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SEARCH AND METHOD FOR INFORMING A SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM

Abstract

A system for informing a search and rescue team includes a multicast core, a multicast radio access network connected with the multicast core, a network interface, a multicast channel via which the multicast radio access network multicasts a signal within a multicast network, and at an uplink channel. The network interface is configured to forward emergency information to the multicast core. The multicast core is configured to: control the multicast radio access network to multicast a wake-up signal via the multicast channel of the multicast network, receive via the uplink channel a response signal to the wake-up signal and to process information contained in the response signal, generate data based on the information contained in the response signal, and forward the data generated to the search and rescue team.

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Background/Summary

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

[0001] This application claims priority from European Application No. 24 158 149.5, filed on Feb. 16, 2024, the entire disclosure of which is enclosed herein.

FIELD OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0002] Embodiments of the present disclosure relate to a system for informing a search and rescue team. Further, embodiments of the present disclosure relate to a method of informing a search and rescue team.

BACKGROUND

[0003] In case of catastrophes, for instance natural disasters like an earthquake or a flood or human made-catastrophes like chemical or nuclear leakage, human beings life is endangered. During these unlikely events, many people may be in a critical situation and require quick assistance, support or help.

[0004] Typically, search and rescue teams try to find the people endangered in order to rescue as many people as possible in shortest time. Usually, it is not possible for the search and rescue teams to obtain a quick overview of the entire situation, which however might be helpful for organizing the search and rescue in an efficient manner.

[0005] Accordingly, there is need for a system and a method that ensures efficient search and rescue of people in case of a catastrophe.

SUMMARY

[0006] The following summary of the present disclosure is intended to introduce different concepts in a simplified form that are described in further detail in the detailed description provided below. This summary is neither intended to denote essential features of the present disclosure nor shall this summary be used as an aid in determining the scope of the claimed subject matter.

[0007] The present disclosure provides examples of a system for informing a search and rescue team. In an embodiment, the system comprises at least one multicast core (MC core) and at least one multicast radio access network (MC RAN) that is connected with the at least one multicast core. The system also comprises at least one network interface that is connected to the at least one multicast core. Further, the system comprises at least one multicast channel via which the multicast radio access network multicasts a signal within a multicast network. The system also comprises at least one uplink channel.

[0008] The at least one network interface is configured to forward emergency information to the at least one multicast core. The at least one multicast core is configured to control the at least one multicast radio access network to multicast a wake-up signal via the at least one multicast channel to the multicast network based upon the emergency information received via the at least one network interface. The at least one multicast core is also configured to receive via the at least one uplink channel a response signal to the wake-up signal and to process information contained in the response signal to the at least one multicast core. The at least one multicast core is further configured to generate data based on the information contained in the response signal. The at least one multicast core is configured to forward the data generated to the search and rescue team.

[0009] The present disclosure also provides examples of a method of informing a search and rescue team. In an embodiment, the method comprises the steps of: forwarding via at least one network interface emergency information to at least one multicast core; controlling, by the at least one multicast core, at least one multicast radio access network to multicast a wake-up signal via at least

one multicast channel based upon the emergency information received via the at least one network interface; receiving, by at least one multicast core, a response signal to the wake-up signal via at least one uplink channel; processing, by the at least one multicast core, the information contained in the response signal; generating, by the at least one multicast core, data based on the information contained in the response signal; and forwarding the data generated to the search and rescue team.

[0010] The main idea is to provide a system and method that assist search and rescue teams in case of emergency scenarios like catastrophes, wherein a multicast network is involved to gather information from people being endangered, e.g. potential victims. In an embodiment, the information gathered is processed by the system, for example the at least one multicast core, in order to generate data that is forwarded to the search and rescue team for assisting the search and rescue of the people endangered.

[0011] For instance, the response signal may be obtained from a user equipment, namely an internet of things (IoT) device that may submit information that can be processed in order to assist the search and rescue teams appropriately.

[0012] In an embodiment, the multicast core may be a 5G core, e.g. a core that established a multicast network based on LTE or 5G New Radio.

[0013] In an embodiment, the at least one multicast core and the at least one multicast radio access network may be located at a common site. Generally, the at least one multicast core and the at least one multicast radio access network are connected with each other in a bidirectional manner such that both components may communicate with each other. Put differently, the multicast core may forward information to be transmitted via the multicast radio access network, whereas the multicast radio access network receives information that is forwarded to the multicast core for further processing.

[0014] For instance, the data generated is forwarded to the search and rescue team via the multicast radio access network. In an embodiment, the multicast core controls the multicast radio access network accordingly.

[0015] In an embodiment, the multicast radio access network may relate to a 5G, a single frequency network (SFN), a low power or a high power transmitter. In an embodiment, the specific type of transmitter depends on the application scenario, for instance the location of the multicast radio access network.

[0016] In an embodiment, the multicast core and the multicast radio access network ensure a more resilient and robust triggering compared to a cellular network, e.g. a group call. Moreover, availability can be ensured when using the multicast core and the multicast radio access network.

[0017] In a specific embodiment, the multicast core (MC core) and at least one multicast radio access network (MC RAN) are established by a broadcast core (BC core) and a broadcast radio access network (BC RAN). Then, the system comprises at least one broadcast channel via which the wake-up signal is broadcasted to participants of a broadcast network.

[0018] In an embodiment, the network interface may relate to an interface usable by authorities solely. Hence, it is ensured that no third party is enabled to push emergency information into the system, which causes the multicast core (MC core) and the multicast radio access network (MC RAN) to multicast the wake-up signal.

[0019] An aspect provides that the system further comprises, for example, at least one user equipment (UE) being part of the multicast network. In an embodiment, the at least one user equipment is configured to receive the wake-up signal from the multicast radio access network. The at least one user equipment is further configured to transmit the response signal via the at least one uplink channel. Accordingly, the at least one user equipment receives the wake-up signal from the multicast radio access network, wherein the at least one user equipment transmits the response signal via the at least one uplink channel. The at least one user equipment may comprise a multicast receiver in order to be enabled to receive the wake-up signal multi-casted by the multicast radio access network.

[0020] For instance, the user equipment is a device having a certain intelligence and/or connectivity, e.g. computational power, which makes the user equipment an internet of things (IoT) device. For instance, the user equipment may be a smart swatch, a smart phone or any other suitable IoT user equipment.

[0021] In an embodiment, the at least one user equipment may receive the wake-up signal directly. The response signal may be transmitted via a hub, e.g. an IoT hub. For instance, another IoT device may act as IoT hub, for example in case no response signal has to be sent by the IoT device acting as IoT hub.

[0022] Another aspect provides that the at least one user equipment is configured, for example, to respond data that is indicative of position, health state, and/or environmental data, for instance temperature, humidity, brightness, wind speed, and/or air pressure. In an embodiment, the respective data transmitted may relate to metadata. The data transmitted may relate to Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). The data indicative of position may relate to positioning, navigation and timing data (PNT data). The data indicative of position may comprise the recently stored position in case no new position/location can be found by the user equipment.

[0023] In an embodiment, besides the data indicative of position, health state, and/or environmental data, additional data may be transmitted, for instance video data and/or text data.

[0024] Generally, a subcarrier spacing of 3.75 kHz may be ensured by the user equipment when transmitting the response signal via the at least one uplink channel, thereby ensuring no interference of the data transmitted.

[0025] According to an aspect, the system comprises, for example, a radio receiver, in particular a narrowband IoT receiver. In an embodiment, the radio receiver ensures that the system is enabled to receive the response signal transmitted via the uplink channel in case of a radio signal. The at least one uplink channel may relate to a radio channel accordingly.

[0026] Generally, the response signal may be received by the at least one multicast radio access network. The at least one multicast radio access network may comprise the radio receiver.

[0027] Alternatively, a separately formed receiver for the response signal is provided, which is connected to the multicast core for receiving the response signal and forwarding the information contained in the response signal to the multicast core.

[0028] For instance, the at least one uplink channel is not part of the multicast network. In other words, the at least one uplink channel is established separately with respect to the multicast network. The multicast channel relates to a unidirectional channel via which only signals can be transmitted from the multicast radio access network to participants of the multicast network like the user equipment. The user equipments however may establish uplink channels, for instance radio channels, via which the at least one response signal is transmitted.

[0029] In some embodiments, the multicast network may comprise the at least one multicast core, the multicast radio access network, at least one antenna system associated with the multicast radio access network, the multicast channel as well as the user equipment, namely the IoT devices.

[0030] Optionally, the search and rescue team, which receives the data generated, may also be part of the multicast network, for example communication devices used by the search and rescue team, which receive the data forwarded by the at least one multicast core.

[0031] As indicated above, the at least one uplink channel however is not part of the multicast network, but part of a different network, e.g. a radio network.

[0032] Additionally or alternatively, the at least one uplink channel is part of a ultra wide band (UWB) network, a mobile cellular network, a satellite communication, a narrowband IoT communication, or a Wi-Fi communication. Thus, the uplink channel may relate to a network/communication technique that ensures bidirectional communication. The downlink channel associated with the respective network/communication system is however different to the multicast channel and not used for forwarding the wake-up signal.

[0033] In an embodiment, the at least one multicast core may be configured to receive via the at

least one uplink channel several response signals to the wake-up signal multi-casted. The at least one multicast core is configured to collect the information contained in the several response signals. Since the wake-up signal is multi-casted, several user equipments may receive the wake-up signal and may respond to the wake-up signal by a respective response signal. Accordingly, several response signals may be received such that information of several response signals is gathered that has to be processed by the multicast core accordingly.

[0034] Another aspect provides that the data generated based on the information contained in the response signal comprise, for example, information for guidance, prioritization and/or accelerating search and rescue. For instance, information about a health status is indicated on a map in a colored manner. The guidance may be improved in case the response signal obtained from the user equipment, for example the information contained in the response signal, comprises information about a position. Based on this information, the search and rescue team may be guided to the user equipment and the person having/carrying the user equipment. Further, the information may comprise health status such that this information may be used for prioritization, as people in bad conditions are rescued prior to people being not injured or in a life-threatening situation, e.g. in better conditions. For this prioritization, the environmental data may also be taken into account, as the person may be in good condition, but in a very severe situation due to the environment. Consequently, the search and rescue can be improved due to the guidance and prioritization obtained based on the information gathered from the response signals received.

[0035] According to a certain embodiment, the data generated relates to map data that can be displayed in order to assist the search and rescue team. In an embodiment, a map may be displayed that has colored positions, wherein the respective colors are indicative of a health status of a person. The respective user equipment has transmitted the response signal containing the information about the health status. Based on the map, the search and rescue team gets information about the health status and the position of the people endangered simultaneously. Therefore, the search and rescue can be accelerated, as groups of people being located in close proximity can be rescued first provided that their health status is worse compared to other people endangered. If a group of people is in relatively good condition, other people may be rescued previously even though they are located isolated. Consequently, the number of people, their health status and/or the environmental conditions may be considered accordingly.

[0036] In an embodiment, the system may be configured to select a network available via which the data generated is forward to the search and rescue team. Accordingly, the system has access to several different kinds of networks for forwarding the data to the search and rescue team. Since some networks may be affected by the catastrophe, the system is enabled to select an available network from several different networks, for instance a multicast network, a satellite network or a cellular network.

[0037] As mentioned above, the multicast radio access network may also be used, for example, for forwarding the data generated to the search and rescue team.

[0038] In an embodiment, the at least one multicast core is configured to process additional data received from other data sources. The additional data and the information contained in the response signal are processed together in order to generate the data to be forwarded to the search and rescue team. Besides the information obtained from the user equipments, other data sources may also be taken into account in order to assist the search and rescue team in a most appropriate way. For instance, information of cameras showing a scene may be taken into account in order to get a better understanding of the present situation. The additional data may be used for categorizing the kind of catastrophe. Depending on the content of the additional data taken into account, the data generated may be different, which is forwarded to the search and rescue team.

[0039] In an embodiment, the additional data may be forwarded to the multicast core via the network interface, for instance by an authority or a company running surveillance cameras or the like.

[0040] Depending on the additional data forwarded, the search and rescue teams, for example, may be informed in certain areas that are affected by the emergency.

[0041] In an embodiment, the additional data may also be used to obtain information about people without user equipment, e.g. people without IoT device, or without working uplink channel, for instance due to the emergency scenario or the catastrophe occurred. For instance, information is gathered from the additional data that a certain number of people are (presumably) located in a certain area even though only a lower number of response signals is received. Therefore, it can be ensured that as much information as possible is gathered and used for informing the search and rescue team about the actual situation.

[0042] In an embodiment, the additional data may comprise video data obtained from a video surveillance. Alternatively or additionally, the additional data may relate to log data of people generated when the people enter a certain building while using a digital/electronic key like a key card or a chip.

[0043] In an embodiment, the system may also comprise a processing or processor circuit that is configured to analyze the information contained in the response signal. In an embodiment, the processing circuit is configured to apply an artificial intelligence method when analyzing the information contained in the response signal. The processing circuit may be part of the multicast core. Alternatively, the multicast core may interact with the processing circuit.

[0044] For instance, information is added by the processing circuit, for example the artificial intelligence method applied, which is not encompassed by the information contained in the response signal(s). The artificial intelligence may be a generative artificial intelligence. Hence, the processing circuit, e.g. the artificial intelligence, may add/predict additional information based on the information received from different response signals. For instance, information like the health status of a certain group of people is received via the response signal, wherein the artificial intelligence may process the information in order to predict the health status for other people, e.g. people not in the certain group.

[0045] Generally, the processing circuit may be configured to analyze the information contained in the response signal and the additional data. Thus, correlations between the information and the additional data may be detected, for example when applying artificial intelligence methods on all data/information gathered by the multicast core.

[0046] In an embodiment, the processing circuit may process the information and/or the additional data in order to predict presence of people in affected areas, which do not have a user equipment or a working uplink channel. Thus, presence of people may be predicted when no uplink channel is available.

[0047] In an embodiment, the system may comprise at least one flying object that is configured to receive the response signal and/or to forward the response signal to the at least one multicast core. The at least one flying object may forward the response signal via at least one intermediate device to the at least one multicast core. Hence, the response signal is indirectly forwarded to the at least one multicast core. If possible, the at least one flying object may also directly forward the response signal to the at least one multicast core, namely without any intermediate device. The flying object may relate to an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV). The at least one flying object may be used to gather information from areas that cannot be accessed by land, for instance due to the catastrophe that took place. Generally, the flying object may relate to a repeater or an IoT hub, which ensures that the response signal transmitted by the user equipment is received by the at least one multicast radio access network. For instance, ultra wide band (UWB) signals or other radio signals may be harvested by the flying object.

Description

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0048] The foregoing aspects and many of the attendant advantages of the claimed subject matter will become more readily appreciated as the same become better understood by reference to the following detailed description, when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

[0049] The FIGURE schematically shows an overview of a system for informing a search and rescue team according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0050] The detailed description set forth below in connection with the appended drawings, where like numerals reference like elements, is intended as a description of various embodiments of the disclosed subject matter and is not intended to represent the only embodiments. Each embodiment described in this disclosure is provided merely as an example or illustration and should not be construed as preferred or advantageous over other embodiments. The illustrative examples provided herein are not intended to be exhaustive or to limit the claimed subject matter to the precise forms disclosed.

[0051] The FIGURE illustrates an example of a system **10** for informing a search and rescue team in accordance with the disclosure. The system comprises at least one network interface **12**, for instance an emergency alert center that receives emergency information about a catastrophe/disaster that has happened. The emergency information may be inputted by an authority.

[0052] In the embodiment shown, the network interface **12** is connected to a multicast core **14**, for instance a multicast core **14** that is located in a certain area. Thus, the network interface **12** may forward emergency information to the at least one multicast core **14** based on the location of the multicast core **14**. In other words, a location-based alert is forwarded via the network interface **12** to the multicast core **14**.

[0053] The multicast core **14** is connected to a multicast radio access network **16** that may comprise several antenna systems **18** for communication purposes. In the shown embodiment, the multicast core **14** is a broadcast core and the multicast radio access network **16** is a broadcast radio access network. In an embodiment, the multicast core **14** and the multicast radio access network **16** may be located at a common site **20**, wherein the multicast core **14** and the multicast radio access network **16** may generally communicate with each other in a bidirectional manner.

[0054] The multicast core **14** upon receiving the emergency information from the network interface **12** controls the multicast radio access network **16** to multicast a wake-up signal via a multicast channel **21** to a multicast network **22** that comprises several different user equipment **24**, for instance a smart phone, a smart watch or other internet of thing devices (IoT devices). In an embodiment, the wake-up signal may force the respective user equipment **24** to process the wake-up signal that may contain an enquiry, for instance the question “Who needs help?”.

[0055] The respective user equipment **24** that receive the wake-up signal multi-casted process the respective wake-up signal. Depending on the respective circumstances, the user equipment **24** may relate to a user equipment that is affected by the emergency such that the user equipment **24** transmits a response signal via an uplink channel **26** that may relate to a radio channel. In any case, the uplink channel **26** is different to the multicast channel **21** via which the wake-up signal was multi-casted.

[0056] In an embodiment, the user equipment **24** also send a response signal in case no reaction of the user equipment **24** takes place within a predefined time span, for instance 20 seconds.

[0057] In case the user equipment **24** processing the wake-up signal arrives at the conclusion that the user equipment **24**, for example the person having the user equipment **24**, is not affected by the emergency, the user equipment **24** may act as an IoT hub for other devices. Accordingly, the user equipment **24** may directly transmit the response signal or indirectly, for example via IoT hubs.

[0058] In any case, the multicast core **14** receives at least one response signal via the at least one uplink channel **26**, for example several response signals from different user equipment **24**. The multicast core **14** processes the information contained in the at least one response signal and generates data based on the information contained in the at least one response signal. Afterwards, the data generated is forwarded to a search and rescue team **28**, for instance via the multicast radio access network **16**.

[0059] In general, the system **10** is enabled to select an available network via which the data generated is forwarded to the search and rescue teams **28** in order to ensure the search and rescue teams **28** are informed appropriately. Consequently, one of the several antenna systems **18** may be used for forwarding the data generated to the search and rescue teams.

[0060] In an embodiment, the data generated may comprise information for guidance, prioritization and/or accelerating the search and rescue. For instance, information about a health status of people involved is indicated on a map in a colored manner. Thus, the search and rescue teams **28** are informed about the position/location of the people involved as well as their current health status on a single map which assists the search and rescue teams **28** for their respective operations.

[0061] This is possible since the user equipment **24** communicate via the at least one uplink channel **26** respective information, e.g. data that is indicative of position, health state, and/or environmental data, for instance temperature, humidity, brightness, wind speed, and/or air pressure. Based on this data, the multicast core **14** is enabled to generate data for the search and rescue teams **28** that improves the search and rescue.

[0062] When generating the data to be transmitted to the search and rescue teams **28**, the multicast core **14** may also process additional data received from other data sources, for instance via the network interface **12**. The additional data may comprise video footage or other information about the catastrophe. Based on the additional data, the search and rescue teams **28** can be informed in a more detailed manner, as additional information is forwarded concerning the catastrophe, for instance its extent.

[0063] In an embodiment, the multicast core **14** may comprise or interact with a processing circuit **30** that analyzes the information contained in the response signal, for example the information contained in the response signal and the additional data received. The processing circuit **30** may be configured to apply an artificial intelligence method in order to analyze the information contained in the response signal and/or the additional data in order to find correlations in the data processed.

[0064] In an embodiment, the processing circuit **30**, e.g. the artificial intelligence executed on the processing circuit **30**, is enabled to include additional information when analyzing the information contained in the response signal(s) and/or the additional data received from other data sources. In an embodiment, the artificial intelligence may relate to a generative artificial intelligence. For instance, additional information like health status of people is predicted by the processing circuit **30**, for example the (generative) artificial intelligence executed on the processing circuit **30**. The additional information is predicted in case the information contained in the response signal(s) and/or the additional data received from the other data sources do not provide this kind of additional information, e.g. the health status. Consequently, the processing circuit **30**, for example the (generative) artificial intelligence, enriches the data/information already gathered by the response signal(s) and/or the additional data received.

[0065] As illustrated in FIG. **1**, the processing circuit **30** may be located externally with respect to the at least one multicast core **14**, e.g. as a superordinate layer like a cloud layer. Consequently, a communication link is established between the processing circuit **30** and the at least one multicast core **14**. In an embodiment, the processing circuit **30** may however also interact with other components of the system **10**, for instance the emergency alert center **12**.

[0066] In an alternative, the processing circuit **30** may also be located at the site of the at least one multicast core **14**. Consequently, the at least one multicast core **14** may comprise the processing circuit **30**. This ensures that the processing circuit **30** is still operable as long as the at least one

multicast core **14** works. In other words, an existing and still working communication link between the processing circuit **30** and the at least one multicast core **14** would not be required. Accordingly, the overall data/information used for generating the data to be forwarded to the search and rescue teams is enriched by the processing circuit **30**, for example the (generative) artificial intelligence executed on the processing circuit **30**.

[0067] In an embodiment, the at least one uplink channel may be established as a radio channel. Hence, radio signals are forwarded from the user equipment **24**.

[0068] Generally, the multicast network **22** comprises the at least one multicast core **14**, the multicast radio access network **16**, at least one of the antenna systems **18**, the multicast channel **21** as well as the user equipment **24**, namely the IoT devices. In an embodiment, the search and rescue team **28** may optionally be part of the multicast network **22** as well, for example communication devices of the search and rescue team **28**.

[0069] In an embodiment, the system **10** may comprise at least one flying object **32** that may relate to an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), which may act as a repeater or IoT hub for the user equipment **24**, for example the response signals transmitted. The flying object **32** is used to receive the response signal and/or to forward the response signal to the at least one multicast core **14**. Hence, areas can be accessed that have been destroyed or destructed by the catastrophe.

[0070] Generally, the multicast radio access network **16** may receive the response signals via the at least one uplink channel **26**, wherein the information contained in the response signal is gathered by the multicast radio access network **16** and forwarded to the multicast core **14** for further processing. However, the response signal(s) may also be received by a separately formed receiver **34**, for instance a radio receiver, e.g. a narrowband IoT receiver. Hence, a different antenna system **18** of the several antenna systems **18** may be used for receiving the response signal(s) via the at least one uplink channel **26**. Irrespective thereof, it is ensured that the information of response signal(s) is received by the multicast core **14** that processed the information in order to generate the data for the search and rescue teams **28**.

[0071] In an embodiment, the respective data may be forwarded to the search and rescue teams **28** in real-time. Hence, a connection-less map may be generated based on the data forwarded to the search and rescue teams **28**, wherein locations/positions of affected people together with their health status are displayed.

[0072] Certain embodiments disclosed herein include systems, apparatus, modules, units, devices, components, etc., that utilize circuitry (e.g., one or more circuits) in order to implement standards, protocols, methodologies or technologies disclosed herein, operably couple two or more components, generate information, process information, analyze information, generate signals, encode/decode signals, convert signals, transmit and/or receive signals, control other devices, etc. Circuitry of any type can be used. It will be appreciated that the term “information” can be use synonymously with the term “signals” in this paragraph. It will be further appreciated that the terms “circuitry,” “circuit,” “one or more circuits,” etc., can be used synonymously herein.

[0073] In an embodiment, circuitry includes, among other things, one or more computing devices such as a processor (e.g., a microprocessor), a central processing unit (CPU), a graphics processing unit (GPU), a digital signal processor (DSP), an application-specific integrated circuit (ASIC), a field programmable gate array (FPGA), a system on a chip (SoC), or the like, or any combinations thereof, and can include discrete digital or analog circuit elements or electronics, or combinations thereof. In an embodiment, circuitry includes hardware circuit implementations (e.g., implementations in analog circuitry, implementations in digital circuitry, and the like, and combinations thereof).

[0074] In an embodiment, circuitry includes combinations of circuits and computer program products having software or firmware instructions stored on one or more computer readable memories that work together to cause a device to perform one or more protocols, methodologies or technologies described herein. In an embodiment, circuitry includes circuits, such as, for example,

microprocessors or portions of microprocessor, that require software, firmware, and the like for operation. In an embodiment, circuitry includes an implementation comprising one or more processors or portions thereof and accompanying software, firmware, hardware, and the like. [0075] For example, the functionality described herein can be implemented by special purpose hardware-based computer systems or circuits, etc., or combinations of special purpose hardware and computer instructions. Each of these special purpose hardware-based computer systems or circuits, etc., or combinations of special purpose hardware circuits and computer instructions form specifically configured circuits, machines, apparatus, devices, etc., capable of implementing the functionality described herein.

[0076] Of course, in an embodiment, two or more of these components, or parts thereof, can be integrated or share hardware and/or software, circuitry, etc. In an embodiment, these components, or parts thereof, may be grouped in a single location or distributed over a wide area. In circumstances where the components are distributed, the components are accessible to each other via communication links.

[0077] In an embodiment, one or more of the components of the system **10** referenced above include circuitry programmed to carry out one or more steps of any of the methods disclosed herein. In an embodiment, one or more computer-readable media associated with or accessible by such circuitry contains computer readable instructions embodied thereon that, when executed by such circuitry, cause the component or circuitry to perform one or more steps of any of the methods disclosed herein.

[0078] In an embodiment, the computer readable instructions includes applications, programs, program modules, scripts, source code, program code, object code, byte code, compiled code, interpreted code, machine code, executable instructions, and/or the like (also referred to herein as executable instructions, instructions for execution, program code, computer program instructions, and/or similar terms used herein interchangeably).

[0079] In an embodiment, computer-readable media is any medium that stores computer readable instructions, or other information non-transitorily and is directly or indirectly accessible by a computing device, such as processor circuitry, etc., or other circuitry disclosed herein etc. In other words, a computer-readable medium is a non-transitory memory at which one or more computing devices can access instructions, codes, data, or other information. As a non-limiting example, a computer-readable medium may include a volatile random access memory (RAM), a persistent data store such as a hard disk drive or a solid-state drive, or a combination thereof. In an embodiment, memory can be integrated with a processor, separate from a processor, or external to a computing system.

[0080] Accordingly, blocks of the block diagrams and/or flowchart illustrations support various combinations for performing the specified functions, combinations of operations for performing the specified functions and program instructions for performing the specified functions. These computer program instructions may be loaded onto one or more computer or computing devices, such as special purpose computer(s) or computing device(s) or other programmable data processing apparatus(es) to produce a specifically-configured machine, such that the instructions which execute on one or more computer or computing devices or other programmable data processing apparatus implement the functions specified in the flowchart block or blocks and/or carry out the methods described herein. Again, it should also be understood that each block of the block diagrams and flowchart illustrations, and combinations of blocks in the block diagrams and/or flowchart illustrations, or portions thereof, could be implemented by special purpose hardware-based computer systems or circuits, etc., that perform the specified functions or operations, or combinations of special purpose hardware and computer instructions.

[0081] It will be appreciated that in one or more embodiments, the term computer or computing device can include, for example, any computing device or processing structure, including but not limited to a processor (e.g., a microprocessor), a central processing unit (CPU), a digital signal

processor (DSP), an application-specific integrated circuit (ASIC), a field-programmable gate array (FPGA), a system on a chip (SoC), a graphics processing unit (GPU) or the like, or any combinations thereof.

[0082] In the foregoing description, specific details are set forth to provide a thorough understanding of representative embodiments of the present disclosure. It will be apparent to one skilled in the art, however, that the embodiments disclosed herein may be practiced without embodying all of the specific details. In some instances, well-known process steps have not been described in detail in order not to unnecessarily obscure various aspects of the present disclosure.

[0083] Although the method and various embodiments thereof have been described as performing sequential steps, the claimed subject matter is not intended to be so limited. As nonlimiting examples, the described steps need not be performed in the described sequence and/or not all steps are required to perform the method. Moreover, embodiments are contemplated in which various steps are performed in parallel, in series, and/or a combination thereof. As such, one of ordinary skill will appreciate that such examples are within the scope of the claimed embodiments.

[0084] In the detailed description herein, references to “one embodiment”, “an embodiment”, “an example embodiment”, “one or more embodiments”, “some embodiments”, etc., indicate that the embodiment or embodiments described may include a particular feature, structure, or characteristic, but every embodiment may not necessarily include the particular feature, structure, or characteristic. Moreover, such phrases are not necessarily referring to the same embodiment or embodiments. In addition, when a particular feature, structure, or characteristic is described in connection with an embodiment or embodiments, it is submitted that it is within the knowledge of one skilled in the art to affect such feature, structure, or characteristic in connection with other embodiments whether or not explicitly described. After reading the description, it will be apparent to one skilled in the relevant art(s) how to implement the disclosure in alternative embodiments. Thus, it will be appreciated that embodiments of the present disclosure may employ any combination of features described herein. All such combinations or sub-combinations of features are within the scope of the present disclosure.

[0085] Throughout this specification, terms of art may be used. These terms are to take on their ordinary meaning in the art from which they come, unless specifically defined herein or the context of their use would clearly suggest otherwise.

[0086] The drawings in the FIGURES are not to scale. Similar elements are generally denoted by similar references in the FIGURES. For the purposes of this disclosure, the same or similar elements may bear the same references. Furthermore, the presence of reference numbers or letters in the drawings cannot be considered limiting, even when such numbers or letters are indicated in the claims.

[0087] The present application may reference quantities and numbers. Unless specifically stated, such quantities and numbers are not to be considered restrictive, but exemplary of the possible quantities or numbers associated with the present application. Also in this regard, the present application may use the term “plurality” to reference a quantity or number. In this regard, the term “plurality” is meant to be any number that is more than one, for example, two, three, four, five, etc. The terms “about,” “approximately,” “near,” etc., mean plus or minus 5% of the stated value. For the purposes of the present disclosure, the phrase “at least one of A and B” is equivalent to “A and/or B” or vice versa, namely “A” alone, “B” alone or “A and B.”. Similarly, the phrase “at least one of A, B, and C,” for example, means (A), (B), (C), (A and B), (A and C), (B and C), or (A, B, and C), including all further possible permutations when greater than three elements are listed.

[0088] Where a range of values is provided, it is understood that each intervening value, to the tenth of the unit of the lower limit (unless the context clearly dictates otherwise), between the upper and lower limit of that range, and any other stated or intervening value in that stated range, is encompassed within the disclosure. The upper and lower limits of these smaller ranges may independently be included in the smaller ranges and are also encompassed within the disclosure,

subject to any specifically excluded limit in the stated range. While the stated range includes one or both of the limits, ranges excluding either or both of those included limits are also included in the disclosure

[0089] The principles, representative embodiments, and modes of operation of the present disclosure have been described in the foregoing description. However, aspects of the present disclosure which are intended to be protected are not to be construed as limited to the particular embodiments disclosed. Further, the embodiments described herein are to be regarded as illustrative rather than restrictive. It will be appreciated that variations and changes may be made by others, and equivalents employed, without departing from the spirit of the present disclosure. Accordingly, it is expressly intended that all such variations, changes, and equivalents fall within the spirit and scope of the present disclosure, as claimed.

Claims

1. A system for informing a search and rescue team, comprising: at least one multicast core; at least one multicast radio access network connected with the at least one multicast core; at least one network interface connected to the at least one multicast core; at least one multicast channel via which the multicast radio access network multicasts a signal within a multicast network; at least one uplink channel, wherein the at least one network interface is configured to forward emergency information to the at least one multicast core, wherein the at least one multicast core is configured to: control the at least one multicast radio access network to multicast a wake-up signal via the at least one multicast channel of the multicast network based upon the emergency information received via the at least one network interface; receive via the at least one uplink channel a response signal to the wake-up signal and to process information contained in the response signal; generate data based on the information contained in the response signal; and forward the data generated to the search and rescue team.
2. The system according to claim 1, further comprising at least one user equipment being part of the multicast network, wherein the at least one user equipment is configured to receive the wake-up signal from the multicast radio access network, and wherein the at least one user equipment is configured to transmit the response signal via the at least one uplink channel.
3. The system according to claim 2, wherein the at least one user equipment is configured to respond data that is indicative of position, health state, and/or environmental data.
4. The system according to claim 1, further comprising a radio receiver.
5. The system according to claim 1, further comprising a narrowband IoT receiver.
6. The system according to claim 1, wherein the at least one uplink channel is not part of the multicast network and/or wherein the at least one uplink channel is part of a ultra wide band network, a mobile cellular network, a satellite communication, a narrowband IoT communication, or a Wi-Fi communication.
7. The system according to claim 1, wherein the at least one multicast core is configured to receive via the at least one uplink channel several response signals to the wake-up signal multicasted, and wherein the at least one multicast core is configured to collect the information contained in the several response signals.
8. The system according to claim 1, wherein the data generated based on the information contained in the response signal comprises information for guidance, prioritization and/or accelerating search and rescue.
9. The system according to claim 1, wherein information about a health status is indicated on a map in a colored manner.
10. The system according to claim 1, wherein the system is configured to select a network available via which the data generated is forwarded to the search and rescue team.
11. The system according to claim 1, wherein the at least one multicast core is configured to

- process additional data received from other data sources, wherein the additional data and the information contained in the response signal are processed together in order to generate the data to be forwarded to the search and rescue team.
- 12.** The system according to claim 1, further comprising a processing circuit that is configured to analyze the information contained in the response signal.
- 13.** The system according to claim 12, wherein the processing circuit is configured to apply artificial intelligence when analyzing the information contained in the response signal.
- 14.** The system according to claim 1, further comprising at least one flying object that is configured to receive the response signal and/or to forward the response signal to the at least one multicast core.
- 15.** A method of informing a search and rescue team, the method comprising: forwarding via at least one network interface emergency information to at least one multicast core, controlling, by the at least one multicast core, at least one multicast radio access network to multicast a wake-up signal via at least one multicast channel based upon the emergency information received via the at least one network interface, receiving, by at least one multicast core, a response signal to the wake-up signal via at least one uplink channel, processing, by the at least one multicast core, information contained in the response signal, generating, by the at least one multicast core, data based on the information contained in the response signal, and forwarding the data generated to the search and rescue team.
- 16.** The method according to claim 15, wherein at least one user equipment receives the wake-up signal from the multicast radio access network, and wherein the at least one user equipment transmits the response signal via the at least one uplink channel.
- 17.** The method according to claim 15, wherein the at least one multicast core receives via the at least one uplink channel several response signals to the wake-up signal multicasted, and wherein the at least one multicast core collects the information contained in the several response signals.
- 18.** The method according to claim 15, wherein the at least one multicast core processes additional data received from other data sources, wherein the additional data and the information contained in the response signal are processed together in order to generate the data to be forwarded to the search and rescue team.
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