A system and method for managing forward channel access using a reverse channel in a wireless communication system is disclosed. A repeater receives requests on a reverse channel to access a forward channel. Each request includes a priority. The repeater selects a request based upon the priority. The repeater then allows access to the forward channel for a transmission based upon the selected request.
AMENDED CLAIMS
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1. A method for managing forward channel access using a reverse channel of a wireless communication system, the method comprising the steps:
   at a repeater:
   receiving a first transmission on a forward channel from an active subscriber;
   receiving a plurality of requests on a reverse channel from a plurality of interested subscribers waiting to transmit on the forward channel;
   after the first transmission has ended, selecting a request; and
   sending a grant that allows access to the forward channel for a second transmission based upon the selected request, wherein the grant identifies the interested subscriber selected for the second transmission.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the forward channel is a first time slot of a time division multiple access (TDMA) system and the reverse channel is a second time slot of the TDMA system.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising assigning an identifier to each request of the plurality of requests that have been received.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein each request of the plurality of requests comprises a priority, and wherein selecting a request is based upon the priority.

5. The method of claim 4 further comprising repeating each request of the plurality of requests by replacing the priority with the assigned identifier.

6. The method of claim 4 wherein selecting a request further comprises determining a highest priority of the plurality of requests.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the first transmission and the second transmission are at least one of voice or data.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the grant is sent on the reverse channel.
9. The method of claim 1 wherein the grant is sent on the forward channel,

10. A method for communication in a wireless communication system, wherein the wireless communication system comprises a plurality of subscribers and at least one repeater, the method comprising the steps:

   at a repeater:
   communicating on a forward channel with an active subscriber, whereby the active subscriber is in a transmission;
   receiving a first request to communicate on the forward channel by a first interested subscriber of a plurality of interested subscribers on a reverse channel;
   repeating the first request to the first interested subscriber on the reverse channel, wherein the repeated first request contains a first identifier value;
   receiving a second request to communicate on the forward channel by a second interested subscriber of the plurality of interested subscribers on the reverse channel;
   repeating the second request to the second interested subscriber on the reverse channel, wherein the repeated second request contains a second identifier value; and
   selecting one of the first interested subscriber or the second interested subscriber to communicate on the forward channel after the active subscriber ends the transmission.

31. The method of claim 10 wherein the active subscriber, the first interested subscriber, the second interested subscriber, and the repeater comprise a talk group in the wireless communication system.

12. The method of claim 10 wherein the wireless communication system is a time division multiple access (TDMA) system.
13. The method of claim 10 further comprising:
   determining whether the first identifier value or the second identifier value is greater
   than a maximum value;
   if the first identifier value is greater than the maximum value, rejecting the first
   request to communicate on the forward channel; and
   if the second identifier value is greater than the maximum value, rejecting the second
   request to communicate on the forward channel,

14. The method of claim 10 wherein the first request comprises a first priority and the
    second request comprises a second priority, and wherein selecting further comprises:
    determining a highest priority of the first priority and the second priority; and
    sending a grant based on the highest priority to one of the first intended subscriber or
    the second intended subscriber.

15. The method of claim 10 further comprising, based on the step of selecting, sending a
    grant, on the reverse channel, which allows the selected interested subscriber to communicate
    on the forward channel.

16. The method of claim 10 further comprising, based on the step of selecting, sending a
    grant, on the forward channel, which allows the selected interested subscriber to
    communicate on the forward channel.

17. A method for transmitting in a wireless communication system, the method
    comprising the steps;
at a subscriber:
   requesting access to a forward channel for a transmission by sending a request on a
   reverse channel;
   receiving an identifier value on the reverse channel based upon the request, wherein
   the received identifier value identifies the subscriber;
   receiving a grant, wherein the grant allows access to the forward channel for
   transmission; and
communicating on the forward channel, if the grant has an identifier value that matches the received identifier value that identifies the subscriber.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein the identifier value temporarily identifies the subscriber,

19. The method of claim 17 wherein the request comprises a priority identifies a precedence value of the subscriber,

20. The method of claim 17 wherein the request comprises a priority, and wherein the priority depends upon at least one of the following a) a rank of a user of the subscriber, b) a type of tasks performed by a user of the subscriber, or c) a frequency of retransmissions.