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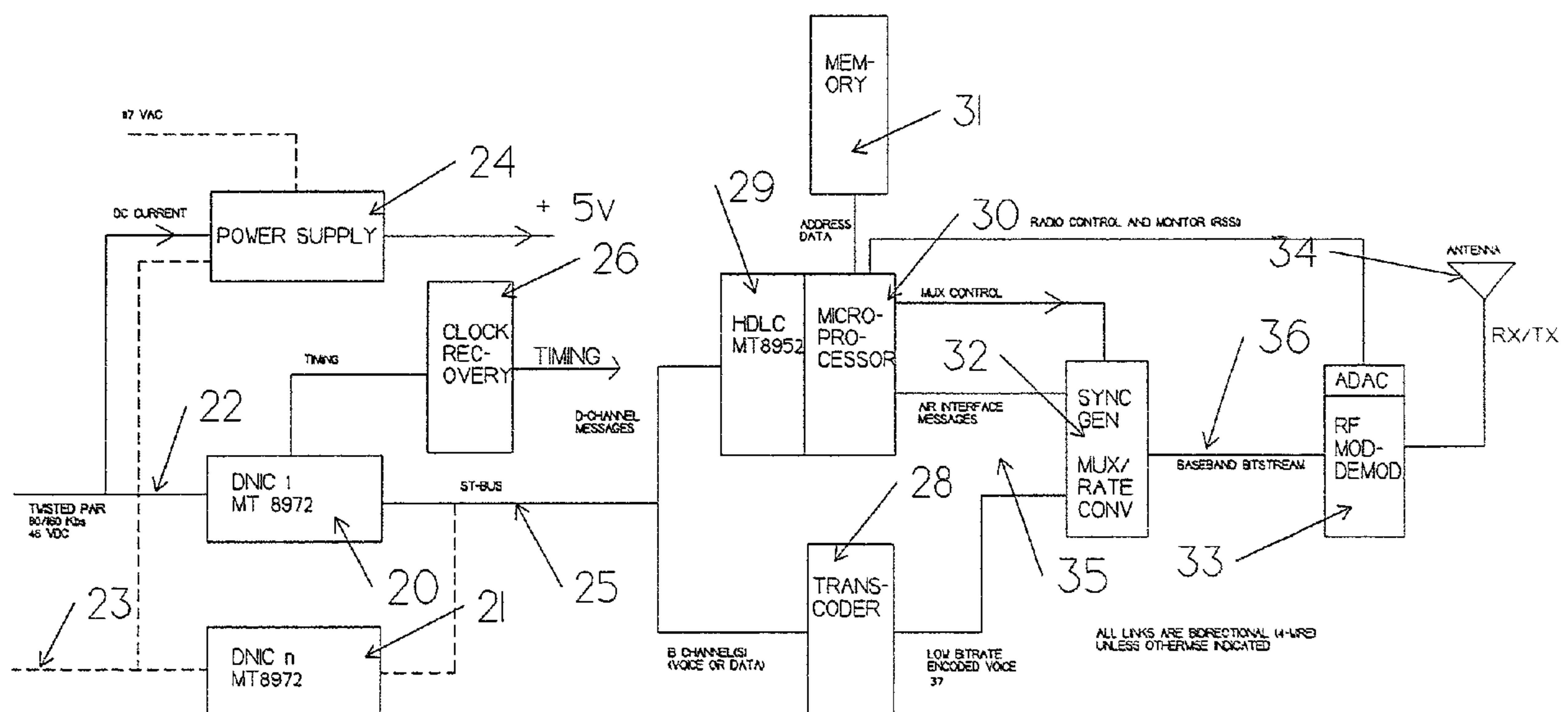
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(57) Abrégé/Abstract:

An apparatus for establishing communication between one or more digital radio channels and one or more digital wireline signals over the digital radio channels, comprising an r.f. unit for transmitting and receiving circuits, a digital interface unit connected to each wireline circuit, a unit for separating incoming signals into bearer channels and signalling information, and a unit for recombining the outgoing bearer channels and signalling information into the appropriate format for transmission over the outgoing medium.



ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An apparatus for establishing communication between one or more digital radio channels and one or more digital wireline signals over the digital radio channels, comprising an r.f. unit for transmitting and receiving circuits, a digital interface unit connected to each wireline circuit, a unit for separating incoming signals into bearer channels and signalling information, and a unit for recombining the outgoing bearer channels and signalling information into the appropriate format for transmission over the outgoing medium.

This invention relates to an apparatus for establishing communication between one or more digital radio channels and one or more digital wireline circuits.

5 Wireless telephones, such as cellular telephones, have been developed which employ digital modulation to communicate signalling, voice and synchronization. Such systems require a means of interfacing them to the public wireline network (Public Switch Telephone Network - PSTN). Prior art systems perform this function by converting the
10 digital radio signals to standard analog signals, which are then transmitted to the PSTN.

By performing a digital-to-analog conversion each time data are transmitted between the wireline and wireless networks, many of the advantages of digital signalling are
15 lost. It is accordingly an object of the present invention to alleviate this disadvantage.

According to the present invention there is provided a base station in a cellular network for establishing communication between one or more digital radio channels and
20 one or more digital wireline circuits, each wireline circuit consisting of one or more bearer channels and a data channel carrying signaling information, comprising an r.f. unit for transmitting and receiving signals over said digital radio channels, a digital interface unit (DNIC) connected to each
25 wireline circuit for converting incoming channels from said wireline circuits to serial bus format, and for converting outgoing channels over said wireline circuits to an appropriate wireline format and a common serial bus connected to a plurality of said digital interface units,
30 said bearer and data channels being assigned to appropriate channels on said serial bus, a microprocessor connected to said serial bus for extracting the data channels and interpreting the signaling information to determine whether it is destined for the base station, said microprocessor

5 responding to digital messages destined for the base station and passing through messages destined for the r.f. unit or wireline circuits and a multiplexer-demultiplexer unit for interfacing said microprocessor and said serial bus to said r.f. unit.

10 The invention provides a means of interfacing radio signals to the PSTN (Public Switched Telephone Network or ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network) either through a PBX (using a DNIC, for example) or directly, (using a

Primary Rate Interface (PRI) or a Base Rate Interface (BRI), for example) while maintaining the advantages of digital encoding of voice and using message-based signalling:

5 Bu using a DNIC (Digital Network Interface Circuit) device, it is possible to locate the wireless base station remotely from the switching system in order to optimize the radio coverage of the base stations by allowing flexible location of the base stations.

10 In one embodiment the interface units, which are standard DNIC units, are connected to a standard ST serial bus. This in turn is connected to a multiplexer/demultiplexer unit, which separates the D (data) channels from the B (bearer) channels. The D channels are then interpreted to extract signalling information, which is
15 passed through UART (Universal Asynchronous Receiver Transmitter) to the r.f. unit, where the signalling information is recombined with the bearer information for onward transmission over the radio channels. The system works in reverse for signals received over the digital radio
20 channels.

 The digital wireline circuits are preferably basic rate circuits operating at 192 kbps and offering two bearer (B) channels at 128 kbps and one data (D) channel 16 kbps. The remaining bits are used for control purposes. The r.f.
25 section preferably uses a CT2 standard format.

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

30 Figure 1 is a block diagram of an apparatus in accordance with the invention.

Referring now to Figure 1, a DNIC interface 20, (and optionally additional DNIC interfaces 21) is connected to respective twisted pairs of copper wires 22, 23 carrying a data at a rate of 80/160 kbps in full duplex mode for each pair of wires. The base rate channels provide a signalling "D" channel and one or more, usually two, "B" channels carrying voice or data.

The twisted pairs provide a 48 volt DC voltage feed to power supply 24, which is capable of converting the DC appearing on the line into a voltage suitable for powering the apparatus. As an alternative, the power supply 24 can be connected to 117 volts AC supply. Power supply 24 provides a 5 volt output.

The DNICs 20, 21 convert the incoming line code into standard ST bus format and apply it to ST bus 25, which carries a 2.048 mbps stream. The D and B channels can be extracted from this bus according to a predetermined sequence of channel assignments. Other serial bit stream rates can be employed, but the 2.048 standard is most convenient in the context of the present invention.

By connecting multiple DNIC input devices in parallel to the same ST bus, higher bit rates can be achieved. The additional twisted copper pairs can also be used to add additional power to the power supply if more power is required by the station. Each DNIC unit 20, 21 communicates to the remote switching system over a separate twisted pair.

The use of a standard ST bus allows other interfaces to be used instead of DNIC if desired.

The clock recovery block 26 is connected to the DNIC in order to provide the required timing signals to the invention. In particular, the system provides an 8 kHz

frame pulse signal, which can be used to generate a synchronization signal for the purpose of synchronizing the operation of multiple base stations.

The voice or data channels are routed to MUX unit 32.

5 In some applications, a voice processing unit 28 is required. This consists of a DSP (Digital Signal Processor), containing a predetermined sequence of operations that are performed on the information stream(s). A typical application would be voice compression, wherein
10 the digitally-encoded voice is reduced in data rate while maintaining high information content, thereby preserving bandwidth on the radio channel. An example of such an algorithm can be found in the CCITT document G.721.

15 However, some applications can be implemented without the use of a DSP block, for example if the information stream is already compressed into the format required for the radio interface.

The signalling information on the "D" channel is routed to a HDLC (High-level Data Link control) controller 29,
20 which performs the layer 2 functions of the protocol on the "D" channel. It should be noted that some protocols can be implemented without the use of an HDLC controller, and that this block is included only for reference in the event that the HDLC format is required.

25 The signalling information on the "D" channel sometimes called "messages", is analyzed by a microprocessor 30. Various functions are performed by the microprocessor on these messages:

30 1) The messages from a PBX or PSTN are interpreted according to whether they are meant for the base station itself, or for subsequent transmission to the wireless

telephone, and similarly, the messages from the wireless telephone are interpreted according to whether they are intended for the base station or for subsequent transmission to the PBX or PSTN. This may be done by means of a message type byte.

2) In the event that the messages are intended for the base station, they are acted on by the processor according to the requirements of the message. An example of such a message might be a request to adjust the output level of the base station.

3) In the event that messages are intended to communicate between the wireless telephone and the PBX or PSTN, the messages are either passed transparently through the base station, or, if required, the messages are changed in format such that they may be interpreted correctly by the intended recipient. This may be done by means of a look-up table, stored in the microprocessor's memory 31.

In addition, the same microprocessor 30 performs the link access protocol as required by the radio interface standard. Such protocols have been defined in a number of standards, such as IETS-300-131 (otherwise known as the CT2 Common Air Interface) and the DECT standard. These standards contain all the algorithms necessary for establishing the radio link, as well as a definition of the air interface messages required for communication with the wireless handset.

The multiplexer/demultiplexer circuit 32 combines and separates the air interface messages 35 and low-bit-rate encoded voice channels 37 such that a single baseband bit stream 36 is available for a radio transceiver. This circuit is under control of the microprocessor in order that the signalling and information channels can be combined

according to the sequence required by the radio interface.
In addition, this block inserts and decodes a predetermined
sequence of "synch" bits, which are used to synchronize the
transceiver in the remote terminal with the transceiver in
5 the base station.

The RF (radio frequency) unit 33 is a known module
which converts the baseband bit stream into a waveform
suitable for transmission and reception by radio by means of
an antenna 34. In a typical transceiver, one or more
10 carrier frequencies are available as allowed by the
particular air interface standard employed. The carrier
frequencies are selected by the microprocessor according to
a predetermined sequence which is defined by the air
interface standard. In addition the transceiver provides
15 information to the microprocessor on the status of the
available carrier frequencies, such as signal strength, and
interference. The interface between the microprocessor and
the RF block is an A-to-D (analog to digital) and D-to-A
(digital to analog) converter (ADAC). The microprocessor 30
20 may also control the amplitude of the transmitted signal.

While the ST bus is commonly available in the
telecommunications industry, another type of bus, such as an
IOM bus, can also be employed. A variety of standard
devices can be connected to this circuit too.

25 The protocol converter can be implemented in the
firmware of the microprocessor, which controls many of the
functions of the apparatus. Initially, protocol conversion
may be necessary for the proprietary set software, although
in the future the protocols will be transparent, using ISDN
30 entirely. Since the apparatus includes a microprocessor,
the same processor can be used for handling the radio link
protocol within the r.f. module. This can result in a cost
reduction and the elimination of the UART function.

THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:

1. A base station in a cellular network for establishing communication between one or more digital radio channels and one or more digital wireline circuits, each wireline circuit consisting of one or more bearer channels and a data channel carrying signaling information, comprising:
an r.f. unit for transmitting and receiving signals over said digital radio channels;
a digital interface unit (DNIC) connected to each wireline circuit for converting incoming channels from said wireline circuits to serial bus format, and for converting outgoing channels over said wireline circuits to an appropriate wireline format and;
a common serial bus connected to a plurality of said digital interface units, said bearer and data channels being assigned to appropriate channels on said serial bus;
a microprocessor connected to said serial bus for extracting the data channels and interpreting the signaling information to determine whether it is destined for the base station, said microprocessor responding to digital messages destined for the base station and passing through messages destined for the r.f. unit or wireline circuits; and
a multiplexer-demultiplexer unit for interfacing said microprocessor and said serial bus to said r.f. unit.
2. A base station as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said serial bus is a 2.048 mb/sec ST-bus.
3. A base station as claimed in claim 1, further comprising means for extracting power to supply the apparatus from said wireline circuits.
4. A base station as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that said microprocessor also converts the information between formats appropriate for wireline and r.f. transmission.

5. A base station as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a voice processing unit between said serial bus and said multiplexer-demultiplexer unit.

