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(54) **COMMUNICATING BETWEEN APPARATUS  
IN THE UNLICENSED SPECTRUM**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

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A method of communicating between nodes on a plurality of channels within the unlicensed spectrum is disclosed where coordination of the acquiring of the different channels is provided so that a further channel is acquired prior to the occupancy time of the currently used channel expiring. The method involves determining at one node that a channel in the unlicensed band has been acquired for a predetermined occupancy time. Initiating a scan of at least one further channel within the unlicensed spectrum to determine if a further channel is available. Once a predetermined time has passed and within the predetermined occupancy time, acquiring the available channel by transmitting a signal on it.

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