

for a (large-scale) end user to carry out the programming himself after buying an electronically readable information carrier, a programmable device, and possibly programming means and reading means from the manufacturer. This constitutes an additional advantage of the system and the method according to the invention. The manufacturer can offer these facilities to major end users since the payment takes place on the basis of activated functions anyway.

The invention also relates to a programmable device, programming means, and an electronically readable information carrier for use in a system according to the invention.

The electronically readable information carrier may be, for example, a chip card which comprises a programmable memory capable of containing a numerical value. Besides a decremmentable amount, the chip card comprises at least one program for activating a function of the programmable device.

The invention will now be explained in more detail by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawing, in which:

Fig. 1 diagrammatically shows an embodiment of a system according to the invention, and

Fig. 2 diagrammatically shows an embodiment of a programmable device according to the invention in greater detail.

Fig. 1 diagrammatically shows an embodiment of a system S according to the invention for the selective activation of one or several software and/or hardware functions of an electronic device. The system comprises a programmable device 1 which has been provided at the manufacturer's with any number of functions in the form of modules which might be desired by the end users. The modules, however, have not yet been activated, but they are activated on demand by the supplier (wholesaler) against payment.