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(54) **SECURITIES AUCTION SYSTEM AND METHOD**

Publication Classification

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

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A system and method of conducting a securities auction through the use of a computer network including programs and databases to be accessed by participants through the Internet using a standard browser. The seller inputs bid requests through a website that may be accessed by bidders once they are logged into the host computer network. All bids are entered into the computer and are accessible to all bidders on a real time basis as the auction proceeds. Additionally the bids and their times of entry are updated automatically as the auction proceeds so that all bidders are aware of the prices and status of all bids and whether any trades have been executed.

(21) Appl. No.: **11/564,551**

(22) Filed: **Nov. 29, 2006**

PORTFOLIO MONITOR ALERT

1. SELECT THE ACTIVITIES YOU WISH TO MONITOR

Bid Wantedes Situation offerings
 Trades Situation Bids
 Auction Items

2. SET THE AMOUNT AND FRESHNESS. MAY BE LEFT BLANK FOR ANY AMOUNT.

Amount Min Max

Freshness

3. ENTER CUSIPS TO BE MONITORED

CUSIPS may be typed in manually or pasted in a column.

4. ENTER A NAME AND CLICK SAVE/GO

Alert name

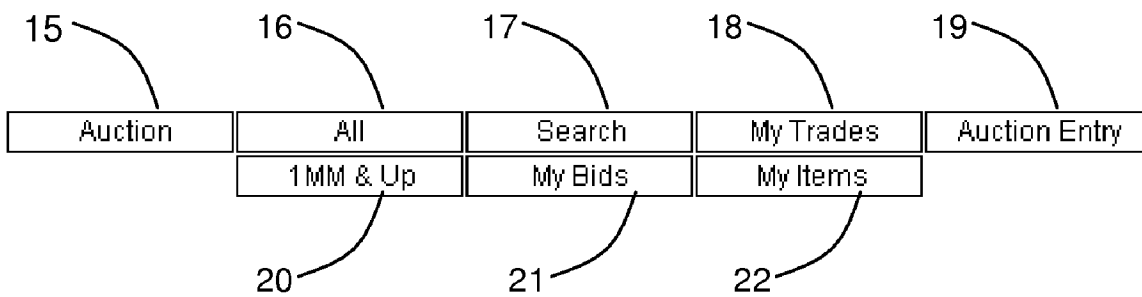
[CLICK HERE TO RESET](#)

SELECT A SAVED ALERT TO MODIFY IT, DELETE IT OR TURN IT ON OR OFF.

 This Alert is

[CLICK HERE TO SHOW MY LAST ALERTS](#)

FIG. 1



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REVIEW YOUR AUCTION LOT. IF YOU AGREE, SELECT SUBMIT CHECK BOX AND CLICK THE SUBMIT BUTTON ABOVE

PREVIEW ACCOUNT

Submit

Item #	Cusip	Armt	Sharp (EST)	Firm (EST)	WI	Settlement	Dollar Bids Only	Submit	Cancel
25021	44372LAN1	1000	1 PM	2 PM	<input type="checkbox"/>	05/31/2006	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

44372LAN1
 HUDSON CNTY NJ CORRECTIONAL FAC COP
 [MBIA] [B/E]

AAA / AAA
 DTD 05/13/2004
 F/C 12/01/2004
 UND: NW CAPITAL

PRM CALL 12/01/2013 @ 101.000
 PAR CALL 12/01/2015 @ 100.000
 MSF 12/01/2017 @ 100.000

5.250 12/01/2021
 ST NJ
 TYPE REV

MATCHING BONDS			
REF	AMT	YIELD	CONC PRICE
OFR	2020	4.100	NET 108.098

FIG. 3

39 Saved Searches

States		Min		Max		Excl.		Types	
<input type="checkbox"/> AL	<input type="checkbox"/> AK	Amount				<input type="checkbox"/> BQ	<input type="checkbox"/> Housing	<input type="checkbox"/> Insured	
<input type="checkbox"/> AR	<input type="checkbox"/> AZ	Coupon				<input type="checkbox"/> COP	<input type="checkbox"/> Hospital	<input type="checkbox"/> Uninsured	
<input type="checkbox"/> CA	<input type="checkbox"/> CO	Maturity				<input type="checkbox"/> ETM	<input type="checkbox"/> Zero's		
<input type="checkbox"/> CT	<input type="checkbox"/> DE	Call Date				<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Re	<input type="checkbox"/> High Yield	<input type="checkbox"/> AMT	
<input type="checkbox"/> DC	<input type="checkbox"/> FL	Sink Date				<input type="checkbox"/> Airport	<input type="checkbox"/> Tobacco	<input type="checkbox"/> Taxable	
<input type="checkbox"/> GA	<input type="checkbox"/> GU	Put Date				<input type="checkbox"/> Exclude		<input type="checkbox"/> Exclude	
<input type="checkbox"/> HI	<input type="checkbox"/> IA	Sharp Time	hour	min	hour				
<input type="checkbox"/> ID	<input type="checkbox"/> Exclude	Item List				<input type="checkbox"/> G.O.	<input type="checkbox"/> Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> DBL	<input type="checkbox"/> Non Callable
		Cusip							
		Description							
		Moody's	Any	Or	Any				
		S&P	Any		Any				

Trade Status: Any

Freshness: Any time

Sort by: Update Time

Time Standard: EST

Results Layout: 2 Lines

Results Set: All

Search name:

Go Save Reset Delete

FIG. 4

49
46
47
48

Securities Auction System Search Results Last updated 05/22/2006 10:30:52

45 { 1 Line Multi Line Printable Expanded Selectable }

<u>Sharp</u>	<u>Firm</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Cusip</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Coupon</u>	<u>Mat</u>	<u>Moody</u>	<u>S&P</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>High Bid</u>
N/T 09:30	09:45	4029	605579MS7	2000	MISSISSIPPI ST RFDGUT FSA N/C B/E	6.000	09/2011	AAA	AAA	MS	110.274/3.827

09:30	11:00	3027	005158TB6	20	ADA & CANYON CNTYS IDAHO E/E OY: 4.630 P 08/15/2010 @ 100.000	4.500	08/2025	AAA	NR	ID	100.146/4.460

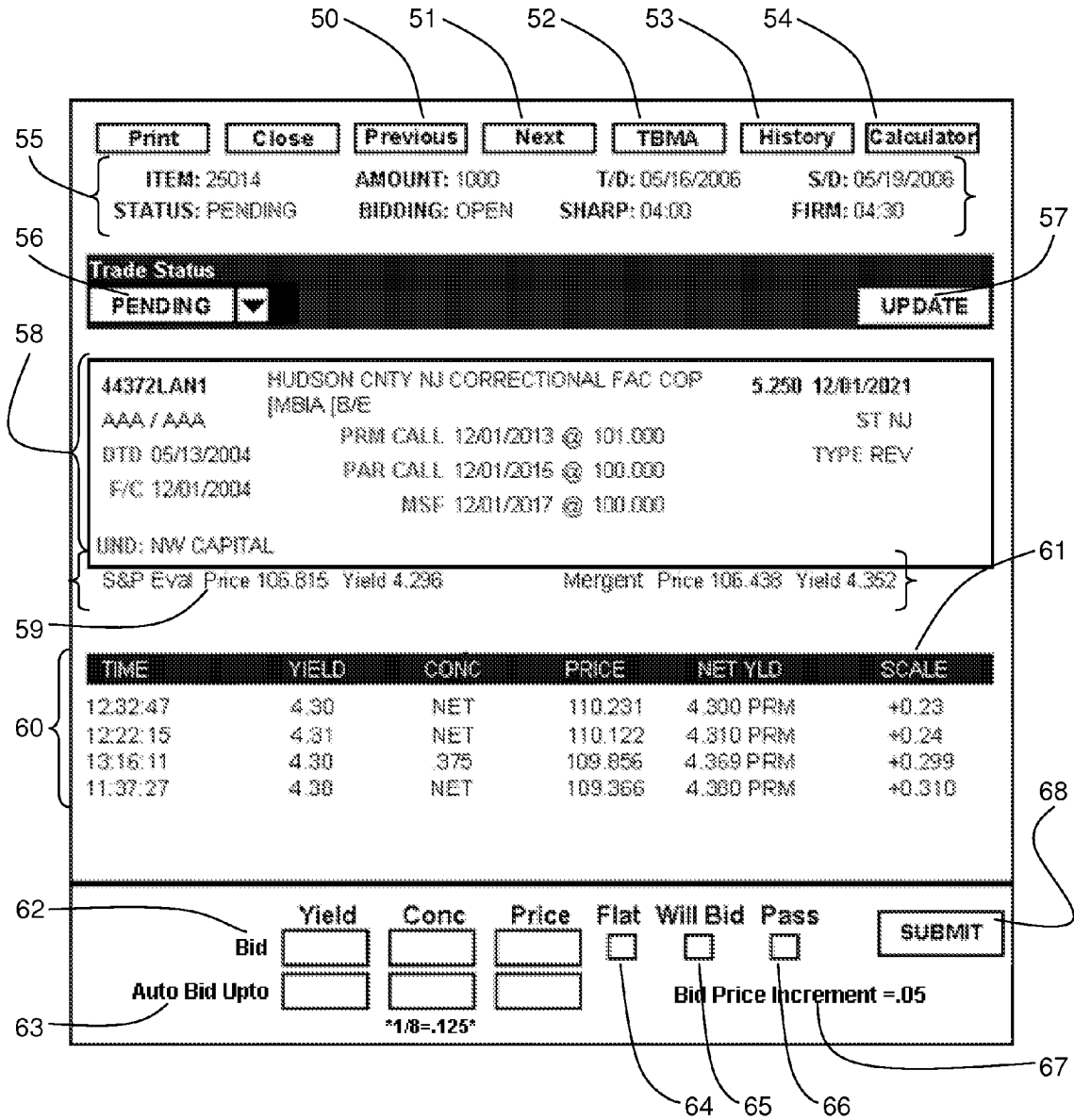
TRD 09:30	09:45	6011	792554QV2	1000	SAINT MARYS CNTY MD CNTY E/E OID OY: 5.650	5.500	10/2009	AA3	AA-	MD	106.669/3.650

TRD 09:30	11:00	27002	645916WS2	2000	NJ EDA SCH FAC CONSTR MBIA N/C B/E OY: 3.000	5.000	09/2012	AAA	AAA	NJ	106.231/3.870

TRD 09:30	11:00	27001	14760PAH8	2000	CASINO REINVESTMENT AUTH AMBAC N/C B/E OY: 3.640	5.000	01/2014	AAA	AAA	NJ	106.227/4.040

FIG. 5

FIG. 6



HISTORY SEARCH RESULTS

<u>Trade Date</u>	<u>Ord</u>	<u>Stat</u>	<u>CUSIP</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Coupon</u>	<u>Maturity</u>	<u>Yield</u>	<u>Conc</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Scale</u>
05/22/2006	OFR		717823P93	2700	PHILADELPHIA	5.000	09/01/2020	4.430	NET	103.903	+0.210
05/18/2006	OFR		717823P93	2775	PHILADELPHIA	5.000	09/01/2020	4.520	NET	103.275	+0.240
05/17/2006	OFR		717823P93	2775	PHILADELPHIA	5.000	09/01/2020	4.480	NET	103.555	+0.230
05/16/2006	OFR		717823P93	3050	PHILADELPHIA	5.000	09/01/2020	4.500	NET	103.418	+0.220
05/15/2006	OFR		717823P93	3050	PHILADELPHIA	5.000	09/01/2020	4.500	NET	103.419	+0.200
05/12/2006	OFR		717823P93	3310	PHILADELPHIA	5.000	09/01/2020	4.500	NET	103.420	+0.220
05/11/2006	OFR		717823P93	3310	PHILADELPHIA	5.000	09/01/2020	4.480	NET	103.561	+0.220
05/10/2006	OFR		717823P93	3415	PHILADELPHIA	5.000	09/01/2020	4.480	NET	103.562	+0.220
05/09/2006	OFR		717823P93	3440	PHILADELPHIA	5.000	09/01/2020	4.480	NET	103.565	+0.220
05/08/2006	OFR		717823P93	3440	PHILADELPHIA	5.000	09/01/2020	4.480	NET	103.566	+0.220
05/05/2006	OFR		717823P93	3520	PHILADELPHIA	5.000	09/01/2020	4.480	NET	103.567	+0.190
11/16/2005	OFR		717823P93	115	PHILADELPHIA	5.000	09/01/2020	4.410	NET	104.249	+0.210
Total:			34,900								

12 item(s) matched the given criteria.

FIG. 7

SAS CALCULATOR

Moody's: AAA S&P: AAA Insured: FSA S&P UND: BBB-
 PHILADELPHIA PA GAS WKS FIFTH SER A-1
 [B/E]

CUSIP Yield Concession Price

T/D DTD Int Acc Date Issue Yield

S/D F/C BP Value TaxRate

Coupon Net Yield Annual Inc TEY 7.132

Maturity Current Yield Cap Gains

CallPrm @ Duration 10.375

CallPar @ Mod Duration 10.149

Effective @ 1.306

Prepre @ 1.306

Put @ 1.306

Avg Life Calc to AL

Quantity Principal Interest Net

Reset

[View Call Schedule](#)

FIG. 8

Alerts are: Activated Saved Alerts

BID WANTED SITUATION OFFERING SITUATION BIOS MSRB AUCTION

States
AL AK AR AZ CA CO CT DE DC FL GA GU HI IA ID IL IN Exclude

	Min	Max	Exclude
Amount			
Coupon			
Maturity			
Call Date			
Sink Date			<input type="checkbox"/>
Put Date			<input type="checkbox"/>

Moody's Any Or Any Any

S&P Any Any

This Alert is On

Alert name:

Insured Uninsured

Housing Hospital

COP Zero's

ETM High Yield

Pre-Re Tobacco

AirPort Taxable

Exclude

G.O. Revenue Non Callable

Cusip List

Description

Freshness

New today

FIG. 9

FIG. 10

PORTFOLIO MONITOR ALERT

1. SELECT THE ACTIVITIES YOU WISH TO MONITOR

Bid Wanted's Situation offerings
 Trades Situation Bids
 Auction Items

2. SET THE AMOUNT AND FRESHNESS. MAY BE LEFT BLANK FOR ANY AMOUNT.

Min Max

81 Amount

82 Freshness ▼

3. ENTER CUSIPS TO BE MONITORED

83 ▲
 ▼

CUSIPS may be typed in manually or pasted in a column.

4. ENTER A NAME AND CLICK SAVE/GO

84 Alert name

CLICK HERE TO RESET 87

88 SELECT A SAVED ALERT TO MODIFY IT, DELETE IT OR TURN IT ON OR OFF.

89 ▼ This Alert is ▼

90 CLICK HERE TO SHOW MY LAST ALERTS

91

Securities Auction System Alert

sent	item	cusip	amount	description	coupon	mat	sharp	firm	yld	prc	scale
08.36	Auction	<u>548475DMS</u>	235	LOUISIANA ST GA	5.000	05/2007	02:00	03:00	4.520-net	102.752	+0.240
08.36	Auction	<u>548100NE5</u>	105	LOWER CO RYVAL	4.500	05/2022	02:00	03:00	4.555-net	98.250	+0.353
08.36	Auction	<u>235218E59</u>	40	DALLAS TX DALLA	5.000	02/2020	02:00	03:00	4.500-net	102.005	+0.200
08.36	Auction	<u>550393E96</u>	12360	NORTH LAS VEGAS	5.000	05/2030	02:00	03:00	4.520-net	103.792	+0.069
08.36	Auction	<u>235202E45</u>	30	DALLAS TX ISO S	5.000	02/2023	02:00	03:00	4.533-net	102.545	+0.293
08.36	Auction	<u>745200E22</u>	5	PR GO INFRASTRU	5.000	07/2041	02:00	03:00	4.990-net	100.000	+0.488
08.36	Auction	<u>598545LNZ</u>	500	MESA ARIZ UTIL	2.250	07/2006	02:00	03:00	3.440-net	99.870	-0.140
08.36	Auction	<u>545279W55</u>	385	LOUISIANA LOC G	4.375	03/2021	02:00	03:00	4.457-net	99.007	+0.216
08.36	Auction	<u>545279M16</u>	2185	LOUISIANA LOC G	5.375	12/2019	02:00	03:00	4.200-net	106.537	+0.020
08.36	Auction	<u>595395H33</u>	36	MELBOURNE FL WT	0.000	10/2019	02:00	03:00	4.587-net	54.583	+0.407
08.34	Auction	<u>051531B01</u>	420	AURARIA HIGHER	4.400	04/2024	02:00	03:00	4.666-net	96.792	+0.356
08.34	Auction	<u>544495K29</u>	10000	LOS ANGELES CA	5.000	07/2029	02:00	03:00	4.470-net	103.822	+0.040
08.34	Auction	<u>027634D52</u>	10	OZARK MO REORG	4.500	03/2026	02:00	03:00	4.372-net	101.000	+0.022

92

Pause Alerts
 Turn Alerts Off

93

FIG. 11

MY TRADES

PENDING TRADES | COMPLETED TRADES

TRADE	ITEM	CUSIP	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION	COUPON	MATURITY	YIELD	CONC	PRICE	NET	SCALE	TIME ENTERED
1	Sell	051531BR1	420	AURARIA HIGHER ED CT	4.400	04/01/2024	4.660	0.075	96.792	4.666	+0.356	08:34:03
2	Sell	709222BD4	200	PA TPK COM REGISTRAT	5.000	07/15/2041	3.770	NET	106.518	3.770	+0.100	08:49:45
3	Sell	516840SQ9	500	LAREDO TX ISD BLDG U	0.000	08/01/2025	5.115	NET	37.821	5.115	+0.785	08:54:40
4	Sell	56643FES6	150	MARICOPA CNTY ARIZ U	4.000	07/01/2014	4.020	0.075	99.784	4.031	+0.121	09:03:45
5	Sell	342815QB6	250	FL ST MUN LN COUNCIL	3.100	12/01/2008	3.850	0.060	98.156	3.876	+0.266	09:09:16
6	Sell	608117DJ3	510	MOHAVE CNTY ARIZ UN	4.250	07/01/2013	3.850	0.035	102.421	3.856	+0.036	09:15:38
7	Sell	138010PZ0	100	CANON MCMILLAN S/D P	0.000	12/01/2025	4.807	NET	39.574	4.807	+0.477	09:36:16
8	Sell	574192VG2	500	MD ST & LOC FAC LN-S	5.000	08/01/2012	3.740	0.060	106.833	3.751	+0.021	09:41:02
9	Sell	843146V24	1155	SOUTHERN IL UNIV RFD	5.000	04/01/2022	4.480	0.060	104.039	4.487	+0.217	09:48:46
10	Sell	64966DWX3	450	NYC RFDG-SER G UT	5.000	12/01/2019	4.430	0.060	103.946	4.438	+0.258	09:54:39
11	Sell	602366DL7	775	MILWAUKEE WI CORP PU	4.250	02/15/2020	4.570	NET	96.758	4.570	+0.350	09:55:40
12	Sell	13067JAY7	500	CA ECONOMIC RECOVERY	5.000	07/01/2012	3.780	0.055	106.532	3.790	+0.060	10:07:50
13	Sell	649716CE5	50	NYC TFA FUTURE TAX S	4.750	11/15/2023	4.600	0.125	100.412	4.635	+0.345	10:15:47
14	Buy	68641HBP8	3000	ORLANDO FL CAP IMPT	4.750	10/01/2022	4.585	0.150	100.351	4.634	+0.364	10:27:07
15	Buy	681793WB4	390	OMAHA PUB PWR DIST N	4.650	02/01/2030	4.795	0.125	97.829	4.804	+0.354	10:28:12

FIG. 12

MY BIDS

STATUS	POS	ITEM	CUSIP	AMT	DESCRIPTION	COUPON	MATURITY	YIELD	CONC	PRICE	NET	Scale	TIME
TRD	1	4030	066559AM9	230	BADGER TOB ASSET	6.375	6/1/2032	4.99	0.125	106.781	5.014	0.594	13:32:40
TRD	3	6004	399307JX6	375	GROTON-DUNSTABL	4.125	8/1/2013	3.78	0.375	101.722	3.841	0.061	14:06:08
TRD	4	25006	709141LE3	25	PA SECOND SERIE	5.25	10/1/2009	3.8	0.8	103.458	4.066	0.436	12:53:06
TRD	6	25008	165573JQ0	25	CHESTER CNTY PA	5.5	11/1/2006	3.63	0.7	99.715	6.656	3.046	12:53:20
TRD	12	25004	707483FT5	25	PENN HILLS PA RFD	5.85	12/1/2014	3.798	NET	102.6	3.798	-0.052	12:59:41
TRD	8	4033	888808AT9	10	TOBACCO SETTLEM	6.125	6/1/2042	5.384	NET	103.65	5.384	0.944	13:33:26
TRD	1	4034	888809AC4	30	TOBACCO SETTLEM	6.25	6/1/2042	5.24	0.5	104.496	5.338	0.898	13:33:38
PEND	1	25005	659868HW6	25	NORTH HILLS PA S/D	5.5	11/15/2012	3.46	0.97	101.536	4.239	0.629	13:03:48
PEND	5	4035	38122NAJ1	10	GOLDEN ST TOB SE	4	6/1/2010	4.67	1.5	96.178	5.114	1.464	13:33:58
PEND	6	5007	13077CHU1	15	CA UNIV RFDG SER	5	11/1/2023	4.3	2.4	102.88	4.612	0.372	13:35:25
PEND	5	25007	118565PE4	25	BUCKS CNTY PA UT	5.5	12/1/2010	3.46	0.98	101.612	4.221	0.611	13:03:58
PEND	1	5010	442330T48	20	HOUSTON TX RFDG	5.375	3/1/2012	3.85	2	104.324	4.32	0.61	14:27:47
PEND	3	8001	954872JC2	375	WEST ORANGE NJ	4.35	7/15/2020	4.15	0.375	101.237	4.196	0.056	13:04:57
N/T	4	5011	235308GA5	25	DALLAS TX ISD SCH	5	2/15/2023	4.496	0.5	102.684	4.574	0.334	14:28:15
N/T	1	5008	65003PAK0	20	NY URBAN DEV CO	5	1/1/2017	4	2.17	101.821	4.537	0.867	13:35:33

FIG. 13

MY ITEMS

STATUS	ITEM	CUSIP	AMT	DESCRIPTION	COUPON	MATURITY	YIELD	CONC	PRICE	NET	Scale	TIME
TRD	27029	656857BT6	10	NORFOLK VA ARPT	5.125	7/1/2031	0	NET	100.01	0	-4.41	13:19:57
TRD	4018	845530AA2	30	SOUTHWESTERN IL	5	2/1/2028	5.088	NET	98.86	5.088	0.738	13:24:44
TRD	4019	681793W43	365	OMAHA PUB PWR	4.55	2/1/2025	4.64	0.125	98.765	4.65	0.36	13:24:49
TRD	4022	263309LK0	115	DU PAGE CNTY IL	4.625	10/1/2025	4.634	NET	99.876	4.634	0.344	13:24:55
TRD	4024	850527GY2	50	SPRINGFIELD IL SER	5.25	12/1/2010	4.352	NET	101.951	4.352	0.702	13:30:48
PEND	27023	13078ALM7	40	CA STATEWIDE CM	2.9	10/1/2010	3.85	0.975	95.412	4.114	0.464	13:48:00
PEND	27020	671205XG2	100	OAK GROVE CA S/D	3.4	8/1/2013	3.917	0.1	96.768	3.366	-0.414	13:48:06
PEND	27054	544525AMD	50	LOS ANGELES CA	5	10/15/2016	-0.314	NET	103.252	-0.314	-4.274	13:59:03
N/T	6009	745145BG6	50	PR GO RFDG-PUB	5.5	7/1/2012	3.75	0.76	108.417	3.888	0.178	14:02:23
N/T	4040	056559AH0	25	BADGER TOB ASSET	5.75	6/1/2012	4.75	2	103.02	5.141	1.431	14:37:33
N/T	OFR	531575NT1	300	LIBERTYVILLE IL WTR	4.2	5/1/2020	4.22	0.325	99.462	4.252	0.112	14:02:45
N/T	8007	5386024B6	45	LIVINGSTON CNTY MI	4	5/1/2014	3.9	1.16	99.497	4.076	0.226	14:28:59
N/T	8005	5386024A8	15	LIVINGSTON CNTY MI	4	5/1/2013	3.85	2.14	98.737	4.217	0.437	14:28:37

FIG. 14

SECURITIES AUCTION SYSTEM AND METHOD

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] Not Applicable

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT

[0002] Not Applicable

REFERENCE TO A SEQUENCE LISTING, A TABLE, OR A COMPUTER PROGRAM LISTING COMPACT DISC APPENDIX

[0003] Not Applicable

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0004] The present invention pertains to a method and system for trading financial securities or instruments, and more specifically to the web based solicitation, collection and transparent real time dissemination of bids on specific lots of securities.

[0005] Traditional methods of trading securities vary among the types traded. Most common is the two-sided market or quoted market. With this method market makers express a bid and or offer side on a specific security. That market is then disseminated electronically, verbally or in print to other interested parties who may add to or act upon the market. This method of trading works well in actively traded securities such as equities or US Treasuries. There are other less actively traded securities markets where the liquidity required for this method to be effective is not readily available. Those markets have developed alternative methods of trading.

[0006] In the US municipal bond market, there are in excess of 1,200,000 unique securities outstanding, each identified by a CUSIP number, comprising obligations of approximately 50,000 issuers. CUSIP is the acronym for Committee on Uniform Securities Identification Procedures. On average approximately 17,000 unique securities trade daily. Due to market supply and demand those may vary on a daily basis. It is not feasible to expect active markets on all municipal securities. In response to this circumstance the US municipal bond market employs two additional methods of trading.

[0007] Dealers and brokers compile lists of offerings on lots of bonds that are available for purchase at a specified price. They disseminate these lists verbally, in print or electronically to other market participants, who in turn may enter into negotiation to purchase all or part of said lot. These lists are commonly referred to as offering lists or offering runs. They are available on various trading platforms and from information service providers as well as being distributed verbally and by e-mail.

[0008] The second additional method of trading employed in the US municipal bond market is "Bid Wanted". Prior art for this method can be traced back to 1949 with the formation of J.J. Kenny & Co. a municipal securities broker's broker. In this process the potential seller will solicit a bid through a "broker's broker" [inter-dealer broker or "IDB"]. To protect the anonymity of parties involved the broker conducts the process acting as an agent on an undisclosed basis. The seller maintains the right to determine if the bonds will trade. This method may be carried out verbally, electronically or via a

hybrid method combining voice and electronic trading. In this process bids are only disclosed to the seller.

[0009] Legal and regulatory requirements imposed by the NASD and the SEC seek "best price" execution and more open methods of trading. In markets where obtaining the "best price" for securities that may be inactive or infrequently traded, this presents a unique challenge.

[0010] The availability of market data alone does not ensure transparency. The open dissemination of this data is a demanding task of its own. Obtaining dynamic updating of securities markets on a computer requires the use of a dedicated terminal or of a program installed on the end user's computer. Dedicated terminals are expensive and take up valuable desktop space. The use of a program has several inherent problems evident in the areas of connectivity and network security. In many cases there are changes required to the end users network infrastructure and or security policies for the program to work properly. The use of client side software also presents the problem of maintenance. Upgrades or modifications to the program require users to re-install or update the software residing on the client, a time consuming and therefore expensive process. U.S. Pat. No. 6,876,309 issued Apr. 5, 2005 to David Lawrence discloses a computer implemented bond trading system for a private electronic auction conducted by a broker between multiple bidders and a seller whose identity is undisclosed. Although the broker's computer system receives the bids and determines the high bid, the bids are not disclosed to the various bidders or participants, and there is no provision for automatically updating the bids on a computer screen visible to all bidders in real time as the auction proceeds.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0011] It is an object of this invention to provide a novel method and system for trading securities that address legal and regulatory requirements while permitting easy, open, dynamic access to the system and the data derived from it. Another object of the present invention is to provide a novel and improved system for trading securities, which may use electronic, computer, Internet and web media procedures, components, and systems readily available in the market.

[0012] With the application of web based technologies such as remote scripting and "AJAX" [asynchronous java script and XML] a combination of web technologies that provides for the dynamic update of web page content, the present invention provides a price transparent dynamic securities auction system which can be implemented on a web site for use in the securities markets. This method provides an auction where all bids are displayed and accessible to all bidders as the auction proceeds so that a bidder has knowledge of competing bids to help decide when and how much to bid, if at all, during the auction. Additionally, in accordance with the present invention, the bids are automatically updated on a real time basis as the auction proceeds. Thus the method and system of the present invention improves the knowledge and transparency of an electronic securities auction and effectively eliminates network, connectivity and maintenance problems encountered with prior methods, creating a novel and innovative trading method and system previously unknown.

[0013] Access to the system requires no special software. The client side requires a standard JavaScript enabled web browser such as Internet Explorer, Firefox or Netscape to provide dynamic data transfers between the system and the

end user. The databases and programs utilized by the system reside on a host computer network accessed by users over a connection established via the Internet or a dedicated private circuit. An individual login permitting only single sign on is required and all data transfer is encrypted.

[0014] Once logged on a user may search the database of available auction items by various criteria specific to the type of security traded. Bids associated with each auction item are displayed on a results screen and updated dynamically while a bidder, seller or other participant views the page. The user may enter items for auction by means of a web form on which they provide an amount, CUSIP, or other unique identifying number, a time for the auction deadline time [sharp time] and a time by which the determination of trade will be made by the seller [firm time]. They may also enter bids on auction items by means of another web form that provides detailed information pertaining to the security for auction and the specifics of the particular auction. This form is referred to as the "Auction Detail". In another embodiment of the present invention, the auction is conducted under the condition that the highest bidder at the auction deadline time buys the securities at the highest price bid. Provided that the price is equal to or greater than a predetermined will trade price that is set by the seller at the time the auction item is submitted. In other words, a trade is deemed to have occurred with the highest bidder existing as of the auction deadline time provided that the will trade price has been reached.

[0015] The system includes a user configurable alert feature that provides users with real-time notification of system activity along with dynamic updates as to the status of auction items the user may be looking to sell or buy. Each alert contains a link to the "Auction Detail" for the item where all bids are visible and dynamically updated. The "Auction Detail" also contains links to historical trade, auction and offering data on the security up for auction. The openness of the bidding process, specifically the ability to view all bids while the auction is in progress is a unique and novel aspect of the system.

[0016] In most instances the operator of the securities auction system of the present invention would be required to be registered as a broker dealer who complies with regulation ATS or as an exchange with the SEC

[0017] The operator of the Securities Auction System will act as a contra party on all trades to both seller and buyer. All users remain anonymous thus protecting their market activity from other competitive participants while all prices are visible enhancing the transparent aspect of the system.

[0018] Execution of a trade which is at the discretion of the Seller, may take place electronically via a direct link to the seller or buyer's operations system making use of straight through processing [STP] or verbally through the operators trading desk. Other objects and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following more detailed description taken in conjunction with the attached drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0019] FIG. 1 is a view of the navigation structure of the system

[0020] FIG. 2 is a view of the Auction Entry Screen. This screen provides a form on which users may submit requests for bids on auction items.

[0021] FIG. 3 is a view of the Auction Entry Confirmation Screen. This screen provides the seller of an auction item the

ability to verify the description and specifications of the item before final submission. The screen also shows matching bonds available in other parts of the "complete trading system" if applicable.

[0022] FIG. 4 is a view of the Auction Search Screen. This screen provides the user with the interface to search the database of current auction items by specific criteria relevant to the type of security or item up for auction. The example is specific to municipal bonds. The search criteria on the screen would vary according to the specific features of the type of security. The screen also provides options for the format in which the results are displayed.

[0023] FIG. 5 is an example of the results presented from the Auction Search Screen. The result screen presented is the preferred default format specific to municipal bonds. There would be multiple formats available depending on user preference. All results screen formats would contain descriptive information and the current high bid or trade price. The high bid will update dynamically when a new high bid is submitted.

[0024] FIG. 6 is a view of an Auction Detail. This screen shows all the information pertinent to the auction item including all bids made on the item time stamped and listed in order dynamically updated. It provides links to other available functions and the form on which a bidder may submit a bid. The seller may also submit sell orders from this screen.

[0025] FIG. 7 is a view of the History available from a link on the Auction Detail. This is historical data derived from the system or the "complete trading system", if applicable, on the specific auction item. The data contains all bids, offerings, bid Wanted and Auction Items entered or transacted on the system for the specific security.

[0026] FIG. 8 is a view of the Calculator available from a link on the Auction Detail and from a link on the price of each item on the results page. The calculator performs up to 20 calculations at once and provides links to additional data on sinking fund and call schedules for each security. The example is specific to municipal bonds.

[0027] FIG. 9 is a view of the Program Alerts Screen. This screen provides the interface for the user to program the system using specific criteria to deliver notification of system activity.

[0028] FIG. 10 is a view of the Portfolio Monitor Alert Screen. This screen provides an alternate interface for the user to program alerts. It is designed to permit monitoring the system for activity on a specific portfolio by either CUSIP or other identifying number.

[0029] FIG. 11 is a view of the Alerts Pop-up Screen. It displays information corresponding to alerts programmed in the Program Alert Screen or the Portfolio Monitor Alert Screen as well as system generated alerts pertaining to the users activity.

[0030] FIG. 12 is a view of the My Trade's Recap Screen. This screen displays a users trade activity for the day.

[0031] FIG. 13 is a view of the My Bid's Recap Screen. This screen displays a users bid activity for the day.

[0032] FIG. 14 is a view of the My Item's Recap Screen. This screen displays a users Auction requests for the day.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0033] Referring to the drawings in detail there is shown for illustrative purposes only a securities auction system in accordance with preferred embodiments of the present invention which leverages current web based technologies to provide

for the dynamic update of content within a web page to achieve transparent trading and best price execution in the market place. Although the present invention is particularly useful in the secondary US municipal securities market, the invention may be adapted to virtually any type of financial instrument or security. The invention is particularly useful for trading in over-the-counter markets or in inactively traded securities where obtaining the best price for the security may present a difficult challenge. The preferred embodiment described herein pertains to the U.S. municipal securities market but it will be apparent that the present invention may be applied to other markets both domestic and foreign.

[0034] The system includes databases and programs that reside on a host computer network having one or more servers and other standard network apparatus (henceforth referred to as the server side) and various web pages that contain static and dynamic HTML and scripts that are accessed by users with a standard java-script enabled web browser on a computer via the internet or through a proprietary direct connection (henceforth referred to as the client side). No additional software downloads or installs are required on the client side. Dynamic update of content on the client side is accomplished with remote scripting, a process where a script contained in the client web page initiates a connection to the server side to receive a file that is created by a program on the server side that contains updated data relevant to the specific component of the client web page. That specific component is then updated without refreshing or reloading the entire web page. As new technologies and methods emerge in web design and programming the operator will take advantage of them to improve performance of the system.

[0035] The Securities Auction System of the present invention is intended to operate as an Exchange or Alternative Trading System (ATS) registered with the Securities Exchange Commission (SEC). It may also function as a stand-alone system or be part of a "complete trading system" implemented by an operator. The system may be used to trade in a fully electronic fashion or in a hybrid method, which uses a combination of electronic trading and traditional voice brokering. The graphic user interfaces (GUI) described herein provide access to insert and update the databases and to view the data in the system. Alternately, a user of the system may receive data and make inserts or updates by means of a direct data feed with the system. This method may be preferred by some securities dealers or sophisticated investors who utilize proprietary trading systems to aggregate market data. Regardless of the method, all inserts and updates to the database are recorded in a log file to provide a permanent record of activity in the system.

[0036] Access to the securities auction system is accomplished by navigating to a web site where a username and password are entered. The login is restricted to a single concurrent sign in. If access is attempted from a second location using the same username and password it is denied. Data transfer between the server and client is encrypted using Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) encryption.

[0037] Navigation of the system is accomplished from a menu on a web page that is displayed after login. Referring to FIG. 1, in one embodiment of the securities auction system where the invention is implemented as a stand-alone trading system the only button or link to appear may be the Auction button 15. The other buttons 16 thru 22 would appear as drop down or expanded menu options from Auction button 15. The All button 16 initiates a search of the database for all Auction

Items for the day. Search button 17 links to a web page with the Auction Search Screen (FIG. 4). My Trades Button 18 initiates a search for all trades executed by the logged in user during the current trading session and returns results as displayed in (FIG. 12). Auction Entry button 19 links to a web page with the Auction Entry Screen (FIG. 2). 1 MM & Up button 20 initiates a search of the database for all Auction Items for the day with a par value of \$1,000,000 or more. My Bids button 21 initiates a search for all bids made by the logged in user during the current trading session and returns results as displayed in (FIG. 13). My Items button 22 initiates a search for all Auction Items entered by the logged in user during the current trading session and returns results as displayed in (FIG. 14). The functions the buttons initiate or the web pages they link to may vary depending upon the embodiment of the system. For example if the system were implemented in Emerging markets there may be a button labeled "Argentina" that would initiate a search of the database for the current list of available auction items for securities that were issued by the country of Argentina. The function of other optional buttons would be apparent to those skilled in the art of the particular securities market that the system was implemented in.

[0038] Bid requests for auction items may be entered using the Auction Entry Screen (FIG. 2). The fields listed are required fields for municipal bonds and may vary depending upon the type of security the system is used to trade. To request a bid from the system enter a CUSIP for the security in the CUSIP field 23 and an amount that represents the par value of the item you are submitting in the Amt field 24. Amounts are entered in terms of thousands for example 100 represents \$100,000.00 in par value of bonds. Select a Sharp time from the drop down menu 25. This is the time the auction will close and all bidding will be cut off. Select a firm time from the appropriate drop down menu 26. This is the time bids will be considered released. The seller has until the firm time to determine if the securities will trade. All bids are considered firm until the firm time is reached. It is the bidders option to accept or decline any trade request submitted after the firm time. Special Settlement field 27 is to specify a non-regular settlement date for the auction item. Regular settlement for municipal bonds is trade date plus 3 days and will be assumed if this field is left blank unless the security is WI (When Issue), which will be discussed latter. Dollar Bids only field 28 is to be used by the seller to restrict bidding to bids entered in a dollar price format. With this field checked yield based bids will not be accepted by the system. This is common practice for pre-refunded bonds where there may be defeased calls prior to the refunding date or for securities that do not accrue interest such as a bond that is in default. When the form is complete click on the Submit button 27 on top of the page. The account name or firm that the logged in user represents is displayed on the top of the form 29.

[0039] Upon submission of the Auction Entry Form a program on the server side creates a description for each security for which a bid is being requested. The system maintains a CUSIP master database that contains complete descriptive data on all municipal securities. This database, which is licensed from an information vendor is stored on the host network and is updated daily or on an intra-day basis, depending on the provider and the license purchased. When an auction item is inserted into the system, specified data fields are retrieved from the CUSIP master database and are stored in a daily CUSIP table. The Auction entry program checks this

table first for the CUSIP record. If a record is found it is checked against the CUSIP master. If any differences are found a choice is provided to the user as to which description to utilize. If no record is found in the daily CUSIP table, the CUSIP master is referenced. This is done to enhance the performance of the auction entry process, ensure consistent descriptions and utilize the most current available descriptive data. An auction item is then created. Relevant data components are stored in the auction table and a unique identifying reference number is assigned to the item. Upon completion of this process the auction confirmation screen (FIG. 3) is returned.

[0040] The auction confirmation screen (FIG. 3) provides for review of the auction specifics and descriptive data prior to final insert of the item. Referring to FIG. 3, the description of the auction item **31** is displayed. It contains elements deemed important in determining the value of the security arranged in a format that one familiar with the specific securities market would easily interpret. To ensure the validity of the description the user may not modify it. Occasionally errors in the source data occur. In such instances, with consultation and consent from the listing client, the operator of the system using an administrative function may modify descriptive data. The particulars of the auction item **32** may be modified on the client side. The CUSIP master contains a When Issued indicator. The WI check box **33** will be appropriately marked automatically by the system if the securities are When Issued. This is the one data field derived from the CUSIP record the client may modify. Upon satisfactory review of the item check the Submit check box **34** and click the submit button **36** to enter the item. To cancel submission check the Cancel check box **35** and click the submit button **36**. The auction entry program also performs a search of the system or the complete trading system if applicable for matching securities by CUSIP. If found they are displayed on the auction review screen. The amount, yield, concession, price and type of item are shown **37**. In this example the matching bonds are an offering found in the complete trading system.

[0041] Searching for auction items in the system is accomplished with the Auction Search Screen (FIG. 4). Using this screen you may also create, save, modify or delete searches. The fields contained in the criteria section **38** of the search screen, where not self-explanatory are evident to those familiar with the type of security traded. To perform a search enter the desired criteria and click the Go button **41**. To save a search enter the desired criteria along with a name for the search in the Search name field **40** then click the Save button **42**. To retrieve a saved search, select it from the Saved Searches drop down menu **39**. Once retrieved to execute the search click the Go button **41**. To delete the search click the Delete button **44**. To modify a search first retrieve it using the Saved search dropdown menu **39**, make the desired changes to the search criteria **38** in the appropriate fields and click the Save Button **42**. The newly selected criteria will overwrite the criteria of the existing search. The Reset button **43** will blank the entire form.

[0042] Upon submission of the search criteria the database is queried and results are returned on the results screen (FIG. 5). There may be multiple result formats available depending on the securities traded and the preferences of the user. These alternate result formats may be viewed by clicking on the links **49** on the results page, however the results will always contain certain elements and will be updated dynamically without a page refresh as new auction items that match the

criteria are submitted to the system. Along with the security description, which may vary in detail, each item displays the current status of the auction **45** updated dynamically. In the example “N/T” indicates no trade. No status indicates the item is open for bidding and “TRD” indicates the item has traded. Results are also color coded to indicate different status. The reference or item number **46** is also displayed for every item. The CUSIP **47** is always displayed and provides a link to the Auction Detail screen (FIG. 6). The current high bid **48** is displayed for each item and dynamically updated as new bids are entered into the system. The display of the high bids and the dynamic updating of bids along with certain other data elements of the results page are novel features of the securities auction system of the present invention.

[0043] The Auction Detail screen (FIG. 6) brings all the data relevant to a single item together. As previously noted the screen is accessed by a link from the CUSIP on the results screen. The series of buttons along the top of the screen **50** thru **54** provide links to additional data. Previous button **50** and Next button **51** displays the previous or next item detail in the search results. TBMA button **52** provides a link to “The Investing in Bonds” web site where the MSRB (Municipal Securities Rule-making Board) trade history for the specific security is displayed. The History button **53** displays historical data (FIG. 7) derived from the auction system or the complete trading system, if applicable, on activity for the specific security such as a bid, offering, market or prior Auction item that may or may not have traded. Data retrieved here is proprietary to the system and may not be available from any other source. Calculator button **54** links to the securities calculator (FIG. 8) preloaded with the description and elements of the specific security. The particulars of the auction item **55** are listed next. The data displayed here is clearly labeled. The status of an item may be updated from the Trade Status drop down menu **56**. The options available are Pending, No Trade, Sold or Traded Away. The later indicates the securities traded away from the auction system and are no longer available. This status may only be updated by the listing client who accomplishes this by selecting a status from the Trade Status drop down menu **56** then clicking on the Update button **57**. When an item has been marked Sold the trade Status Drop down Menu automatically adjusts and may not be modified. A message is sent to the high bidder, via the alert system, to notify them of their purchase. As discussed earlier all bids are firm until the firm time. A condition of bidding on an auction item obligates the high bidder to accept the trade up to the firm time. Trades may be executed after said time through the operators trading desk. A concise description of the security **58** is included on the auction detail. It contains data elements deemed relevant to the pricing of the security. In this embodiment the detail displays independent price evaluations **59** from two sources. This data is for information only and is intended to aid a bidder in setting their bid price. It is an independent parties appraisal of the value of the security. This data is available at a fee from the provider and requires a license for re-distribution. The bid display (**60**) lists all bids in high to low order. Yield and concession bids are converted to price and net yield; price bids are converted to net yield. Each bid is time stamped with the time the bid was entered. In the event of a tie high bid the first bid entered will be considered the high bid. The Scale column **61** indicates the spread of the net yield of each bid to a bellwether yield curve for the market such as MMD, MMA or S&P yield curves in the municipal market.

[0044] Bids are entered on the bottom of The Auction Detail screen (FIG. 6). Bids may be entered in yield, yield and concession or price. A bid may be submitted by entering a Yield with or without concession or a price in Bid row 62 then clicking the submit button 68. A bid entered here must be greater than or equal to the current high bid plus the Bid Price Increment 67. The Bid Price Increment 67 is set by the system when the item is inserted. It is dictated by the par value and maturity of the item with shorter maturities and larger amounts having smaller bid price increments. A bid may be increased at any time but may not be lowered or withdrawn without good cause. The system administrator only may lower or withdraw a bid. A bidder may specify a bid is flat 64 (calculated without accrued interest) or may submit a "Will Bid" 65 to indicate an interest in bidding the item at a later time or a "Pass" 66, to indicate no interest in bidding the item, by checking the appropriately labeled check box. If "Will Bid" 65 is selected the system will send an alert to the potential bidder 10 minutes prior to the Sharp time for the item. When entering a bid in Auto Bid Up To row 63 the system will automatically insert a bid equal to the current high bid plus the Bid Price Increment 67 not exceeding the level entered, and thereafter automatically increase your bid, any time it is topped out, by the Bid Price Increment 67 or multiples thereof until it is high, not exceeding the Auto Bid Up To level. The Bid 62 and Auto Bid Up To 63 fields may be used in conjunction to enter an initial bid at a level greater than the current high bid, plus the Bid Price Increment 67 that will be increased up to the Auto Bid Up To level by the Bid Price Increment or multiples thereof when necessary to top out another bid, not exceeding the Auto Bid Up To level. The Auto Bid Up To level is considered confidential and not displayed to other participants in the auction.

[0045] As previously noted the system contains dynamically updated components. Certain data on viewed pages updates in real time. The prices and auction status on the detail are among those elements. The program used to accomplish this is the "Alerts" program. When a client loads a page that contains a dynamically updated component a script in that page sends a message to the alert program on the server side subscribing to updates to those specific elements. This program is also used to send round up messages (described above in paragraph 41), trade messages or other messages, which may be triggered by client activity or automatically generated by the system, to the client. Additionally there are two graphic user interfaces (GUI's); the program alerts screen (FIG. 9) and the portfolio monitor alert (FIG. 10) provided for this program that permit the client to configure alerts to monitor specific activity in the securities auction system or the complete trading system.

[0046] The program alerts screen (FIG. 9) provides an interface for the user to configure, save and modify alerts that monitor system activity. The criteria fields 69 are similar to the criteria fields 38 on the auction search screen (FIG. 4). Where not self-explanatory the criteria are evident to those familiar with the type of security traded. To configure and save an alert select the type of activity you wish to monitor in the top row 70 in the criteria section 69. The types of activities available here may vary with the type of security traded. Then specify the criteria for the data elements of the securities to be monitored in the criteria section 69. This section of the screen contains a CUSIP List field 71 into which you may type or paste a list of up to 5000 CUSIPs to be monitored. Next enter a name for the alert in the Alert name field 75 and click the

Save/Go button 76. The Reset button 77 will blank the entire form. To modify a saved alert select it from the saved alert dropdown menu 74. When retrieved the criteria of the alert will fill in the form where it may be modified. When modified the changes may be saved by clicking on the Save/Go button 76. To delete a saved alert select it from the Saved Alerts dropdown menu 74 then click the delete button 78. Individual alerts may be turned on or off by retrieving the alert from the Saved Alert drop down menu 74 then setting the "This Alert is" dropdown menu 72 to the desired option. The alert program may be deactivated for the signed on user by selecting the "turned off" option from the "Alerts are" dropdown menu 73. This option will turn off client configured alerts but not the updating of dynamic content within the system. The Alert popup screen (FIG. 11) may be retrieved by clicking on the "Show my last alerts" link 79.

[0047] The Portfolio Monitor Alert screen (FIG. 10) contains selective functionality from the program your alerts screen (FIG. 9). It is designed to provide a condensed method for the client to configure alerts to monitor system activity for a specific portfolio defined by CUSIP. Instructions to use the screen are visible on the form. 1-Select the activities you wish to monitor 80. 2-Set the amount 81 and freshness 82. 3-Enter CUSIPS 83. 4-Enter a name 84 and click Save/Go 85. Alerts may be modified or deleted by retrieving the alert from the Saved Alerts dropdown menu 88. Make the desired changes then click Save/Go 85 or to delete click the delete button 86. Once retrieved an individual alert may be turned on or off by selecting the desired option from the "This Alert is" dropdown menu 89. To retrieve the Alert popup screen (FIG. 11) click on the "Click here to show my last alerts" link 90 on the bottom of the form.

[0048] In the described embodiment of the present invention Alerts are presented in a popup window (FIG. 11). When an event that matches the desired user configured criteria or a system-generated event directed to the client occurs a window that contains a message will popup on the client side. These alerts notify the client of new items entered into the system or a change in status of items they have bid on or entered a "Will Bid" on as well as updates to bids on items they have submitted for auction. The alert system also provides a method to monitor overall market activity through a data feed provided by the MSRB (Municipal Securities Rule-making Board) of reported trades in the municipal securities market. The CUSIP number 91 is a link to the Auction Detail (FIG. 6) for the item. The Alert Screen may be left open in which case it will behave like a vertical ticker with the most recent alerts appearing at the top of the screen scrolling down, as new ones are received. If the alert screen is closed it will popup again when a new alert is received. The Pause Alert button 92 on the top of the alert screen will stop the screen from updating. This feature is useful during times of heavy market activity where the number of alerts may be too great to follow effectively. Alerts may be resumed by clicking on the button a second time. When resumed all alerts you would have received during the pause will be sent. Clicking on the Turn Alerts Off button 93 will turn off alerts. To turn alerts back on you must use the Alerts are activated dropdown menu 73 on the program alerts screen (FIG. 9). In an alternate embodiment alerts may be presented in a frame on a web page. The frame may fill part of the page or may be hidden or expanded to fill the entire page. With the addition of a GUI to provide clients a free form field into which text may be

entered the alert system may be utilized as an instant message system between logged-in clients.

[0049] The following is a summary of one example of an auction from start to finish. A securities dealer or other authorized customer of the operator of the Securities Auction System who desires to sell a block of securities, at a market price yet to be determined, would access the operators web site and using the navigation structure (FIG. 1) click on the Auction Entry button (19) to access the auction entry screen (FIG. 2) The potential seller then enters the CUSIP of the securities in the CUSIP Field (23), the par value of the lot in the Amount Field (24) and selects a Sharp Time, the time at which bids are due and further bidding on the auction will be closed, from the Sharp drop down (25), and a Firm Time, the time till which all bids are considered firm, from the Firm drop down (26). If the seller requires a special settlement date it is entered into the special Settlement field (27). If the seller would like to request that bids be entered only in the dollar price format check the Dollar Bids Only check box (28). With this information completed the potential seller then clicks on the Submit button (30).

[0050] The next step in the auction entry process is to verify the data entered before final submission to the system. Upon clicking the Submit button (30) the Auction Entry Confirmation Screen (FIG. 3) is returned. The potential seller reviews the description of the security (31) and the parameters of the auction (32). When satisfied check the Submit check box (34) then click the Submit button (36). An auction item has been created and is available to potential bidders for review.

[0051] Potential bidders may become aware of an item of interest using several methods. They may conduct a manual search of auction items using the Auction Search Screen (FIG. 4) Enter the criteria for the characteristics of the securities in which you have interest in the criteria search fields (38) and click the Go button (41). Searches may be saved. To implement a saved search select it from the saved search drop down (39) and click the Go button (41). In either instance you will be presented with the Auction Search Results screen (FIG. 5). Alternately a potential bidder may become aware of an item of interest through the alert system.

[0052] Alerts are programmed on the Program Alerts Screen (FIG. 9) or the Portfolio Monitor Alert Screen (FIG. 10) and monitor the system for items of interest to the user. When an item, that matches the criteria of a pre-programmed alert, is entered into the system a message in the form of the Alerts Pop-up Screen (FIG. 11) is sent to the user.

[0053] By whatever means a potential bidder becomes aware of an Auction the bidding procedure is the same. The CUSIP (47) on the Auction Search Results screen (FIG. 5) and (91) on the Alerts Pop-up Screen (FIG. 11) is a link to the Auction Detail (FIG. 6). A bidder may enter a bid in the bid entry field (62) and click Submit button (68). A detailed description of the process is discussed above in paragraph [0041]. Other functionality of the detail screen is discussed above in paragraph [0040].

[0054] All parties, whether participating or not, may monitor the progress of the auction. At the sharp time a message is sent to the potential seller via the alert system that the auction has closed. The message contains a link to the Auction Detail (FIG. 6). The seller reviews the bids on the auction detail (FIG. 6) and decides to trade the securities by changing the trade status drop down (56) to Sold and clicking the update

button (57). A message is then sent to the high bidder via the alert system that they have successfully won the auction and have purchased the securities.

[0055] Although a preferred embodiment of the present invention has been shown and described above, variations, adaptations and modifications of the present invention will become apparent to those skilled in the pertinent art but without departing from the scope of the present invention, which is indicated in the appended claims.

What I claim as my invention is:

1. A method of conducting a securities auction including the steps of using a website on the internet to list the securities for sale and request bids from participants to buy the securities, displaying on a website bids from the participants for buying the securities including the price of the bids such that the bids including the bid prices are available to all participants during the auction, and updating on the website information pertaining to the auction including whether or not the securities were purchased by a participant.

2. The method defined in claim 1 including the step of updating the amount and price of new bids in real time on a computer screen accessible to all bidders or participants as the auction proceeds.

3. The method defined in claim 1 including the step of providing a host computer network including a computer having databases and programs to be accessed by participants or bidders through a connection established through the internet.

4. The method defined in claim 3 including the steps of displaying and dynamically updating auction bids on a computer screen accessible to all participants or bidders as the auction proceeds.

5. The method defined in claim 4 including the step of searching on an auction search screen through a database of available auction items specific to the type of security traded.

6. The method defined in claim 5 including the step of accessing an auction detail screen of the computer network showing all bids made in price order and other information pertinent to the auction and including links to other functions concerning the auction or the securities being auctioned, and further including forms for submitting bids and forms for selling orders.

7. The method defined in claim 6 including the step of accessing a program alert screen for notification of activity pertaining to the auction including activity of participants or specific portfolios.

8. The method defined in claim 3 including the step of accessing the computer network using a standard Java script enabled web browser.

9. The method defined in claim 3 including steps wherein the Seller executes a trade and wherein the sale of the securities is recorded on a screen accessible to all participants or bidders.

10. A securities auction system including a computer having a program for requesting bids from participants using the internet, said program having means for displaying bids from participants on a screen for access by all participants during an auction, and means for automatically updating all bids on the screen on a real time basis such that all participants have access to all the bids as the auction proceeds.

11. The system defined in claim 10 wherein said computer has databases and programs for searching information on the securities and auction, and for alerting participants as to activity pertaining to the auction.

12. The system defined in claim **11** wherein said databases and programs include means for producing forms for submitting bids and forms for selling orders, and permitting seller and bidders to execute securities trades using the Internet.

13. A system for trading securities including in combination, a computer system including a website containing securities to be auctioned, means for potential buyers of the securities to access the website and to enter bids for purchasing the securities, said computer system having means for displaying all bids received on the website such that the bids including the prices thereof are accessible to all bidders to enable potential buyers to have knowledge of the status of the auction as it proceeds and to assist the buyers in deciding whether to enter a bid and the price of the bid to be entered.

14. The system defined in claim **13** wherein said computer system has means for automatically displaying new bids to potential buyers on a real time basis as the auction proceeds.

15. The system defined in claim **13** wherein said computer system has means for receiving and displaying requests for bids by a potential seller of securities.

16. The system defined in claim **15** wherein potential buyers and sellers of securities may access the website through the Internet.

17. A method of trading securities including the steps of displaying the securities to be sold on a computer website, receiving and displaying on the website bids to purchase the securities, and displaying all bids on the website such that all bidders or potential bidders have access to the bids as the auction proceeds.

18. The method defined in claim **17** including the steps wherein the seller reviews the bids on the website and enters into the website that the securities are for sale at a price bid by the highest bidder.

19. The method defined in claim **17** including the step of setting an auction deadline time by which the auction ends and the highest bidder is deemed to have bought the securities provided the price is equal to or greater than a predetermined will-trade price that is set by the seller at the time the auction item is submitted.

20. The method defined in claim **17** including the steps of entering a bid at any level greater than the current high bid plus a predetermined increment and automatically increasing the bid in one or more increments to top out any new higher bids that may be entered but not to exceed a predetermined bid level.

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