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# News

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## **FLEETWOOD GROUP AWARDED A NEW RF WIRELESS PATENT**

**Holland, MI:** Fleetwood Group has recently been notified by the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office that it is granting a new patent to the company. This newest addition to the company's intellectual property portfolio brings the total number of patents it has been awarded in the U.S. and globally to eleven (11). As a global market leader in RF wireless audience response keypads and other wireless devices, it is critical to Fleetwood Group to continue innovation in its core RF wireless technology.

Submitted in 2004, this patent application originated during the development of the company's "Reply IQ" product line. This system provides interactive communication of handheld wireless devices used in corporate meetings or interactive educational applications. The architecture defined in the new patent has been foundational for a number of new products, including a custom line of interactive learning devices for *eInstruction*<sup>™</sup> Corporation of Denton, Texas. Fleetwood Group anticipates the principles disclosed in this design will be valuable for years to come as they enable speedy and reliable communications between a base station and a large number of wireless devices.

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The title of the patent is “Wireless Polling System Using Spread Spectrum Communication.” It defines a method for communicating between a base station receiver and multiple handheld keypads by ‘hopping’ among different transmitting frequencies (typically between 15 and 75) in a pseudo-random sequence.

This design offers the following performance advantages:

1. **More reliable operation** in areas where interfering wireless signals are present. With the frequency-hopping method the system is not dependent on any one frequency so if it fails to get through on one frequency it will retry on another.
2. **Greater security against eavesdropping and interception** are an inherent benefit since it is very difficult to monitor and put together the content of transmissions spread over many frequencies. This is important for users managing sensitive information and those who are concerned about the privacy of their data.
3. Radio frequency regulations permit the spread spectrum architecture to use **higher power levels** than fixed frequency systems. Higher power levels enable the wireless signals to more effectively communicate in areas with increased levels of interference.

4. The timing structure of the transmitted signals enables a large number of wireless devices to be handled by each system while providing full two-way capability and **avoidance of signal “collisions”**.

#### About Fleetwood Group, Inc.

All wireless devices are designed and manufactured by Fleetwood Group's Electronics Division in Holland, Michigan USA. The Division has a full suite of development, testing, and manufacturing capabilities that have been honed over its more than 35 years in the RF communications field, resulting in innovative products like the Reply<sup>®</sup> Wireless Audience Response System (more info: [www.replysystems.com](http://www.replysystems.com)). The company currently produces over 1 million RF wireless devices per year in its ISO-9001 certified Holland, MI USA facility.

Fleetwood Group, Inc. is a Christ-centered, 100% Employee-Owned company with rich heritage and records of business achievement. In May 2006, Fleetwood was named by The ESOP Foundation as the #1 employee stock owned company among the approximately 2,000 wholly-owned and 11,000 partially-owned organizations in the USA (reference: ESOP Association, [www.esopassociation.org](http://www.esopassociation.org)). In April 2009, Fleetwood Group was named a finalist for *The Wall Street Journal* **Top Small Workplaces 2009** award.

For more information about Fleetwood Group's RF wireless electronics design and manufacturing capabilities please visit [www.fleetwood-electronics.com](http://www.fleetwood-electronics.com). Or call 616-396-1142 (or 800-257-6390 toll-free in USA).