

US010143033B2

# (12) United States Patent

## (10) Patent No.: US 10,143,033 B2

## (45) **Date of Patent:**

## Nov. 27, 2018

#### (54) COMMUNICATIONS APPARATUS, CONTROL METHOD, AND STORAGE MEDIUM

(71) Applicant: CANON KABUSHIKI KAISHA,

Tokyo (JP)

(72) Inventor: **Hitoshi Aoki**, Kawasaki (JP)

(73) Assignee: CANON KABUSHIKI KAISHA,

Tokyo (JP)

(\*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this

patent is extended or adjusted under 35

U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: 15/846,740

(22) Filed: Dec. 19, 2017

(65) Prior Publication Data

US 2018/0110083 A1 Apr. 19, 2018

#### Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation of application No. 15/068,862, filed on Mar. 14, 2016, now Pat. No. 9,894,703.

### (30) Foreign Application Priority Data

Mar. 18, 2015 (JP) ...... 2015-055352

(51) Int. Cl. H04J 3/00 H04W 76/27

(2006.01) (2018.01)

(Continued)

(52) U.S. Cl.

(Continued)

(58) Field of Classification Search

None

See application file for complete search history.

#### (56) References Cited

#### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

8,576,762 B2\* 11/2013 Thomas ...... H04W 52/0216

8,964,631 B2 2/2015 Aoki (Continued)

#### FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EP 2981146 A1 2/2016 JP 2002-305717 A 10/2002 (Continued)

#### OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Lai et al., "Efficient and scalable IEEE 802.11 Ad-Hoc-Mode Timing Synchronization Function", Proceedings of the 17th International Conference on Advanced Information Networking and Applications (AINA '03), pp. 1-6, 2003.

(Continued)

Primary Examiner — Phirin Sam (74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm — Carter, Deluca, Farrell & Schmidt, LLP

#### (57) ABSTRACT

A communications apparatus is provided that determines a timing of starting a period when a communications group, to which other communications apparatuses belong, can perform communications, based on a beacon signal that was received in a predetermined period; transmits a signal that requests obtaining of information to the other communications apparatuses, according to the determined timing; and obtains information from each of the other communications apparatuses. The communications apparatus transmits the signal according to the timing determined based on a beacon from an apparatus belonging to a first communications group to other communications apparatuses that belong to the first communications group, and the signal according to the timing determined based on a beacon from an apparatus belonging to a second communications group to other com-(Continued)

