US 20230232193A1

(19) **United States**

(12) **Patent Application Publication** (10) **Pub. No.: US 2023/0232193 A1**

Törnkvist et al. (43) **Pub. Date: Jul. 20, 2023**

(54) **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MANAGING CHARGING OPERATIONS FOR A COMMUNICATION NETWORK**

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(21) Appl. No.: **18/010,830**

(22) PCT Filed: **Jul. 2, 2020**

(86) PCT No.: **PCT/SE2020/050697**

§ 371 (c)(1),
(2) Date: **Dec. 16, 2022**

Publication Classification

(51) **Int. Cl.**
H04W 4/24 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC ***H04W 4/24*** (2013.01)

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A node of a charging system associated with a communication network grants a charging request, with the response including a granted quota of units for authorizing consumption of the involved communication service by a user device, along with an indication of whether the granted quota applies on an immediate basis or on a deferred basis. For example, the response indicates whether quota management is active for the involved communication service, with the granted quota applying immediately to consumption of the service if quota management is active and applying on a deferred basis if quota management is inactive. Providing a granted quota while quota management is inactive offers several advantages, such as proactively providing individual charging sessions with granted units of service consumption that may be used subsequently, upon quota management becoming active, thereby avoiding the "flood" of charging session requests that would otherwise be generated upon quota management becoming active.