



US007903038B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Tietjen

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 7,903,038 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Mar. 8, 2011**

(54) **MOBILE RADAR ARRAY**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 29 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **11/636,043**

(22) Filed: **Dec. 8, 2006**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2008/0136718 A1 Jun. 12, 2008

(51) **Int. Cl.**

H01Q 1/32 (2006.01)

H01Q 1/00 (2006.01)

G01S 7/02 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **343/711**; 343/700 R; 342/175

(58) **Field of Classification Search** 342/70-72,
342/175, 95, 367-384, 42, 45, 25 R-25 F,
342/26 R-26 B, 195; 343/711-717, 741,
343/757, 763, 766, 700 MS, 705-708; 340/438,
340/442, 445, 447, 461; 73/146-146.5; 152/151,
152/152.1; 246/20, 27, 28 R, 62, 63 R, 63 C,
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See application file for complete search history.

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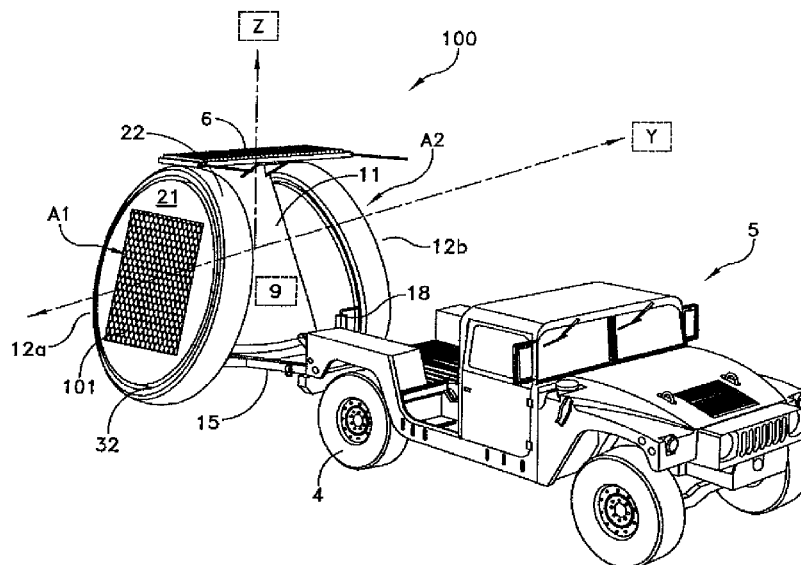
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ABSTRACT

A mobile radar array system comprising a towable platform
having a pair of wheels operably coupled thereto, the wheels
adapted for rolling along a road surface; and an antenna array
mounted on a side of at least one of the wheels, the antenna
array, when energized, capable of providing a radiation pat-
tern for detecting a moving object.

20 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets



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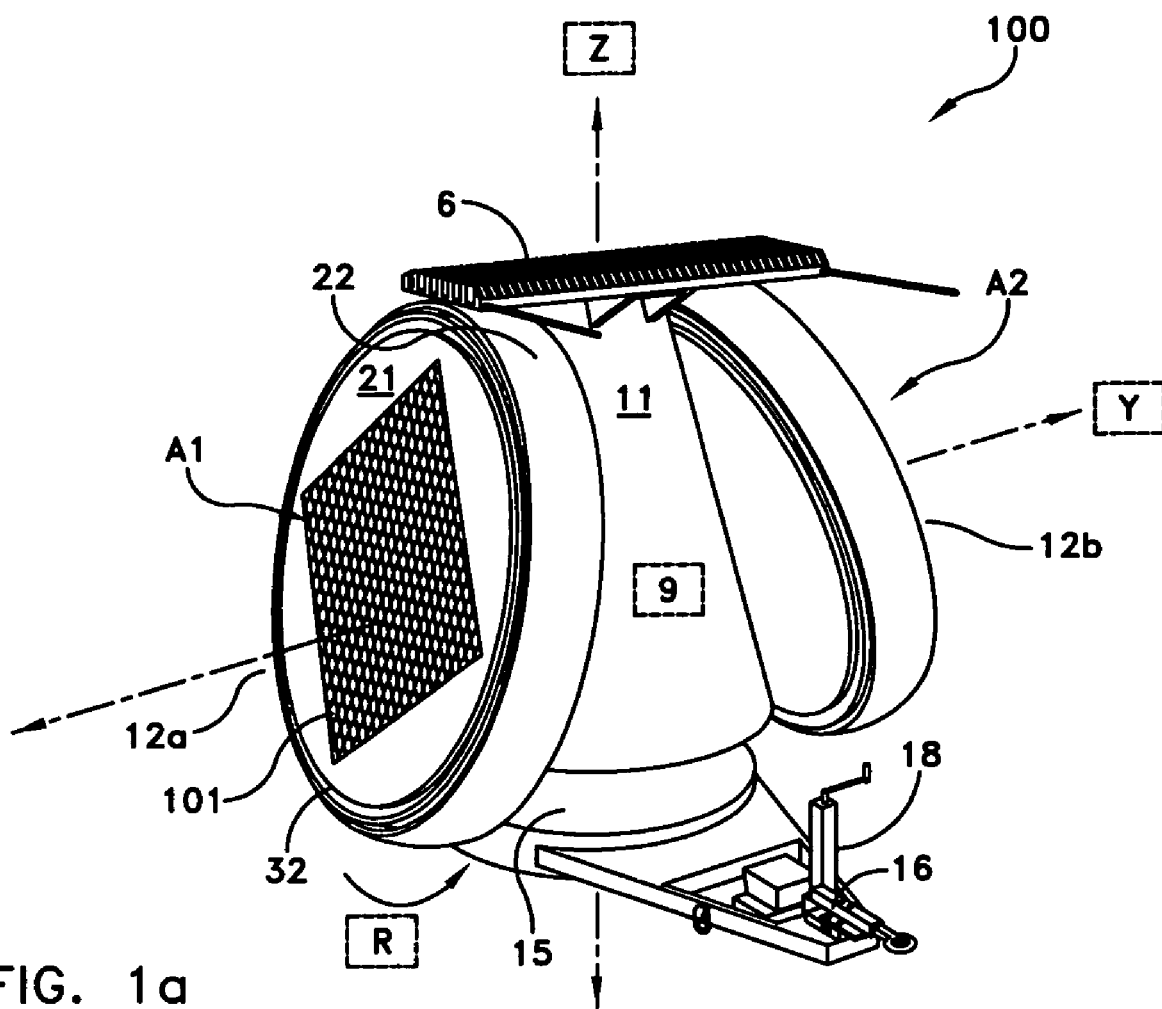
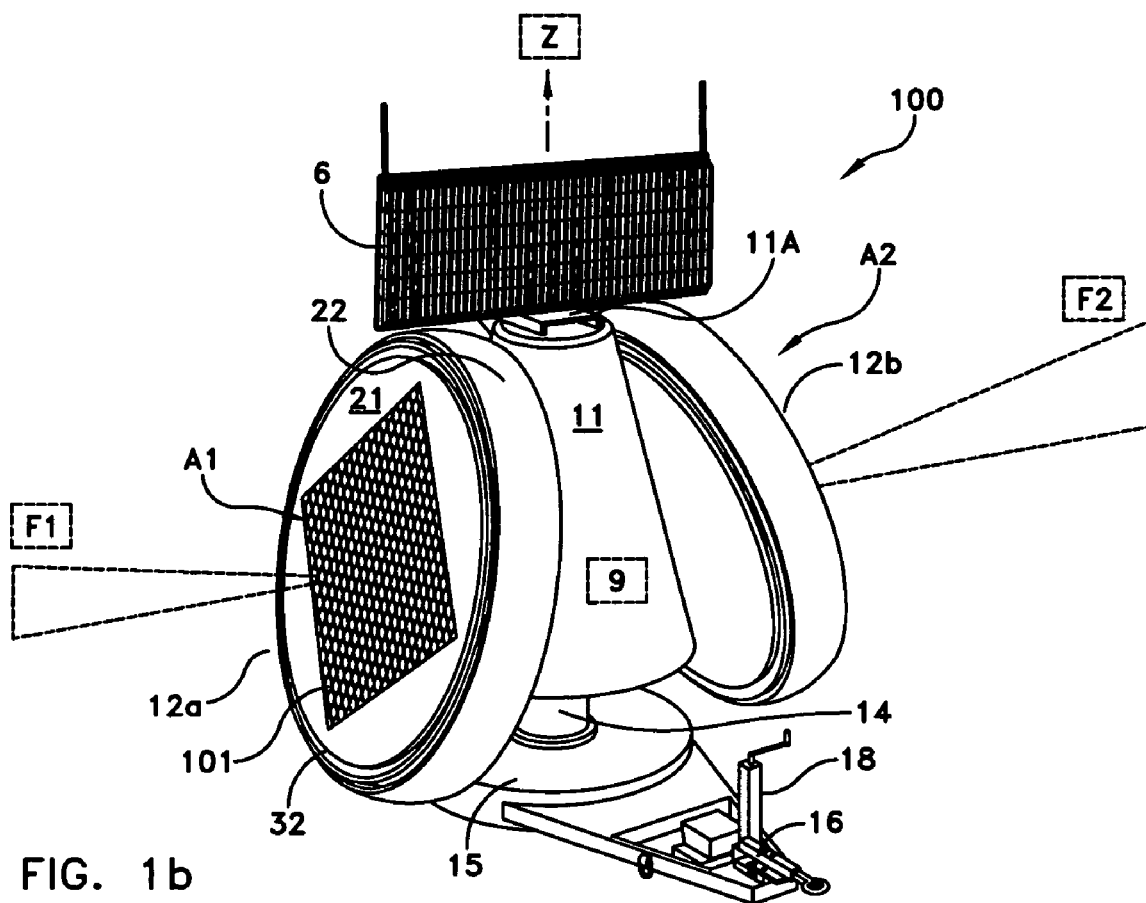
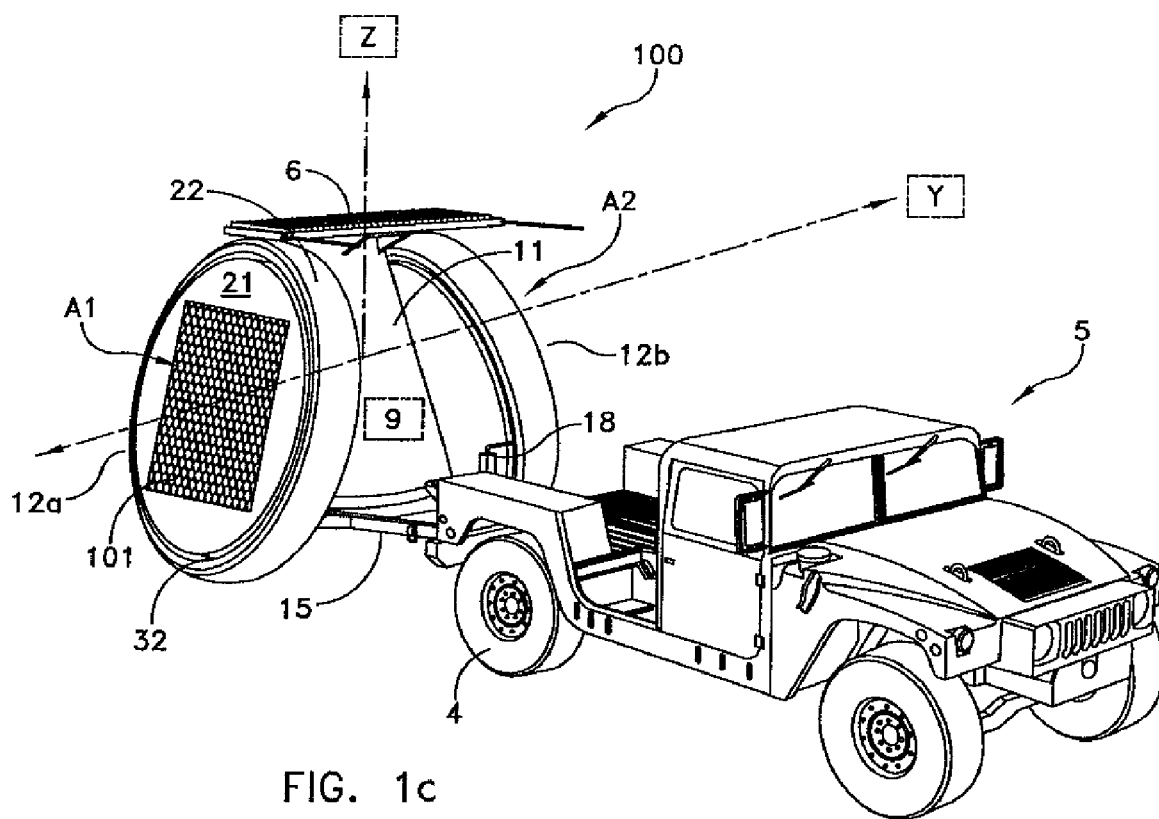


FIG. 1a





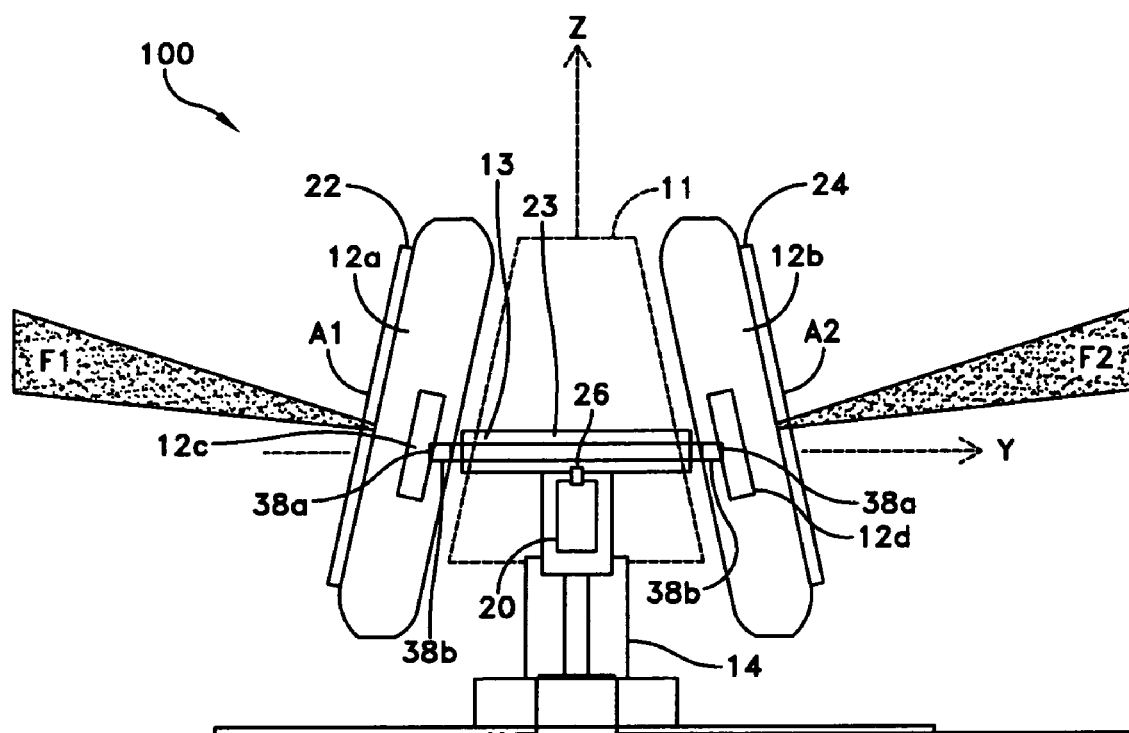
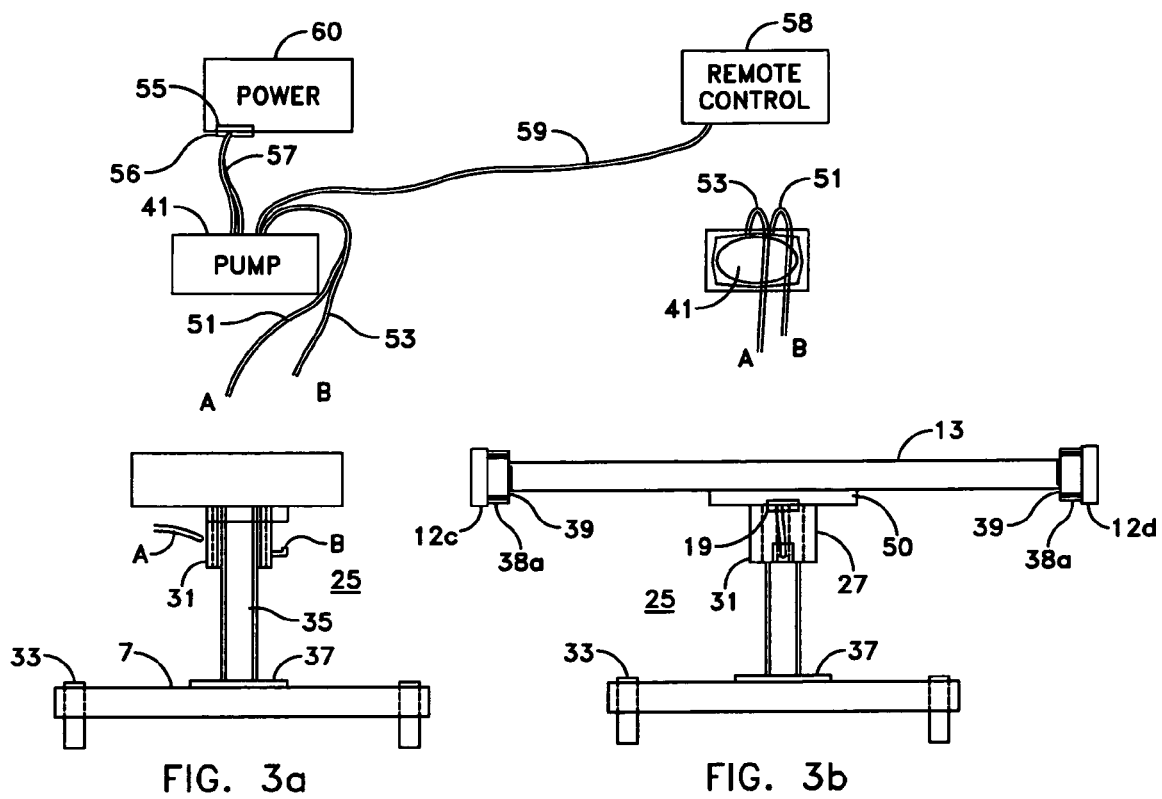


FIG. 2



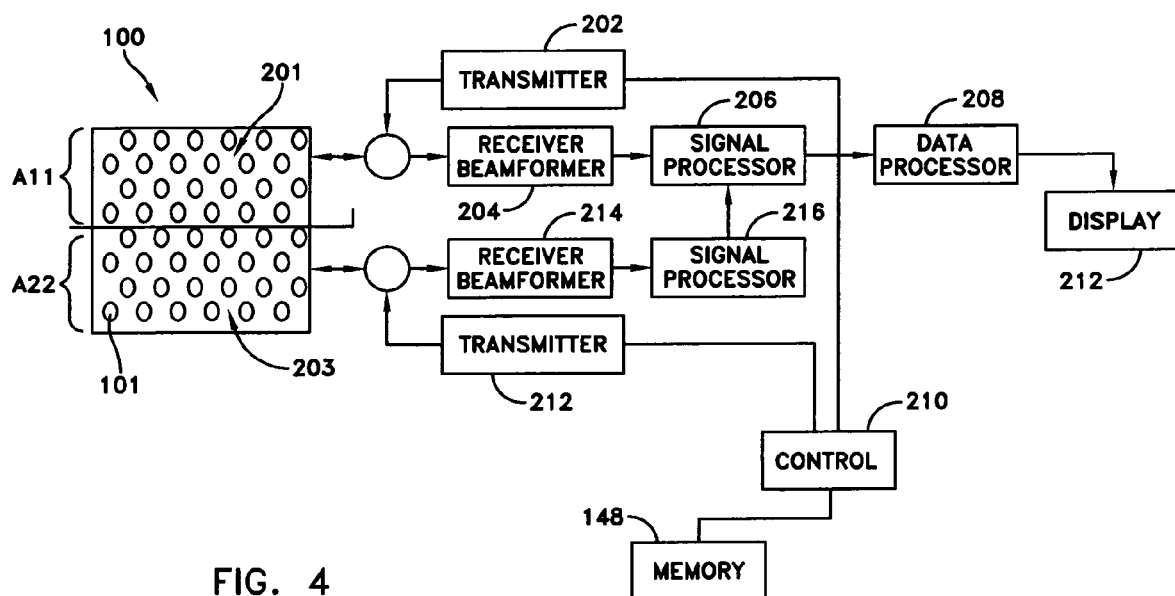


FIG. 4

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MOBILE RADAR ARRAY**FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention relates generally to radar systems and more specifically to mobile radar arrays.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

There is a growing interest in mobile radars capable of long range and/or short range target detection and tracking. However, various problems exist in the current design and implementation of mobile radars. Such problems include adapting radars and associated towing or conveying equipment due to weight, size, and/or time constraints. For example, difficulties arise when attempting to fit considerable radar performance within a radar package that is mobile and that may be set up and operational within a relatively short time window (e.g. less than 10 or 20 minutes.) A specific problem occurs when one attempts to tow a mobile radar on a trailer or other vehicle. The additional weight of the trailer is significant (e.g. typically over 1000 pounds (lbs.)) and may diminish the portability, speed and ultimate usefulness of the mobile radar system. In addition, an aircraft may be required to transport a mobile radar system to a given location in which the mobile radar is to be deployed. One of the constraints might include the requirement that the mobile radar fit inside a cargo plane such as a C130 aircraft. For a radar mounted onto a trailer, such additional transportability constraint places limits on the size of the array that can be designed which in turn, can be a limiting factor in radar performance. Furthermore, prior art systems required removing the radar system from the truck or trailer and separately mounting the system so that it can serve to detect and track targets. Such additional mounting and disassembly results in undesirable delays in system deployment and operation. Moreover, few opportunities exist at present to conserve weight and advance the portability of radar systems, such as Counterfire Target Acquisition (CTA) type radars. Furthermore, prior art systems required removing the radar system from the truck or trailer and separately mounting the system so that it can serve to detect and track targets. Such additional mounting and disassembly results in undesirable delays in system deployment and operation. Moreover, few opportunities exist at present to conserve weight and advance the portability of radar systems, such as CTA type radars.

It would be desirable to provide an apparatus that addresses one or more of the aforementioned problems, and provides for rapid set up while allowing flexibility in utilizing the system. A mobile radar system that enables the detection and tracking of targets and that can be easily transported to any desired location in a simple and efficient manner is highly desired.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

An antenna system for a radar apparatus comprising: a vehicle wheel having a hub portion, with an antenna mounted on the hub portion of the vehicle wheel, the antenna when energized capable of providing a first radiation pattern, and wherein when the vehicle wheel is rotated, the antenna rotates accordingly.

According to an aspect of the invention, a mobile radar array comprises a towable platform having wheels operably coupled thereto for rolling along the ground in a transport mode; a radar antenna array mounted on an outer side of one of the wheels; a lift operably coupled to the platform for

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elevating the wheels from the ground surface in a deployment mode; and a rotatable member for revolving the wheels about an azimuthal axis in the deployment mode.

According to another aspect of the invention, a phased array radar system contains a pair of radar arrays mounted on two convertibly tiltable coupled wheel frames of a trailer. The radar arrays form two geometrically opposed apertures. The two apertures may be electronically combined and are rotatable over 360 degrees. The radar array system includes a variable orientation with respect to elevation and direction of the apertures dependent upon the operational application of the system.

In yet another aspect, a method of providing a mobile radar system comprises the steps of: providing a vehicle platform and operably coupling the platform to a rotatable axle, coupling one wheel to each end of the axle, providing a housing on the platform between the wheels, mounting a first antenna about the hub portion of at least one of the wheels, coupling the platform to a vehicle to transport the antenna and housing during a transportation mode wherein the wheels roll on the ground and support the platform in response to the vehicle movement, elevating the wheels in a radar operating mode when the vehicle is not in the transportation mode, to raise the wheels above the ground, and energizing the first antenna when the wheels are raised during the radar operating mode.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Understanding of the present invention will be facilitated by consideration of the following detailed description of the preferred embodiments of the present invention taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which like numerals refer to like parts, and wherein:

FIG. 1a is a perspective view of an exemplary mobile radar array having a towable platform and trailer wheels operably coupled to the platform, with an antenna array mounted to at least one of the trailer wheels, in a transportable mode, according to an embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 1b is a perspective view of the exemplary mobile radar array of FIG. 1a in a deployment mode according to an embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 1c is a perspective view of the mobile radar array of FIG. 1a in the transportable mode attached to a towing vehicle.

FIG. 2 is a schematic front view of a rotatable radar array (with housing not shown) mounted on elevated trailer wheels according to an embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 3a is a schematic front view of a lifting jack to vertically elevate the trailer wheels according to an embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 3b is a schematic side view of a lifting jack to vertically elevate the trailer wheels according to an embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 4 is a simplified block diagram of a radar array configuration useful for implementing the radar operating mode for target detection and tracking.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

It is to be understood that the figures and descriptions of the present invention have been simplified to illustrate elements that are relevant for a clear understanding, while eliminating, for the purpose of clarity, many other elements found in radar systems and portable instrumentation and methods of making and using each of the same. Those of ordinary skill in the art may recognize that other elements and/or steps may be desirable in implementing the present invention. However,

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tion frequency can be controlled, an additional radar Doppler processing filter can be tuned to detect the vibration concurrently with the fall detection tasks while using the same basic hardware. When the vibration is detected, it is interpreted as a caregiver tag i.e., a caregiver is present. It is noted that alarm disabling can be accomplished by means other than wireless device and are in the scope of present invention. This feature is particularly effective in nursing homes where supervised activities are not subject to alarm. Similar vibrating tags vibrating at different frequencies may each be used as a marker for the radar, such as, but not limited to, a calibration device, delimiter of specific physical boundary, etc. For example, a vibrating marker can be placed in a strategic location on a bed for determining that the subject is in bed (and his relative location to the bed) or that he is exiting the bed. A bed, wheelchair, chair, etc., exit monitor can therefore be incorporated into the radar fall detector at marginal cost.

In the disclosed invention, the notification of an alarm is conveyed via a telephone line, internet connectivity or other communications that is interfaced to an external alarm system (not shown) to provide an indication, such as, but not limited to, an audible alarm, to the attending personnel. It is noted that the present invention may interface to an existing nurse-call system provided in, for example, many assisted living institutions. Further, while the present invention discloses an audible alarm, it is understood that a non-audible alarm, such as, but not limited to, for example, a visual indicator, may be employed either in place of or in addition to the audible alarm without departing from the spirit and/or scope of the invention.

Further, the present invention optionally provides for the escalation of the alarm if the attending personnel fails to respond to the initial alarm within a prescribed time period (such as, but not limited to, for example, 5 minutes). For example, when an initial alarm is issued, a higher level alarm (which may be, but is not limited to, for example, alerting the supervisor of the staff and/or placing a call to 911 for emergency help) may be issued if the staff fails to acknowledge that he/she attended to the initial alarm condition within the prescribed time period.

The invention claimed is:

1. A radar system for detecting that a subject has fallen, comprising:

a radio wave radar transmitter having one of a fixed antenna and a steerable antenna for transmitting radar signals penetrable through obstructions;
a radio wave radar receiver having one of a fixed antenna and a steerable antenna for receiving radar signals penetrable through obstructions;
a signal processor that analyzes random movements of the subject and the intensity of said random movements as a continuous function of the distance from a floor; and wherein the signal processor determines a vertical profile of the intensity of said random movements and based on said vertical profile further determines the distance of the subject relative to the floor.

2. The radar fall detector system of claim 1, wherein the signal processor further determines the rate of vertical motion of the subject relative to the floor.

3. The radar fall detector system of claim 1, wherein the radar signals comprise at least one of Ultra Wideband, Spread Spectrum and modulated wave formats.

4. The radar fall detector system of claim 3, further comprising a radar cluster containing one radar transmitter and multiple radar receivers, such that at least a two dimensional location of the subject is resolved.

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5. The radar fall detector system of claim 3, wherein the signal processor determines that a fall has occurred based on an analysis of the distribution of intensity of said random movements along a vertical axis relative to the floor.

6. The radar fall detector system of claim 3, wherein the determination that a fall has occurred is further determined by analysis of the spectral pattern over time of the activity/motion of the subject as determined by observing over time the vertical profile of the intensity of said random movements.

7. The radar fall detector system of claim 3, wherein the signal processor alerts an emergency responder via a communications link.

8. The radar fall detector system of claim 3, further comprising a receiver programmable signal gating, such that the distance over which the signal processor performs its analysis is limited to a desired maximum distance from the transmit and receive radar antennae.

9. The radar fall detector system of claim 5, where at least two receiver antennae are displaced in a proximate vertical orientation.

10. The radar fall detector system of claim 5, where at least one antennae is multiplexed such that fall detection related operations occur during some time periods and other time periods are utilized for housekeeping or alert related operations.

11. The radar fall detector system of claim 10, where said at least one antenna communicates with at least one antenna of a different fall detector system during said time periods utilized for housekeeping or alert related operations.

12. A radio wave radar fall monitoring system, comprising: a single radio wave radar fall detector unit for monitoring a volume within a premises, wherein radio waves emitted by at least one radio wave transmitter contained within said unit and received by at least one radio wave receiver contained within said unit are penetrable through obstructions;

a communications link between said radio wave radar fall detector and an emergency responder;

means for signaling the emergency responder when a fall condition has been detected within the monitored volume;

a communicator to a subject within the monitored volume wherein a false alert condition is cleared in response to a communication exchange between the subject and an emergency responder;

a signal processor that analyzes random movements of the subject and the intensity of said random movements as a continuous function of the distance from a floor; and wherein the signal processor determines a vertical profile of the intensity of said random movements and based on said vertical profile further determines the distance of the subject relative to the floor.

13. The radio wave radar fall monitoring system of claim 12, further including input ports for integration with auxiliary inputs from at least one of a voice recognition device, a voice distress analyzer, a personal emergency response system, and an image analyzer.

14. The radio wave radar fall monitoring system of claim 12, where the fall monitoring system mitigates a false alarm by a canned voice dialogue with the monitored subject before contacting the emergency responder.

15. The radio wave radar fall monitoring system of claim 12, wherein at least one transmitter and at least one receiver are multiplexed in order to implement said communications link between said radio wave radar fall monitoring system

hand jack **18** are illustrated, those of ordinary skill in the art recognize other alternative means, manners and methods of transporting and fixing the elevation for a particular application of system **100** are possible.

According to an aspect of the invention, reducing overall weight of a mobile radar is accomplished by combining the design of the radar and trailer into a single integrated package. The mobile radar system according to one embodiment includes a radar antenna array **A1** disposed on the face of a large rotatable wheel **12a**. The wheel is a vehicle wheel having a tire portion **22** and a hub portion **21** upon which the antenna array is positioned. An array can be used with one or both wheels of a two wheel trailer if additional data rates are needed. The wheels are rotatably connected to the antenna pedestal or a chassis platform such that the entire package can be towed. Similar to the design of a chariot, the integrated assembly can be towed by a vehicle connected by a hitch. The wheels can also be slanted (as shown in FIG. **1b**) if the array itself needs to be tilted for elevation coverage.

The integrated assembly configuration enables relatively short set up time. When the radar/trailer assembly is towed to the proper location, the platform base **15** is extended downward via lift mechanism **14** (such as a hydraulic jack) to the surface (e.g. ground), thereby raising the array/wheels off the ground so that they can rotate. Each array/wheel combination can then be spun slowly by hand (e.g. in the direction **R** shown in FIG. **1a**) and locked into a desired position of operation via a conventional locking mechanism (not shown). The array/wheel is connected to power and data cables from the pedestal housing **11** through for example, apertures in cross member **23** (FIG. **2**) and corresponding through apertures in the housing and the wheel hub/antenna frame mounting.

Once the wheel has been rotated to enable the appropriate radar antenna orientation (relative to horizontal axis **Y**, for example) the array may be further elevated (for example along vertical or azimuthal axis **Z**) with respect to the ground to enable appropriate clearance of the array for revolving about the azimuthal axis (**Z**). An additional antenna such as an IFF antenna **6** can also be optionally located on top of the pedestal. This can be lowered for transport and raised for operation. As seen in FIGS. **1a** and **1b** the optional IFF antenna array can be pivotally mounted on the top surface **11a** of housing **11**. The IFF array can be pivoted so that it extends vertically from the top surface and pivoted to lie in the horizontal plane when not in use or during a transportation mode.

FIG. **2** shows a front schematic view of a phase array antenna system **100** according to an exemplary embodiment, having two antenna arrays of apertures **A11**, **A22** in opposed orientations in an elevated or deployed position. The coupled wheels **12a**, **12b** attach through a mating pair of pivotable hub mounts **38a**, **38b** to respective wheel hubs **12c**, **12d** so that as axle **13** is lifted by the action of a mechanical or hydraulic jack **14**, the wheels **12a**, **12b** move (in the vertical direction) accordingly. The axle **13** is shown contained in a rotatable cross member housing **23**, which is driven through a shaft and spline **19** by a controllable motor **20**. The phase array antenna system **100** in FIG. **2** may also include antenna frames **222**, **224** mounted to the wheel hub and which contain the radiating elements **101** that form the array apertures for **A1**, **A2**, respectively, as is understood by one of ordinary skill in the art.

FIG. **2** includes two representative RF beam patterns **F1**, **F2**, each of which point in a given direction according to the position of the associated antenna, as might be desirable when tracking multiple radar targets. RF beam patterns **F1**, **F2**, may each be electronically configured for detecting long range targets or each may be electronically configured for detecting short range targets. However, one of the transmissions such as

F1 may also be directed at detecting long range targets and the other transmission such as **F2** may be directed at detecting short range targets. Suitable signal processing electronics (e.g. contained in housing **11**) is utilized for performing such target detection/tracking. Each of the pairs **A1**, **A2** have directional patterns that include a plurality of sidelobes. Each sidelobe is separated from the adjacent sidelobe, and from any adjacent main lobe, by a null in the antenna or beam pattern. Transmission lobes **F1** and **F2** emanate from apertures associated with **A1**, **A2**. The elevation angle of apertures **A11**, **A22** are oriented in position by the application of a steering or tilting system so as to position the wheels at an appropriate angle/position, as is understood by one skilled in the art.

FIGS. **3a** and **3b** are elevation views of an exemplary hydraulic lifting mechanism **25** including a jack **14** (see e.g., FIG. **1a**), to move and elevate the wheels **12a**, **12b**. The mechanism is supported by post, axle or rod **35** as attached to the trailer chassis **15** through footplate **37**. Support jacks **33** may be used in support of the trailer chassis when moving the wheels **12a**, **12b** from the rest or transport position vertically. Lifting mechanism **14** may further comprise a shroud **27** (FIG. **3b**), which preferably is formed of a steel square cross-sectioned channel. Shroud **27** is secured to lift axle **13** by welding or via a shaft and spline **19** to a plate **50**. The plate **50** may have included thereon a rotating mechanism for enabling rotation of the assembly about the **Z**-axis. Alternatively, a rotating mechanism may be disposed within the platform **15**. Operatively attached to the distal ends of axle **13** are mounts **38a**, **38b** having corresponding through holes (e.g. reference numeral **39**).

In an exemplary embodiment, wheel hubs **12c**, **12d** attach through mating mounts **38a**, **38b** respectively so that as the axle **13** is lifted by the action of a hydraulic pump assembly **41** (FIGS. **3a-3b**), the wheels **12a**, **12b** attached to the hubs **12c**, **12d** move accordingly. The powered hydraulic pump assembly **41** connects to the hydraulic cylinder **31** through connections **A**, and **B**. The cylinder has a piston which is operated when hydraulic fluid enters the cylinder, as is known. Hydraulic pump assembly **41** is in fluid communication through hoses **51**, **53** that provide and return hydraulic fluid to the cylinder **31** to supply pressurized fluid to cylinder **31** for the selective upward extension and downward retraction of the axle **13** relative to the trailer to accomplish lifting thereof.

Viewing FIG. **3a** and FIG. **1a-c**, a remote control means **58** is coupled (e.g. by a cable **59** or by a wireless connection) to the hydraulic pump assembly **41**, which includes a switchable motor control (not shown) to permit an operator to control lifting mechanism **25** while viewing the lifting operation from a safe distance from the trailer or truck **5**. The remote control means **58** may be operated via programmed control for certain radar applications. An electrical power jack **55** may be disposed in the bed of truck **5** and coupled to the electrical system **60** of truck **5** to provide electrical power to power hydraulic pump **41**. Pump assembly **41** operatively couples to jack **55** through a detachable electrical plug **56** and an electrical cable **57**. This arrangement permits the trailer and lifting mechanism **25** and its electrical power supply input to be coupled and uncoupled rapidly from truck **5**.

As previously indicated the wheels **12a**, **12b** can be oriented if the array itself needs to be tilted (e.g. for elevation coverage). Mechanisms for tilting are well known, and such mechanisms and associated control circuits may be used to oppositely tilt or cant the wheels **12a**, **12b** in relation to one another once the wheels are moved into a raised vertical position as illustrated in FIG. **3b**.

A drive system **300** for the scanning radar array assembly of **100** may be included within platform **15** and/or of footplate **37** for rotating or revolving the assembly about the Z-axis to scan a field of view. In brief, the drive system may operate to rotate post **35** (or a rotatable member or shaft within post **35**) operably coupled to cross arm member **23** in housing **11** and attached to wheels **12a**, **12b**, about the Z-axis to thereby cause the wheels and hence the corresponding antenna arrays **A1**, **A2** to revolve about the central axis (i.e. Z-axis). Drive systems for revolving an antenna array are well known. In a simplified example, the drive system may include a rotatable bullring gear, rotatably mounted to the platform **15** by way of a fixed ring portion and bearings for substantially eliminating friction between the fixed portion and the rotatable ring portion. A motor clutch (not shown) may engage the motor shaft having a pinion gear mounted thereto in order to drive the rotatable ring portion of the bullring gear, causing rotation (about the Z-axis) of the rod **14** and corresponding mount for axle **13** and/or cross member **23**, such that as the rotatable ring portion rotates, the axle and cross member and associated coupled wheel hubs **12c**, **12d**, wheels **12a**, **12b** attached thereto of radar antenna array **100** rotates or revolves radar antenna array **100** about the "Z" axis or central axis (CA). The drive operates to rotate or revolve the antenna array **100** about the Z-axis with a given angular velocity dependent upon a motor, such as an amplidyne, under the control of a motor controller at a given RPM. Rotor engagement and electrical or manual clutch parameters may be set manually set or by a controller or computer under program control (not shown). The control of a motor is well known by those skilled in the art.

In an exemplary embodiment, the system may be operated as follows. With reference to FIGS. **1a** and **1c**, in a transport mode, wheels **12a**, **12b** (on which are mounted one or more antenna arrays **A1**, **A2**) are positioned on a surface such as a road surface and rotatable about the y-axis (via cross member **23**, FIG. **2**) for rolling along the road surface. Towable platform **15** is elevated a predetermined distance from the road surface and includes a hitch for coupling to vehicle **5** (FIG. **1c**) for transporting the mobile radar array to a designated location.

When the mobile radar array arrives at the designated location, deployment of the array occurs by releasing the towable platform from the towing vehicle and activating a lift mechanism (e.g. reference numeral **14** of FIG. **1b**) for elevating the wheels containing the antenna arrays off of the road surface. In one configuration, the lift mechanism causes the platform to descend vertically to the road surface to operate as the base platform for the array. The lift may then further extend vertically to thereby elevate the wheels from the road surface. The wheels may then be rotated about the Y-axis to position the arrays **A1**, **A2** at the proper orientation and locked in place. Platform **15** may operate as a base and lift **14** operates as a central axis (Z) about which the wheels carrying the antenna arrays revolve. Activation of the antenna arrays and control of the antenna by means of a motor for revolving the antenna thereby provides 360 degree coverage. When the deployment activity is completed, the lift mechanism lowers the wheels to once again engage the road surface and retracts the platform to its nominal position for engagement (via the hitch) with the towing vehicle.

Referring now to FIG. **4** there is shown a block diagram of an exemplary array system for target detection and tracking according to an embodiment of the present invention. The system is represented as a two array system of geometrically opposed radar aperture arrays **A1**, **A2** and includes control function module **210** and a processor control logic for gener-

ating array control commands for controlling transmit and receive functions of T/R antenna elements **101** in the phased array antenna assembly. The front view of the phase array antenna system **100** has apertures **A11**, **A22**, and each may be associated with respective transmit/receive (T/R) modules (not shown). Such radiating elements may be dipoles, monopoles, and/or other such radiators as is understood in the art. Each T/R module provides the active transmit/receive electronics required to operate the antenna elements in the transmit and receive modes. In an exemplary embodiment, each T/R module comprises a circulator coupled to a variable attenuator or amplitude shifter via low noise receive amplifier. A phase shifter may be switchably coupled via a T/R switch to transmit to a high power amplifier or to a variable attenuator for operation in either a transmit or receive mode of operation.

It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that the system may be employed in various short range and/or long range radar applications. By way of example, each array aperture is configured as an aperture of $m \times n$ elements. When the system is to be operated in a short range detection/tracking mode, transmit control commands are generated from control processor **210** and are provided to each of a pair of transmit modules **202**, **212** coupled to the array. Each transmit module (**202**, **212**) includes waveform generator and exciter circuitry that transmits signals to the phased array antenna assembly and hence to each of the arrays for providing two independently steerable arrays capable of separate and/or simultaneous transmit/receive processing.

Still referring to FIG. **4**, for receive beam processing, reflected signal data is received via each of apertures **A11** and **A22** and separately processed by receiver circuitry modules **204**, **214**. Beamformer signal outputs from each array are down converted via an RF downconverter arrangement, A/D converted into digital form, and applied to produce desired beams. The signals representing the various beams are applied to signal processor logic **206**, **216** which performs target signal detection and location processing, weight calculations (including, e.g. adaptive weight calculations), antenna nulling, and other signal processing of the received waveforms as is understood by those of ordinary skill in the art. Signal processor logic may be operatively coupled to one or more memory units (not shown) for storing, retrieving and processing array information including calibration data in the form of mutual coupling coefficients, dynamic range and SNR data, transmit power and received signal strength, for example. The beamformer and signal processor modules may also include or be operatively coupled to signal detection circuitry and functionality for detecting and processing the transmitted/received signals, including detection of null conditions and threshold comparisons.

Control Processor **210** may also include or be operatively coupled to performance monitoring and fault detection circuitry for processing and identifying failed or degraded elements for later maintenance or replacement.

The output of signal processor modules **206**, **216** are fed into data processor logic **208**, **218**, which operate to perform target detection and location processing of the target data associated with each of the apertures of arrays **A1**, **A2**, and fed to a display unit **212** for displaying the information to a user.

The beamformer receiver in general provides for the application of phase shifts to each element (via phase shifters), and then sums the result. Further filtering and analog to digital (A/D) conversion may also be included. The signal processor will operate on this digital data to further filter the signal as needed, perform pulse compression, Doppler filtering, magnitude detection, and thresholding for target detection as is

well known to those skilled in the art. The data processor coupled to the signal processor will use this target detection data to form trackers which track the targets and determine target characteristics, such as trajectory, and launch and/or impact points as is well known to those skilled in the art. The control processor 210 serves to coordinate the aperture modes by providing the appropriate control functions to the array elements and the transmit/receive processing. This will include the proper phase shifts to each element during transmit and receive when transmitting and receiving the full aperture (long range) pulse or sub-aperture (short range) pulse as is understood by those skilled in the art.

The processor, memory 148 and operating system with functionality selection capabilities can be implemented in software, hardware, firmware, or a combination thereof. In a preferred embodiment, the processor functionality selection is implemented in software stored in the memory. It is to be appreciated that, where the functionality selection is implemented in either software, firmware, or both, the processing instructions can be stored and transported on any computer-readable medium for use by or in connection with an instruction execution system, apparatus, or device, such as a computer-based system, processor-containing system, or other system that can fetch the instructions from the instruction execution system, apparatus, or device and execute the instructions.

Further, it is understood that the subject invention may reside in the program storage medium that constrains operation of the associated processors(s), and in the method steps that are undertaken by cooperative operation of the processor(s) on the messages within the communications network. These processes may exist in a variety of forms having elements that are more or less active or passive. For example, they exist as software program(s) comprised of program instructions in source code or object code, executable code or other formats. Any of the above may be embodied on a computer readable medium, which include storage devices and signals, in compressed or uncompressed form. Exemplary computer readable storage devices include conventional computer system RAM (random access memory), ROM (read only memory), EPROM (erasable, programmable ROM), EEPROM (electrically erasable, programmable ROM), flash memory, and magnetic or optical disks or tapes. Exemplary computer readable signals, whether modulated using a carrier or not, are signals that a computer system hosting or running the computer program may be configured to access, including signals downloaded through the Internet or other networks. Examples of the foregoing include distribution of the program(s) on a CD ROM or via Internet download.

The same is true of computer networks in general. In the form of processes and apparatus implemented by digital processors, the associated programming medium and computer program code is loaded into and executed by a processor, or may be referenced by a processor that is otherwise programmed, so as to constrain operations of the processor and/or other peripheral elements that cooperate with the processor. Due to such programming, the processor or computer becomes an apparatus that practices the method of the invention as well as an embodiment thereof. When implemented on a general-purpose processor, the computer program code segments configure the processor to create specific logic circuits. Such variations in the nature of the program carrying medium, and in the different configurations by which computational and control and switching elements can be coupled operationally, are all within the scope of the present invention.

While the present invention has been described with reference to the illustrative embodiments, this description is not intended to be construed in a limiting sense. Various modifications of the illustrative embodiments, as well as other embodiments of the invention, will be apparent to those skilled in the art on reference to this description. It is therefore contemplated that the appended claims will cover any such modifications or embodiments as fall within the true scope of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A mobile antenna array system comprising:
 - a towable platform having a pair of wheels operably coupled thereto, said wheels adapted for rolling along a road surface; and
 - an antenna array mounted to an outer side of at least one of said wheels.
2. The mobile antenna array system of claim 1, further comprising a lift operably coupled to said platform to elevate said wheels.
3. The mobile antenna array system according to claim 2, further comprising a rotatable member that causes said antenna array to revolve about an azimuthal axis in response to rotation of said member when said wheels are elevated.
4. The mobile antenna array system of claim 3, wherein a rotatable axle is associated with each of said wheels to enable said wheels to rotate about a horizontal axis.
5. The mobile antenna array system of claim 3, further comprising a housing coupled to the platform and disposed between the wheels and containing electronic modules for controlling said antenna array.
6. The mobile antenna array system of claim 5, wherein the housing includes an axle extending therethrough, said axle operably coupled to said wheels for rotating said wheels about a horizontal axis.
7. The mobile antenna array system of claim 6, wherein the wheels are operatively coupled to a rotatable member for revolving the antenna array about an azimuthal axis.
8. The mobile antenna array of claim 2, wherein the lift comprises a hydraulic jack.
9. The mobile antenna array system of claim 1, wherein a first antenna array is mounted on an outer side of one of said wheels, and a second antenna array is mounted on an outer side of the other of said wheels.
10. The mobile antenna array system of claim 9, wherein the first and second antenna arrays are mounted to the wheels in opposed angular orientations.
11. A mobile antenna array system comprising:
 - a towable platform having wheels operably coupled thereto for rolling along the ground;
 - an antenna array mounted to an outer side of one of the wheels;
 - a lift operably coupled to the platform for elevating the wheels from the ground surface; and
 - a rotatable member for revolving the wheels about an azimuthal axis when said wheels are elevated.
12. The mobile antenna array system of claim 11, further comprising a housing containing an electronic control assembly for controlling said radar antenna array and disposed between said wheels.
13. The mobile antenna array system of claim 12, wherein said housing is operably coupled to said wheels and rotatable about said azimuthal axis when said wheels are elevated.
14. The mobile antenna array system of claim 12, further comprising a secondary antenna disposed on top of said housing.

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15. The mobile antenna array system of claim **14**, wherein said secondary antenna disposed on top of said housing is an IFF antenna.

16. The mobile antenna array system of claim **11**, wherein said lift comprises a hydraulic jack.

17. A method of providing a mobile antenna array system comprising the steps of:

providing a vehicle platform and operably coupling said platform to a rotatable axle;

coupling one wheel to each end of said axle;

mounting a first antenna about a hub portion of at least one of said wheels;

coupling said platform to a vehicle to transport said first antenna and housing, wherein said wheels roll on the ground and support said platform in response to said vehicle movement;

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elevating said wheels when said platform is stationary to raise said wheels above the ground; and

energizing said first antenna when said wheels are raised.

18. The method according to claim **17**, further including the step of revolving the wheels about an azimuthal axis when said wheels are raised.

19. The method of claim **18**, further comprising rotating the wheel about a horizontal axis to position the radar antenna array in a given orientation prior to said step of revolving.

20. The method according to claim **17**, further comprising placing antenna energizing electronics in said housing.

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