

(57) Abrégé(suite)/Abstract(continued):

continuously measured on all lines above the subscriber line level, for instance, with the aid of load test groups (11). The load test groups consist of a traffic measurement unit (2, 2') connected to the trunks or circuit groups (8) and a charge precalculator (12, 12') which dynamically determines the tariff weight, passing it on to the corresponding exchange at a higher level of the hierarchy. The charge payable for a particular call is indicated to the calling subscriber. After the customer has dialed the last digit of the trunk code, the charge computer (1) calculates the currently applicable charge as a function of the result of the latest measurement of the traffic flowing to that destination, transmitting the computed charge to the calling subscriber's terminal to be displayed there. Now the system assumes an "offer-making" status which is maintained for a certain time. Once a decision has been taken by the calling subscriber, the dialing process is discontinued or, after the input of the number of the person called, the charge displayed is used for calculating the amount payable for the call. After completion of the call, the charge payable is displayed for the calling subscriber or also for the called subscriber if both customers share the cost. In digital networks, dynamic call charging is both suitable for voice communications and any other type of electronic communications such as data and video transmissions.

