods (400) for facilitating communication with Foundation Fieldbus linking devices (115) are described. A plurality of Foundation Fieldbus linking devices (115) may be identified (410) by a gateway device (105) that includes one or more computers. A single virtual address representative of the plurality of linking devices (115) may be determined (425) by the gateway device (105). Communications between the plurality of linking devices (115) and an external system (125) may be facilitated (440) by the gateway device (105), and the virtual address may be utilized to represent the plurality of linking devices (115) to the external system (125).



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			H04L
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 17 July 2015	Examiner Lai, Cristiana
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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