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(54) **SYSTEM, METHOD, AND  
COMPUTER-READABLE MEDIUM FOR  
ACCESS RESTRICTION OF USER  
EQUIPMENT DEVICES IN AN  
IP-FEMTOCELL SYSTEM**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

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A system, method, and computer readable medium for screening services in a network system is provided. A list of electronic serial numbers of handsets in a user subscription may be compiled by a base station manager and transmitted to a femtocell system in a configuration download. The femto-cell system may then screen electronic serial numbers of user equipments that attempt to register with the femtocell system. In an embodiment, the femtocell system may allow calls to be placed through the femtocell system on an emergency basis regardless of whether the user equipment has an electronic serial number that is authorized for access by the femtocell system. In non-emergency scenarios, only user equipments having an electronic serial number that matches an electronic serial number in the femtocell system's electronic serial number list are allowed to place calls or register with the femtocell system.

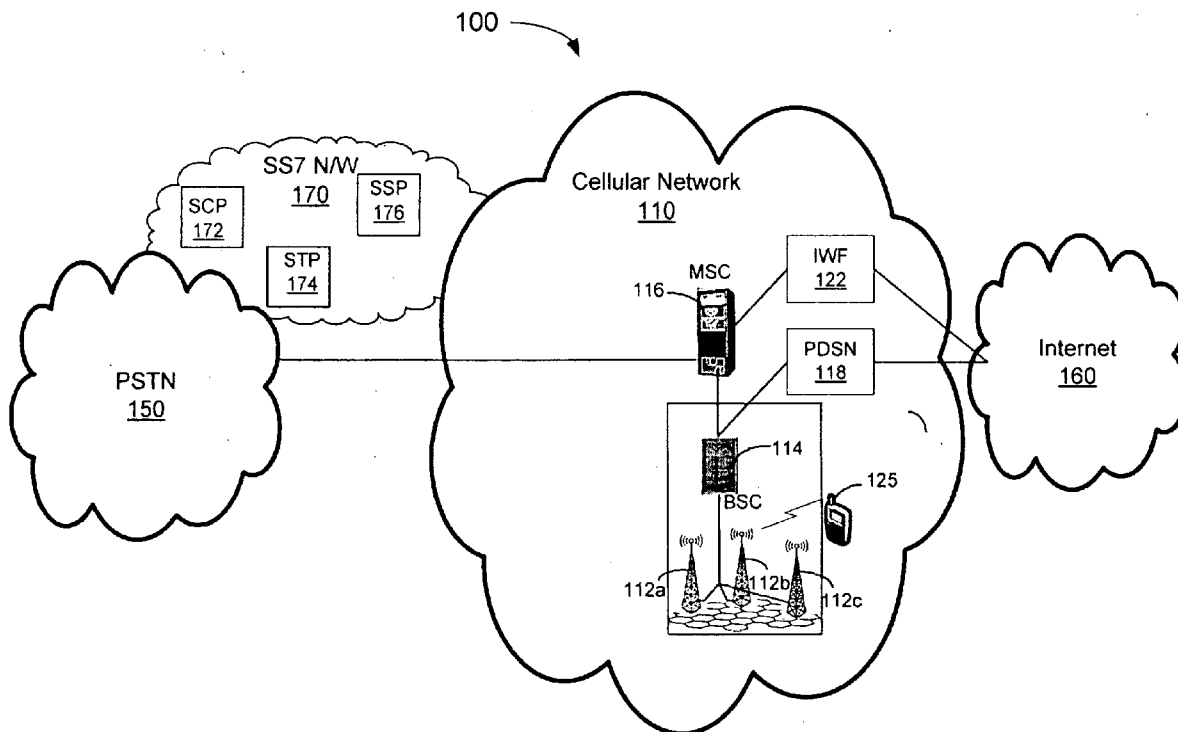
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(21) **Appl. No.: 12/252,222**

(22) **Filed: Oct. 15, 2008**

**Related U.S. Application Data**

(60) **Provisional application No. 61/003,151, filed on Nov. 15, 2007.**



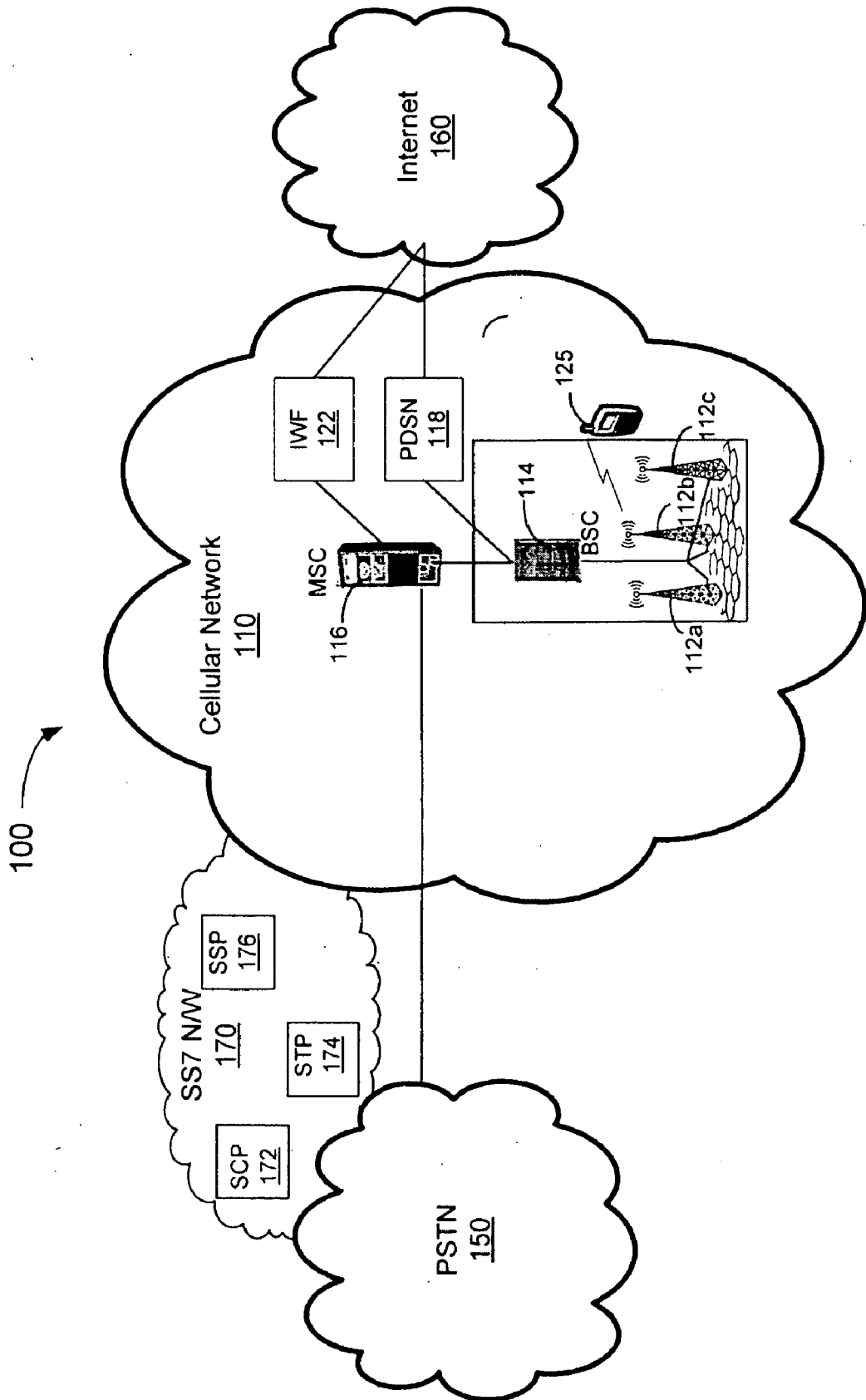


Figure 1

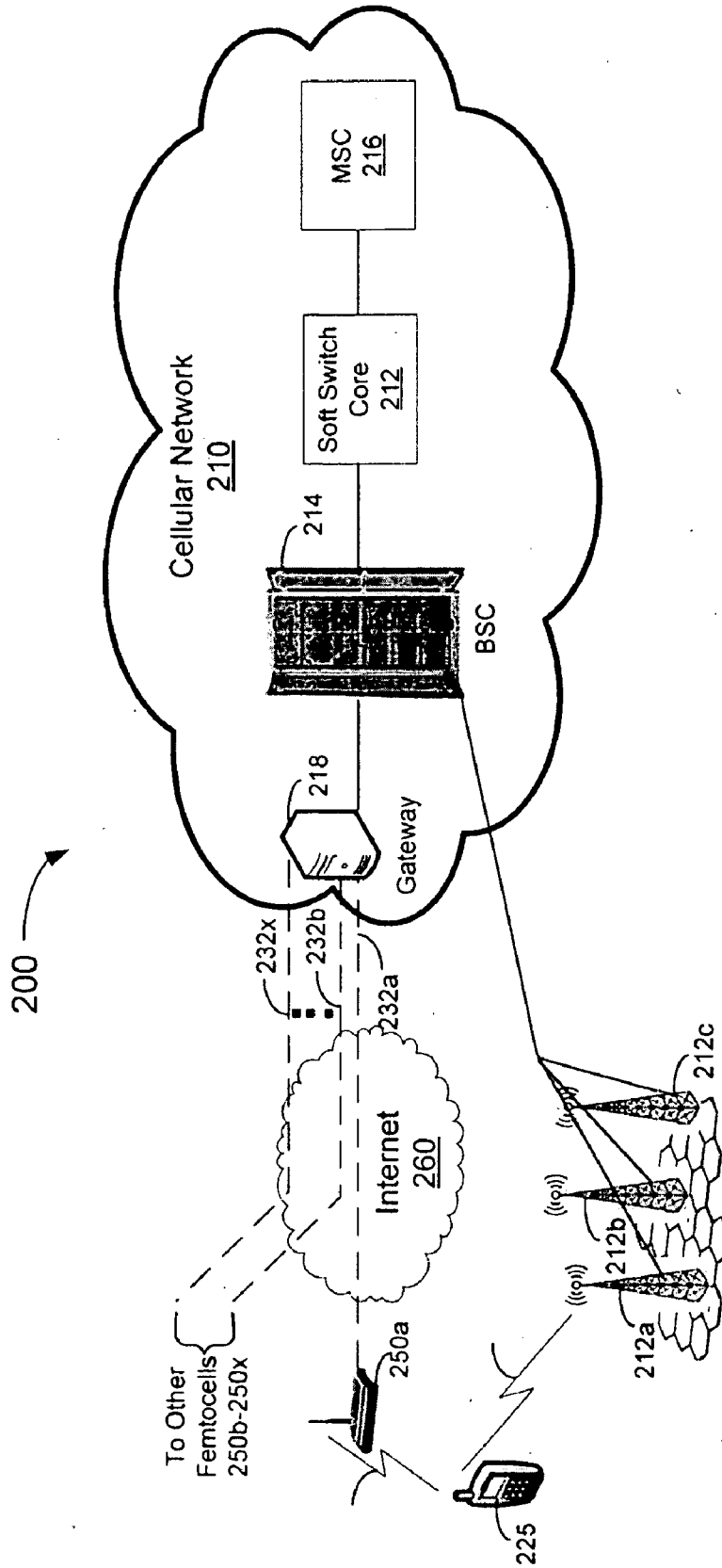


Figure 2



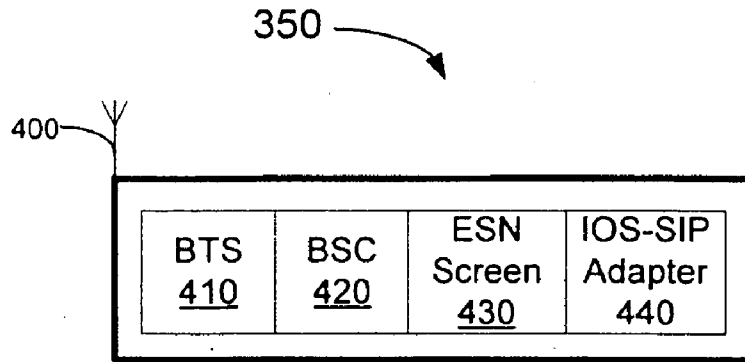


Figure 4A

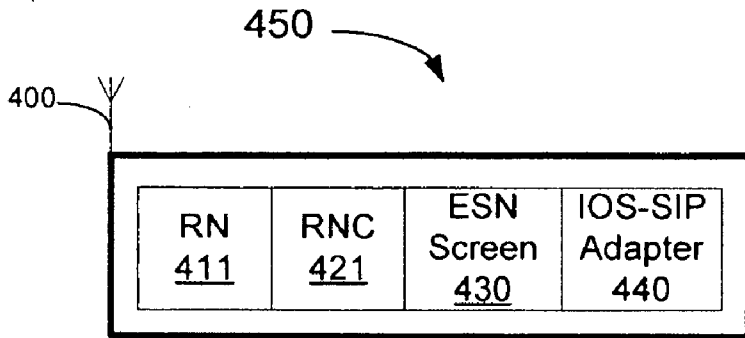
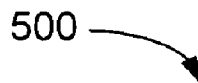


Figure 4B



510—REGISTER sip:example.com SIP/2.0  
Via: SIP/2.0/UDP  
From: sip:12145551212@example.com  
To: sip:12145551212@example.com  
512—Contact: sip:12145551212@66.249.73.42  
514—Contact: tel: +1-214-555-1212

Figure 5

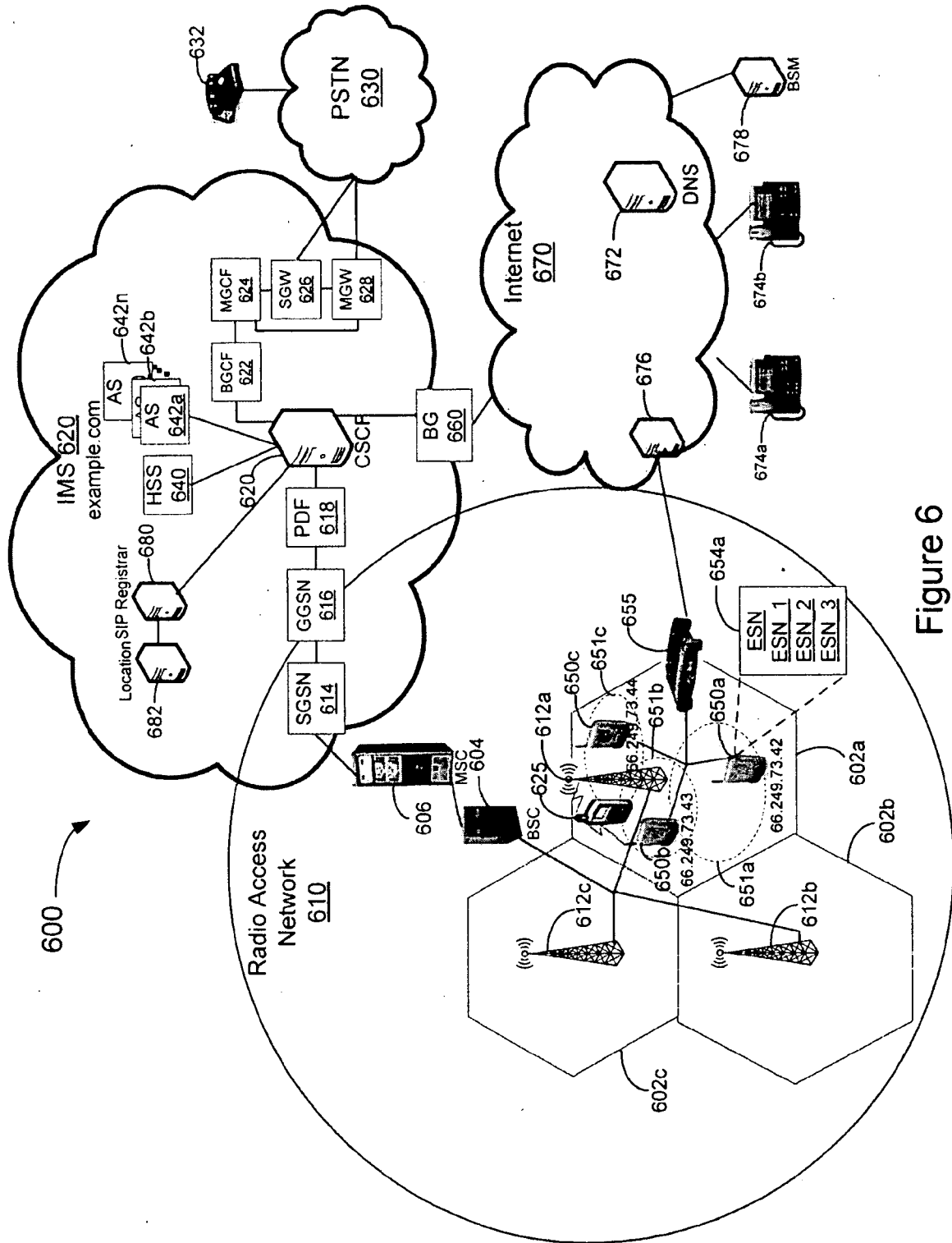


Figure 6

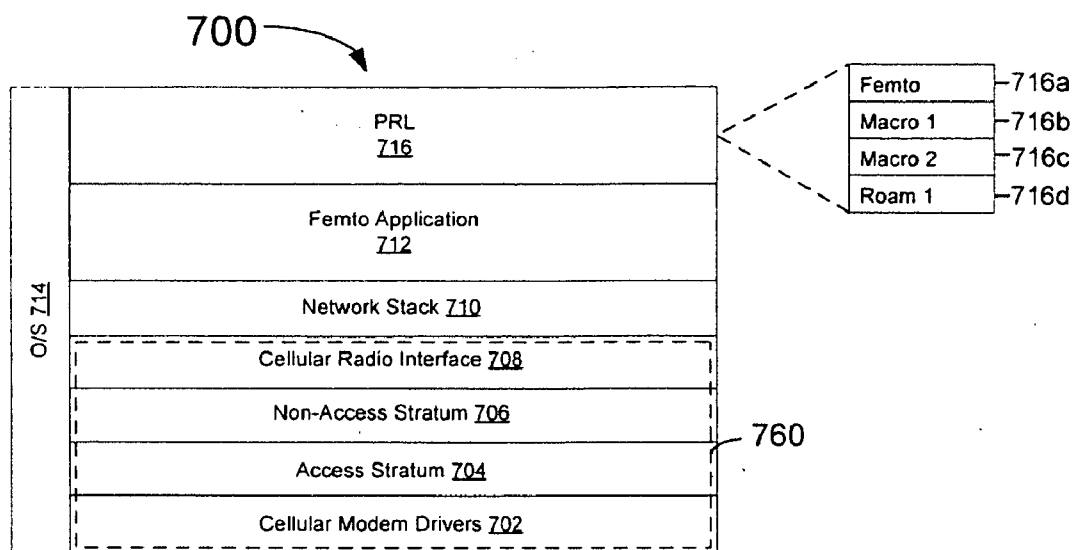


Figure 7

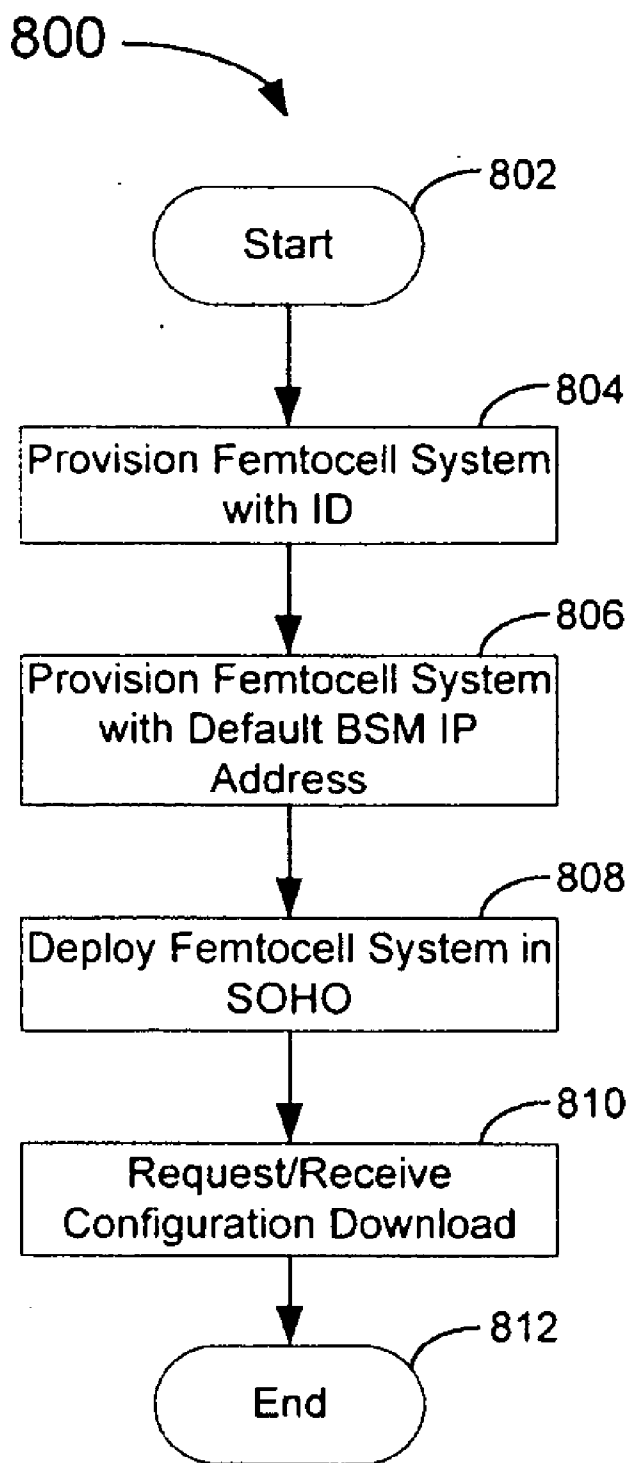


Figure 8



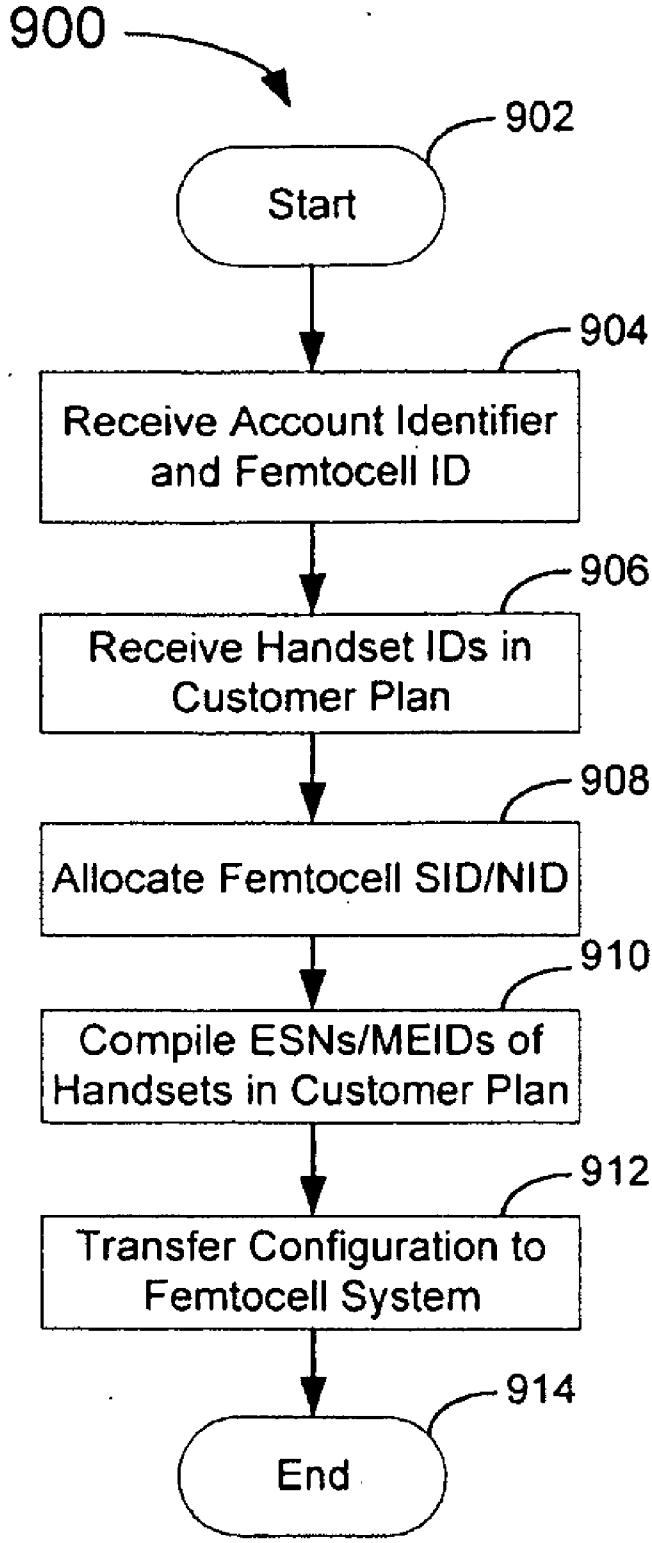


Figure 9

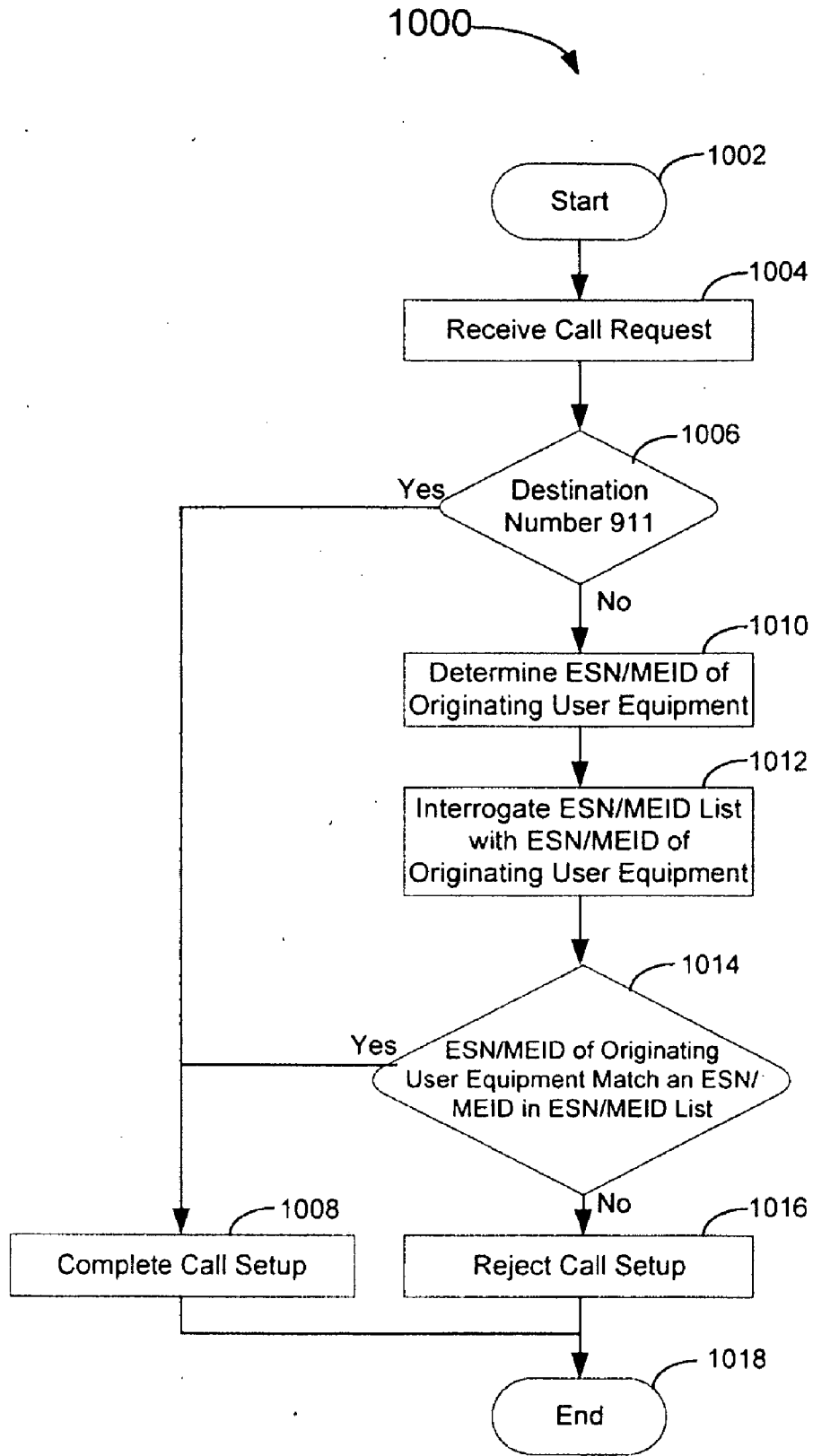


Figure 10

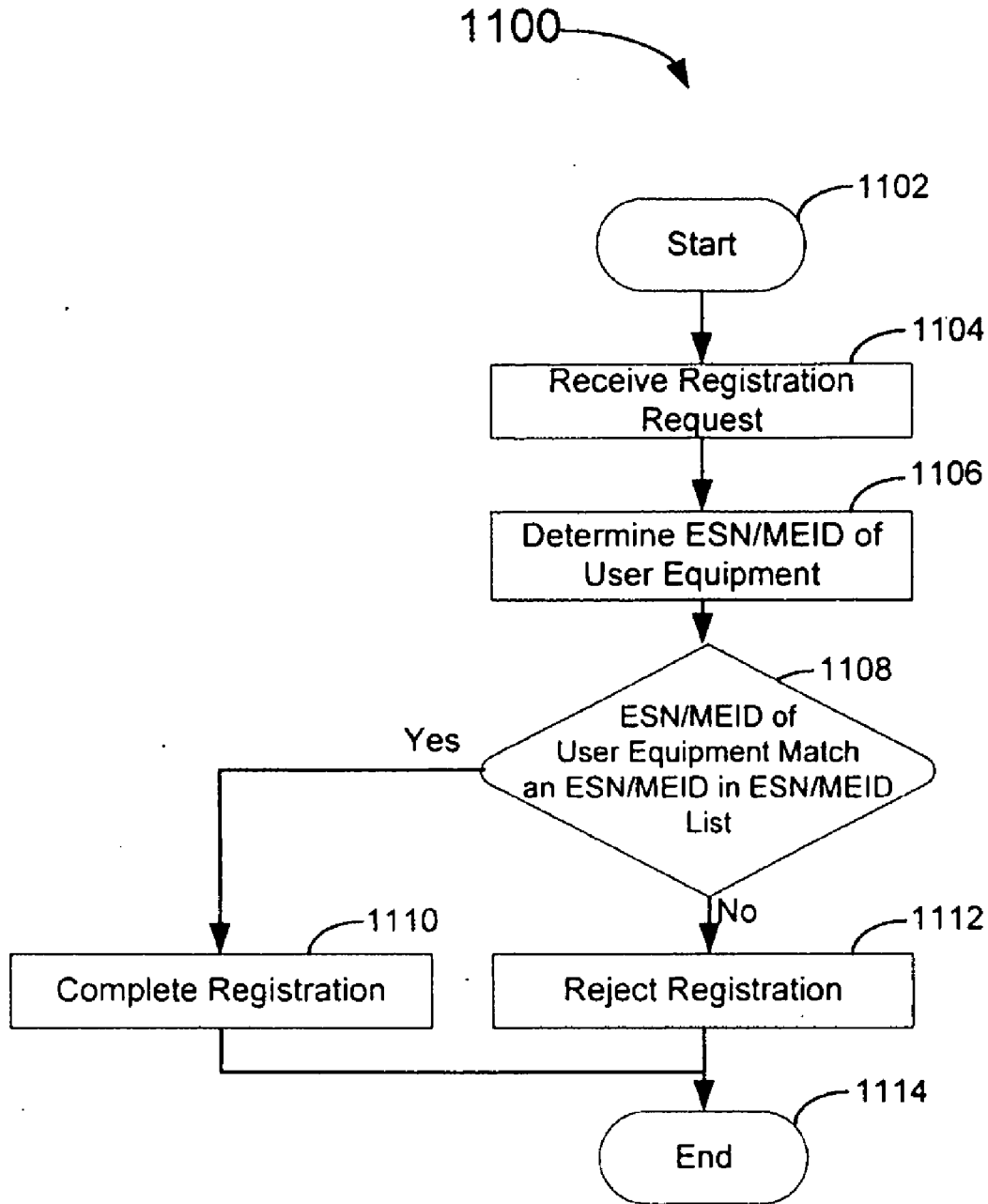


Figure 11

**SYSTEM, METHOD, AND  
COMPUTER-READABLE MEDIUM FOR  
ACCESS RESTRICTION OF USER  
EQUIPMENT DEVICES IN AN  
IP-FEMTOCELL SYSTEM**

**CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED  
APPLICATIONS**

[0001] This application claims priority to U.S. provisional patent application Ser. No. 60/936,626 entitled FEMTOCELL filed Jun. 21, 2007, and claims priority to U.S. provisional patent application Ser. No. 61/003,151 entitled SIP-IO ADAPTER FUNCTION filed Nov. 15, 2007, the disclosure of each of which is incorporated in its entirety herein by reference.

**FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

[0002] The present invention is generally related to radio access technologies and, more particularly, to mechanisms for access restriction of user equipment devices to a femtocell system or network.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

[0003] Contemporary cellular radio systems, or mobile telecommunication systems, provide an over-the-air interface to wireless user equipments (UEs) via a radio access network (RAN) that interfaces with at least one core network. The RAN may be implemented as, for example, a CDMA2000 RAN, a Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (UMTS) RAN, a Global System for Mobile communications (GSM) RAN, or another suitable radio access network implementation. A UE may comprise, for example, a mobile terminal such as a mobile telephone, a laptop computer featuring mobile telephony software and hardware, a personal digital assistant (PDA), or other suitable equipment adapted to transfer and receive voice or data communications with the radio access network.

[0004] A RAN covers a geographical area comprised of any number of cells each comprising a relatively small geographic area of radio coverage. Each cell is provisioned by a cell site that includes a radio tower, e.g., a base transceiver station (BTS), and associated equipment. BTSs communicate with UEs over an air interface within radio range of the BTSs.

[0005] Numerous BTSs in the RAN may be communicatively coupled to a base station controller, also commonly referred to as a radio network controller (RNC). The BSC manages and monitors various system activities of the BTSs serviced thereby. BSCs are coupled with at least one core network.

[0006] BTSs are typically deployed by a carrier network in areas having a high population density. The traffic capacity of a cell site is limited by the site's capacity and affects the spacing of cell sites. In suburban areas, sites are often up to two miles apart, while cell sites deployed in dense urban areas may be as close as one-quarter of a mile apart. Because the traffic capacity of a cell site is finitely limited, as is the available frequency spectrum, mobile operators have a vested interest in technologies that allow for increased subscriber capacity.

[0007] A microcell site comprises a cell in a mobile phone network that covers a limited geographic area, such as a shopping center, hotel, airport, or other infrastructure that may have a high density mobile phone usage. A microcell

typically uses power control to limit the radius of the microcell coverage. Typically a microcell is less than a mile wide.

[0008] Although microcells are effective for adding network capacity in areas with high mobile telephone usage, microcells extensively rely on the RAN, e.g., a controlling BSC and other carrier functions. Because contemporary BSCs have limited processing and interface capacity, the number of BTSs—whether microcell BTSs or typical carrier BTSs—able to be supported by the BSC or other RAN functions is disadvantageously limited.

[0009] Contemporary interest exists in providing enterprise and office access, including small office/home office (SOHO) radio access, by an even smaller scale BTS. The radio coverage area of such a system is typically referred to as a femtocell. In a system featuring a femtocell, a UE may be authorized to operate in the femtocell when proximate the femtocell system, e.g., while the UE is located in the SOHO. When the UE moves beyond the coverage area of the femtocell, the UE may then be serviced by the carrier network. The advantages of deployment of femtocells are numerous. For instance, mobile users frequently spend large amounts of time located at, for example, home, and many such users rely extensively on cellular network service for telecommunication services during these times. For example, a recent survey indicated that nearly thirteen percent of U.S. cell phone customers do not have a landline telephone and rely solely on cell phones for receiving telephone service. From a carrier perspective, it would be advantageous to have telephone services provisioned over a femtocell system, e.g., deployed in the user's home, to thereby reduce the load, and effectively increase the capacity, on the carrier RAN infrastructure. However, various issues related to restricting femtocell access to authorized user equipment devices remain unresolved.

[0010] Therefore, what is needed is a mechanism that overcomes the described problems and limitations.

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

[0011] The present invention provides a system, method, and computer readable medium for screening services in a network system. A communication system features an IP-based femtocell system for provisioning communication services to a user equipment. A list of electronic serial numbers of handsets in a user subscription may be compiled by a base station manager. The femtocell system may connect with the base station manager and request a configuration download once deployed in a SOHO. The compiled electronic serial numbers may then be transferred from the base station manager to the femtocell system in a configuration download. The femtocell system may then screen electronic serial numbers of user equipments that attempt to register with the femtocell system. In an embodiment, the femtocell system may allow calls to be placed through the femtocell system on an emergency basis regardless of whether the user equipment has an electronic serial number that is authorized for access by the femtocell system. In non-emergency scenarios, only user equipments having an electronic serial number that matches an electronic serial number in the femtocell system's electronic serial number list are allowed to place calls or register with the femtocell system.

[0012] In one embodiment of the disclosure, a method of service screening in a network system is provided. The method includes provisioning a femtocell system with a list of at least one electronic serial number of at least one user

equipment authorized to access the femtocell system, receiving, by the femtocell system, a service request from a user equipment, determining an electronic serial number of the user equipment, and comparing the electronic serial number with the list of at least one electronic serial number.

**[0013]** In a further embodiment of the disclosure, a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for execution by a processing system, the computer-executable instructions for service screening in a network system is provided. The computer-readable medium comprises instructions for receiving, by a femtocell system, a list of at least one electronic serial number from a base station manager as a configuration download, where the at least one electric serial number is an electronic serial number of a user equipment authorized to access the femtocell system, provisioning the femtocell system with the list, receiving, by the femtocell system, a service request from a user equipment, determining an electronic serial number of the user equipment, and comparing the electronic serial number with the list of at least one electronic serial number.

**[0014]** In a further embodiment of the disclosure, a system configured for service screening in a network system is provided. The system includes a packet-switched network including a base station manager server, and a femtocell system communicatively coupled with the packet-switched network adapted to provide a radio interface with a user equipment. The femtocell system receives a configuration download from the base station manager that includes a list of at least one electronic serial number of at least one user equipment registered on a customer account associated with the femtocell system. The femtocell system receives a service request from a user equipment, determines an electronic serial number of the user equipment, and compares the electronic serial number with the list of at least one electronic serial number.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

**[0015]** Aspects of the present disclosure are best understood from the following detailed description when read with the accompanying figures, in which:

**[0016]** FIG. 1 is a diagrammatic representation of a network system that includes a cellular network adapted to provide macro-cellular coverage;

**[0017]** FIG. 2 is a diagrammatic representation of a conventional network system configuration featuring a femtocell;

**[0018]** FIG. 3 is a diagrammatic representation of a network system in which a femtocell system implemented in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention may be deployed;

**[0019]** FIG. 4A is a simplified diagrammatic representation of the femtocell system depicted in FIG. 3 that may be connected with an IP backhaul in accordance with an embodiment;

**[0020]** FIG. 4B is a simplified diagrammatic representation of an alternative embodiment of a femtocell system that may be connected with an IP backhaul;

**[0021]** FIG. 5 is a diagrammatic representation of an exemplary session initiation protocol registration message generated by a femtocell system on behalf of a user equipment in accordance with an embodiment;

**[0022]** FIG. 6 is a diagrammatic representation of a network system featuring a femtocell network implemented in accordance with an embodiment;

**[0023]** FIG. 7 is a diagrammatic representation of an exemplary software configuration of a user equipment adapted for engaging in communications with femtocell systems in accordance with an embodiment;

**[0024]** FIG. 8 depicts a flowchart of a femtocell system configuration provisioning routine implemented in accordance with an embodiment;

**[0025]** FIG. 9 is a configuration routine that facilitates generation of femtocell system configuration data implemented in accordance with an embodiment;

**[0026]** FIG. 10 is a flowchart that depicts processing of a call screening routine implemented in accordance with an embodiment; and

**[0027]** FIG. 11 is a flowchart that depicts processing of a user equipment registration screening routine implemented in accordance with an embodiment.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

**[0028]** It is to be understood that the following disclosure provides many different embodiments or examples for implementing different features of various embodiments. Specific examples of components and arrangements are described below to simplify the present disclosure. These are, of course, merely examples and are not intended to be limiting.

**[0029]** FIG. 1 is a diagrammatic representation of a network system **100** that includes a cellular network **110** adapted to provide macro-cellular coverage to a user equipment. Cellular network **110** may comprise, for example, a code-division multiple access (CDMA) network, such as a CDMA-2000 network.

**[0030]** Cellular network **110** may include any number of base transceiver stations (BTSs) **112a-112c** communicatively coupled with a base station controller (BSC) **114** or RNC. Each individual BTS **112a-112c** under the control of a given BSC may define a radio cell operating on a set of radio channels thereby providing service to a user equipment (UE) **125**, such as a mobile terminal. BSC **114** manages the allocation of radio channels, receives measurements from mobile terminals, controls handovers, as well as various other functions as is understood. BSC **114** is interconnected with a mobile services switching center (MSC) **116** that provides mobile terminal exchange services. BSC **114** may be additionally coupled with a packet data serving node (PDSN) **118** or other gateway service that provides a connection point between the CDMA radio access network and a packet network, such as Internet **160**, and provides mobility management functions and packet routing services. MSC **116** may communicatively interface with a circuit switched network, such as the public switched telephone network (PSTN) **150**, and may additionally be communicatively coupled with an interworking function (IWF) **122** that provides an interface between cellular network **110** and PSTN **150**.

**[0031]** System **100** may also include a signaling system, such as a signaling system #7 (SS7) network **170**. SS7 network **170** provides a set of telephony signaling protocols which are used to set up the vast majority of the world's PSTN telephone calls. SS7 network **170** is also used in cellular networks for circuit switched voice and packet-switched data applications. As is understood, SS7 network **170** includes various signaling nodes, such as any number of service control points (SCPs) **172**, signal transfer points (STPs) **174**, and service switching points (SSPs) **176**.

**[0032]** BTSs **112a-112c** deployed in cellular network **110** may service numerous network **110** subscribers. Cell sites

provided by BTSs **112a-112c** commonly feature site ranges of a quarter to a half mile, e.g., in densely populated urban areas, to one to two miles in suburban areas. In other remotely populated regions with suitable geography, site ranges may span tens of miles and may be effectively limited in size by the limited transmission distance of relatively low-powered UEs. As referred to herein, a cell provided by a BTS deployed in carrier network **110** for access by any authorized network **110** subscriber is referred to as a macrocell.

**[0033]** FIG. 2 is a diagrammatic representation of a conventional network system **200** configuration featuring a femtocell. In the depicted example, a central BSC **214** deployed in a cellular carrier network **210** may connect with a soft switch core **212** that is connected with a MSC **216**. MSC **216** connects with the cellular core network and may interface with other networks, such as the PSTN as is understood. BSC **214** may be connected with and service numerous BTSs **212a-212c** that provide macrocells to cellular network **210** subscribers.

**[0034]** BSC **214** may additionally connect with a tunnel gateway system **218** that is adapted to establish secured tunnels **232a-232x** with respective femtocell systems **250a-250x**. Femtocells comprise cellular access points that connect to a mobile operator's network using, for example, a residential DSL or cable broadband connection. Femtocells **250a-250x** provide a radio access point for UE **225** when the UE is within range of a femtocell system with which the UE has authorized access. For example, femtocell system **250a** may be deployed in a residence of the user of UE **225**. Accordingly, when the user is within the residence, mobile telecommunications may be provided to UE **225** via an air-interface provided by femtocell system **250a**. In this instance, UE **225** is effectively offloaded from the macro BTS, e.g., BTS **212a**, and communications to and from the UE are carried out with femtocell system **250a** over Internet **260**. Thus, femtocell systems **250a-250x** may reduce the radio resource demands by offloading UEs from macrocells to femtocells and thereby provide for increased subscriber capacity of cellular network **210**.

**[0035]** In contemporary implementations such as that depicted in FIG. 2, a femtocell system **250a** comprises a transceiver without intelligence and is thus required to be connected and managed by BSC **214**. Thus, femtocell systems **250a-250x** are reliant on the carrier network centralized BSC **214** which has limited capacity and thus does not exhibit desirable scaling characteristics or capabilities. Moreover, high communications overhead are realized by the BTS backhaul.

**[0036]** FIG. 3 is a diagrammatic representation of a network system **300** in which a femtocell system implemented in accordance with an embodiment of the invention may be deployed. System **300** includes a radio access network (RAN) **310** that provides an over-the-air interface with a UE **325**, e.g., a mobile terminal. RAN **310** may comprise, for example, a CDMA radio access network or another suitable RAN. RAN **310** may comprise various BTSs and associated base station controllers BSCs as well as other infrastructure as is understood. UE **325** may be implemented as a personal digital assistant (PDA), a mobile phone, a computer, or another device adapted to interface with RAN **310**.

**[0037]** System **300** may include an IP Multimedia Subsystem (IMS) **320** architecture adapted to provide IP service to UE **325**. To this end, RAN **310** is communicatively coupled with a serving general packet radio service (GPRS) support

node (SGSN) **314** and a gateway GPRS support node (GGSN) **316**. SGSN **314** provides the delivery of data packets from and to UE **325** within its service area. GGSN **316** provides an interface between the GPRS backbone network and external packet data networks. GGSN **316** is communicatively coupled with a policy decision function (PDF) **318** that provides authorization of media plane resources, e.g., quality of service (QoS) authorizations, policy control, bandwidth management, and the like. PDF **318** may be communicatively coupled with a call session control function (CSCF) **320**.

**[0038]** CSCF **320** comprises various session initiation protocol (SIP) servers or proxies that process SIP signaling packets in IMS **320**. CSCF **320** may include a proxy-CSCF (P-CSCF) that provides a first point of contact for an IMS-compliant UE. The P-CSCF may be located in the visited network, or in the UE's home network if the visited network is not fully IMS-compliant. UE **325** may discover the P-CSCF, e.g., by using Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP), or by assignment in a packet data protocol (PDP) context. CSCF **320** additionally includes a Serving-CSCF (S-CSCF) that comprises the central node of the signaling plane. The S-CSCF comprises a SIP server, but additionally performs session control. The S-CSCF is located in the home network and interfaces with a home subscriber server (HSS) **340** to download and upload user profiles. CSCF **320** further includes an Interrogating-CSCF (I-CSCF) that comprises a SIP function located at the edge of an administrative domain. The I-CSCF has an IP address that is published in the Domain Name System (DNS) **372** that facilitates location of the I-CSCF by remote servers. Thus, the I-CSCF is used as a forwarding point for receipt of SIP packets within the domain.

**[0039]** HSS **340** comprises a user database that supports the IMS network entities that manage calls. HSS **340** stores user profiles that specify subscription-related information of authorized users, authenticates and authorizes users, and provides information about the user's physical location. Various application servers (AS) **342a-342n** that host and execute services interface with CSCF **320** via SIP.

**[0040]** CSCF **320** is coupled with a breakout gateway control function (BGCF) **322** that comprises a SIP server that provides routing functionality based on telephone numbers. BGCF **322** is used when a UE places a call from the IMS to a phone in a circuit switched network, e.g., PSTN **330**, or the public land mobile network. A media gateway controller Function (MGCF) **324** performs call control protocol conversion between SIP and ISDN User Part (ISUP) and interfaces with a signaling gateway (SGW) **326**. SGW **326** interfaces with the signaling plane of a circuit switched network, e.g., PSTN **330**. SGW **326** may transform lower layer protocols, such as Stream Control Transmission Protocol (SCTP), into the Message Transfer Part (MTP) protocol, and pass ISUP data from MGCF **324** to PSTN **330** or another circuit switched network. A media gateway (MGW) **328** interfaces with the media plane of PSTN **330** or another circuit switched network by converting data between real-time transport protocol (RTP) and pulse code modulation (PCM), and may also be employed for transcoding when the codecs of the IMS and circuit switched networks differ. Resources of MGW **328** are controlled by MGCF **324**. Fixed access, e.g., IP telephony devices **374a-374b**, may connect with IMS network via Internet **370** that is communicatively coupled with IMS network **320** by way of border gateway **360**.

**[0041]** As is understood, DNS **372** comprises a scalable namespace that facilitates access to entities deployed on the Internet or private networks. DNS **372** maintains various records for host names, servers, and the like. For example, DNS **372** maintains records (commonly referred to as “A records”) that map hostnames to IP addresses, pointer (PTR) records that map IP addresses to canonical names to facilitate reverse DNS lookups, service (SRV) records that specify information on available services, naming authority pointer (NAPTR) records that facilitate regular expression based rewriting, and various other records. DNS **372** may additionally include a telephone number mapping (ENUM) system that facilitates resolution of SIP addresses from E.164 number as is understood.

**[0042]** A base station manager (BSM) **378** may be deployed in Internet **370** and may be adapted to communicate with numerous femtocell systems and femtocell networks. BSM **378** may provide various operations, maintenance, and management functions to femtocell systems. For example, BSM **378** may provide service provisioning of femtocell systems, e.g., by providing configuration downloads to femtocell systems and preloading default configuration data for femtocell systems distributed via sales channels. BSM **378** may provide various support and maintenance features, such as alarm and periodic statistics reporting, automatic remote software image distribution to femtocell systems, provide upgrades and reconfigurations, and may provide remote access via Internet **370** for diagnostics and customer support.

**[0043]** In accordance with an embodiment, a femtocell system **350** may include integrated BTS and BSC functions and may feature additional capabilities available in the provided femtocell site coverage area. Femtocell system **350** provides an IP-accessible radio access network, is adapted for operation with IMS **320**, and provides radio link control functions. Femtocell system **350** may be communicatively coupled with Internet **370** via any variety of backhaul technologies, such as an 802.11x link, a 10/100 BaseT LAN link, a T1/E1 Span or fiber, cable set top box, DSL modem connected with a central office digital subscriber line access multiplexer, a very small aperture terminal (VSAT), or another suitable backhaul infrastructure.

**[0044]** In an embodiment, femtocell system **350** includes a session initiation protocol (SIP) adapter that supports a SIP client pool and provides conversion of call set-up functions to SIP client set-up functions. For example, a SIP client pool allocated by femtocell system **350** may comprise a plurality of SIP user agents **352a-352c** that each may be allocated for a UE authorized to access femtocell system **350**. Additionally, femtocell system **350** includes electronic serial number (ESN) screening, and/or Mobile Equipment Identifier (MEID) screening, to allow only designated UEs to access the femtocell thereby restricting access to authorized home or small office UEs. For example, femtocell system **350** may be configured with an ESN and/or MEID list **354** that specifies ESNs and/or MEIDs of UEs authorized to access femtocell system **350**. In the illustrative example, ESNs of “ESN 1”-“ESN 3” are included in ESN list **354**. Provisioning of ESN(s) and/or MEID(s) may be made as part of an initial femtocell system **350** activation. In the illustrative example, femtocell system **350** is allocated an Internet Protocol (IP) address of “66.249.73.42”, and UE **325** is allocated a mobile services ISDN (MSISDN) number, or E.164 number, of “12145551212”.

**[0045]** FIG. 4A is a simplified diagrammatic representation of femtocell system **350** depicted in FIG. 3 that facilitates provisioning of a femto-RAN in accordance with an embodiment. Femtocell system **350** includes an antenna **400** coupled with a BTS **410**. BTS **410** may be implemented, for example, as a 1xRTT ASIC device and may comprise a non-diversity receiver featuring a built-in duplexer. In an embodiment, BTS **410** may feature only one operational band and may include a transmitter scan receiver and local oscillator. BTS **410** may be communicatively coupled with a BSC **420** that provides radio control functions, such as receiving measurements from UEs, such as mobile phones, control of handovers to and from other femtocell systems, and may additionally facilitate handoff to or from macrocells.

**[0046]** Femtocell system **350** includes an electronic serial number screening function **430** that may facilitate approving or rejecting service for a UE by femtocell system **350**. Additionally femtocell system **350** includes an Internet Operating System (IOS) and SIP Adapter (collectively referred to as IOS-SIP Adapter **440**). IOS-SIP adapter **440** may invoke and manage SIP clients, such as a user agent (UA) pool comprising one or more UAs. In accordance with an embodiment, each UE **325** authorized to be serviced by femtocell system **350** may have a UA allocated therefor by the femtocell system in a manner that facilitates transmission of communications to and from a UE over an IP backhaul. Accordingly, when an authorized UE is within the femtocell system **350** site range, telecommunication services may be provided to the UE via the IP backhaul and the femtocell system **350** provisioned RAN. When the UE is moved beyond the service range of femtocell system **350**, telecommunication service may then be provided to the UE via macrocellular coverage.

**[0047]** To facilitate routing of calls from circuit switched call originators, femtocell system **350** may perform a DNS/ENUM registration on behalf of UEs authorized to obtain service from femtocell system **350**. In the present example, assume UE **325** with a MSISDN of “12145551212” has a SIP service subscription in the domain “example.com” and has a SIP uniform resource identifier (URI) of “12145551212@example.com”. An example DNS/ENUM registration message generated by femtocell system **350** on behalf of UE **325** and transmitted to DNS **372** is as follows:

---

```
$ORIGIN 2.1.2.1.5.5.5.4.1.2.1.e164.arpa.
IN NAPTR 100 10 "u" "E2U+sip"
"!.*!sip:12145551212@example.com!".
```

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**[0048]** As is understood, the first line of the registration message comprises the MSISDN number of the UE converted (i.e., reversed with each numeral delineated with a “.” character and appended with the e164.arpa domain) for DNS lookup. The second line of the registration message specifies the NAPTR record for the hosts that can further process the address—the domain “example.com” (in which the UE with a URI of 12145551212@example.com is registered) in the present example.

**[0049]** Femtocell system **350** may generate and issue a SIP registration on behalf of UE **325** authorized for service access by femtocell system **350**.

**[0050]** FIG. 4B is a simplified diagrammatic representation of an alternative femtocell system **450** that facilitates provisioning of a femto-RAN in accordance with an alternative embodiment. Femtocell system **450** includes an antenna **400**

coupled with a radio node (RN) 411. RN 411 may be implemented, for example, as a 1xEV-DO ASIC device. For example, RN 411 may provide a 1xEV-DO Rev. 0 air interface or a 1xEV-DO Rev. A air interface. RN 411 may be communicatively coupled with a radio network controller (RNC) 421 that provides radio control functions, such as receiving measurements from UEs, control of handovers to and from other femtocell systems, and may additionally facilitate handoff to or from macrocells. RNC 421 may also provide encryption/decryption functions, power, load, and admission control, packet scheduling, and various other services.

[0051] Femtocell system 450 includes an electronic serial number screening function 430 that may facilitate approving or rejecting service for a UE by femtocell system 450. Additionally, femtocell system 450 includes an Internet Operating System (IOS) and SIP Adapter (collectively referred to as IOS-SIP Adapter 440). IOS-SIP adapter 440 may invoke and manage SIP clients, such as a user agent (UA) pool comprising one or more UAs. Each UE 325 authorized to be serviced by femtocell system 450 may have a UA allocated therefor by femtocell system 450 in a manner that facilitates transmission of communications to and from a UE over an IP backhaul. Accordingly, when an authorized UE is within the femtocell system 450 site range, telecommunication services may be provided to the UE via the IP backhaul and femtocell system 450 provisioned RAN. When the UE is moved beyond the service range of femtocell system 450, telecommunication service may then be provided to the UE via macrocellular coverage. Femtocell system 450 may perform a DNS/ENUM registration on behalf of UEs authorized to obtain service from femtocell system 450 and may generate and issue a SIP registration on behalf of a UE authorized for service access by the femtocell system 450 in a manner similar to that described above with reference to femtocell system 350.

[0052] FIG. 5 is a diagrammatic representation of an exemplary SIP registration message 500 generated by femtocell system 350 on behalf of UE 325 authorized for service access thereby in accordance with an embodiment. Registration message 500 may be transmitted from femtocell system 350 to a location service, such as a SIP registrar implemented as SIP Registrar 380. Registrar 380 may provide the location and contact information to location service 382. Registration message 500 includes a REGISTER field 510 that specifies the registration is being made within the domain "example.com". In accordance with an embodiment, multiple contacts are included in registration message 500. In the present example, registration message 500 includes a contact field 512 that specifies a SIP contact for UE 325. Notably, the SIP contact field 512 for UE 325 specifies the UA registered on behalf of UE with the URI 12145551212@example.com is located at the IP address of "66.249.73.42". That is, the SIP contact registered by femtocell system 350 on behalf of UE 325 is to be addressed at the femtocell system 350 address of 66.249.73.42 thereby resulting in routing of SIP signaling messages to femtocell system 325. In turn, femtocell system 350 may convert SIP call set up messaging to RAN signaling, allocate an uplink and a downlink channel for UE 325, and set up a call or data session thereon.

[0053] In the present example, registration message 500 includes a second contact field 514 that specifies a telephone URI, e.g., the MSISDN +1-214-555-1212 of UE 325. Thus, a location query for the SIP URI sip:12145551212@example.com would return two contacts. The first is the SIP URI that

can be used to reach femtocell system 350, and thus UE 325 thereby, and the second is the telephone URI that can be used to reach UE 325 via macrocellular coverage, i.e., via RAN 310. As is understood, the order of contacts 512-514 provides a contact preference, and the multiple contacts may be registered in separate registration messages. The depicted registration message including both the SIP contact URI and telephone URI is exemplary only. Accordingly, in the present example, an attempt to contact UE 325 may first be made via the SIP URI 12145551212@example.com. In the event that the session is not successfully set up via the SIP contact, an attempt may be made to setup a session via RAN 310 using the telephone URI.

[0054] When the UE 325 moves outside the coverage area of femtocell system 350, another registration may be generated and submitted by femtocell system 350 on behalf of UE 325 where the telephone URI is designated as the preferred contact. Further, the SIP URI may be removed from the registration when the UE 325 moves outside the coverage area of femtocell system 350 thereby avoiding any attempts to establish a session with UE 325 via femtocell system 350 when UE 325 has moved beyond the femtocell system 350 coverage area.

[0055] To better facilitate an understanding of disclosed embodiments, consider a call placed at circuit switched telephone 332 to UE 325. A gateway receives the call setup request, e.g., an Initial Address Message (IAM), and a query may be made with DNS 372 from which the domain "example.com" is resolved from the ENUM function. An INVITE message is then transmitted to the example.com domain which, in turn, resolves the location of the called UE 325. Particularly, CSCF 320 may interrogate location server 382 and determine UE 325 is registered as located at the IP address 66.249.73.42. Accordingly, the INVITE message is routed to proxy server 376 which forwards the INVITE message to femtocell system 350. Femtocell system 350 may then perform paging, channel allocation, and other procedures for provisioning a radio interface with UE 325 and issue SIP responses on behalf of UE 325. Thus, from a network perspective, femtocell system 350 appears as a user agent to which the call is directed. Further, UE 325 does not require a SIP client for receiving the call because femtocell system 350 advantageously performs signaling and media conversion for signaling and media transmissions over-the-air interface with 325. Thus, femtocell system 350 may appear as a conventional BTS to UE 325. A call from UE 325 to another terminal, such as circuit-switched telephone 332, a SIP client such as packet-switched telephony device 374a, or another device, may similarly be facilitated by femtocell system 350.

[0056] As a second example, assume UE 325 has moved beyond the range of femtocell system 350. As noted above, femtocell system 350 may generate and transmit a registration message that excludes the SIP contact to facilitate provisioning of telecommunication services via macrocellular coverage, e.g., via RAN 310. For instance, femtocell system 350 may periodically perform power measurements with UE 325, and upon the power measurement dropping below a particular power threshold, femtocell system may determine UE 325 is to be serviced by macrocellular coverage. Alternatively, a user may select macrocellular coverage via a user interface provided on UE 325. In this instance, UE 325 may provide an indication to femtocell system 350 that telecommunication services are to be provided by RAN 310. Other scenarios may similarly result in a determination that UE 325 is to be ser-



viced by RAN 310. Upon such a determination, femtocell system 350 may generate and transmit a registration message on behalf of UE 325 to a registrar service, e.g., CSCF 320 and SIP registrar 380. The contact information may then be updated in location server 382 to indicate the telephone URI as the contact of UE 325. In this scenario, consider a call placed at circuit switched telephone 332 to UE 325. A gateway receives the call setup request, e.g., an Initial Address Message (IAM), and a query may be made with DNS server 372 from which the domain "example.com" is resolved from the ENUM service. An INVITE message is then transmitted to the example.com domain which resolves the location of called UE 325. In the present example, CSCF 320 may interrogate location server 382 and determine UE 325 has a preferred contact registered as a telephone URI of 2145551212. Accordingly, the INVITE message is routed to a gateway server, e.g., gateway server 390 which translates the INVITE message to a RAN-compliant call request signaling. The call may then be setup via RAN 310 accordingly.

[0057] A network of femtocell systems may be deployed and connected with an IP backhaul. In this implementation, an authorized UE may be serviced by the femtocell network, and service may be transferred from one femtocell to another femtocell via a femtocell handoff procedure. In the event that the femtocell network is deployed in an area serviced by a macrocellular network, handoff routines may provide preference for transferring a UE to a target femtocell system rather than a macrocell site. In the event that a suitable femtocell is unavailable for handoff of a UE, the UE may be transferred to the macrocell site.

[0058] FIG. 6 is a diagrammatic representation of a network system 600 featuring a femtocell network implemented in accordance with an embodiment of the invention. System 600 includes a RAN 610 that provides an over-the-air interface with a UE 625, e.g., a mobile terminal. RAN 610 may comprise, for example, a CDMA radio access network or another suitable RAN. RAN 610 may comprise various BTSs 612a-612c and associated BSCs 604 as well as other infrastructure as is understood. Each of BTSs 612a-612c provide a respective macrocell 602a-602c that may provide telecommunication service to UE 625. BSC 604 is coupled with a MSC 606 that provides cellular exchange services, mobility management, and other services within the area that it serves as is understood.

[0059] RAN 610 may interface with IMS 620 adapted to provide IP service to UE 625. To this end, RAN 610 may be communicatively coupled with a SGSN 614 and a GGSN 616. GGSN 616 is communicatively coupled with a PDF 618 that provides authorization of media plane resources. PDF 618 may be communicatively coupled with a CSCF 620.

[0060] CSCF 620 comprises various SIP servers or proxies that process SIP signaling packets in IMS 620. CSCF 620 may include a P-CSCF, a S-CSCF, and an I-CSCF as is understood. HSS 640 stores user profiles that specify subscription-related information of authorized users, authenticates and authorizes users, and provides information about the user's physical location. Various application servers 642a-642n may host and execute services and is interfaced with CSCF 620 via SIP.

[0061] The I-CSCF has an IP address that is published in DNS 672 that facilitates location of the I-CSCF by remote servers. Thus, the I-CSCF is used as a forwarding point for receipt of SIP packets within the domain.

[0062] CSCF 620 is coupled with a BGCF 622 that comprises a SIP server that provides routing functionality based on telephone numbers. A MGCF 624 performs call control protocol conversion between SIP and ISDN User Part (ISUP) and interfaces with a SGW 626 that itself interfaces with the signaling plane of a circuit switched network, e.g., PSTN 630. A MGW 628 interfaces with the media plane of PSTN 630 or another circuit switched network. Resources of MGW 628 are controlled by MGCF 624. Fixed access devices, e.g., IP telephony devices 674a-674b, may connect with IMS network via Internet 670 that is communicatively coupled with IMS network 620 by way of border gateway 660.

[0063] A BSM 678 may be deployed in Internet 670 and may be adapted to communicate with numerous femtocell systems and femtocell networks. BSM 678 may provide various operations, maintenance, and management functions to femtocell systems. BSM 678 may provide service provisioning of femtocell systems, e.g., by providing configuration downloads to femtocell systems and preloading default configuration data for femtocell systems distributed via sales channels. BSM 678 may provide various support and maintenance features, such as alarm and periodic statistics reporting, automatic remote software image distribution to femtocell systems, provide upgrades and reconfigurations, and may provide remote access via Internet 670 for diagnostics and customer support.

[0064] Femtocell systems 650a-650c may include integrated BTS and BSC, or alternatively (or additionally) radio node (RN) and radio network controller (RNC), functions and may feature additional capabilities available in the provided femtocell site coverage areas. Femtocell systems 650a-650c provide an IP-accessible radio access network, are adapted for operation with IMS 620, and provide radio link control functions. Femtocell systems 650a-650c may be communicatively coupled with Internet 670 via any variety of backhaul technologies, such as an 802.11x link, a 10/100 BaseT LAN link, a T1/E1 Span or fiber, cable set top box, DSL modem connected with a central office digital subscriber line access multiplexer, a very small aperture terminal (VSAT), or another suitable backhaul infrastructure. In the illustrative example, femtocell systems 650a-650c may be coupled with an IP backhaul access device 655, such as an Ethernet cable or DSL router. For instance, femtocell systems 650a-650c may be coupled with access node 655 via respective 10/100 BaseT twisted pair cables, Category 5 cabling, or other suitable interconnection.

[0065] Each of femtocell systems 650a-650c provide a respective femtocell site 651a-651c in which UE 625 may be provided telecommunication services over an air interface. Femtocell systems 650a-650c are communicatively coupled with one another via access device 655. Femtocells 650a-650c deployed for conjunctively providing a femtocell service coverage area comprised of the collective femtocell sites 651a-651c are collectively referred to herein as a femtocell network. In an embodiment, femtocell systems 650a-650c may exchange messages with one another to facilitate handoff of a UE from one femtocell to another, e.g., as UE 625 moves out of the radio range of a femtocell and into the radio range of another. In the depicted example, the femtocell network provided by femtocell systems 650a-650c is at least partially overlapped by one or more macrocell sites 602a-602c provisioned by macrocell BTSs 612a-612c. In such an implementation, femtocell systems 650a-650c may provide preference to another femtocell for handoff of a UE thereto. In

the event that another femtocell is not available or is unsuitable for a handoff, the UE may then be transferred to macrocellular coverage via a handoff to a macrocell BTS.

[0066] In an embodiment, each of femtocell system **650a-650c** include a respective SIP adapter that supports a SIP client pool and provides conversion of call set-up functions to SIP client set-up functions. Additionally, femtocell systems **650a-650c** include ESN and/or MEID screening to allow only designated UEs to access the femtocells thereby restricting access to authorized home or small office UES. For example, femtocell system **650a** may be configured with an ESN and/or MEID list **654a** that specifies ESNs and/or MEIDs of UEs authorized to access femtocell system **650**. In the illustrative example, ESNs of “ESN 1”-“ESN 3” are included in ESN and/or MEID list **654a**. Provisioning of ESN(s) and/or MEID (s) may be made as part of an initial femtocell system **650** activation. Other femtocell systems **650b-650c** may be similarly configured with an ESN and/or MEID list including ESNs and/or MEIDs of UEs authorized to access the femtocell system network comprised of femtocell systems **650a-650c**. In the illustrative example, femtocell systems **650a-650c** are allocated a respective IP address of “66.249.73.42”, “66.249.73.43”, and “66.249.73.44”, and UE **625** is allocated a MSISDN number, or E.164 number, of “12145551212”.

[0067] FIG. 7 is a diagrammatic representation of an exemplary software configuration **700** of a UE, such as UE **625**, adapted for engaging in communications with femtocell systems in accordance with an embodiment. In the exemplary configuration of FIG. 7, the UE is configured with access network-specific software entities **760**, e.g., protocol and driver software associated with a particular access network technology, such as CDMA, GSM, UMTS, or another suitable radio access network, and is dependent on the particular cellular and femtocell access technology in which the UE is to be deployed. While configuration **700** depicts a UE adapted for deployment in a single access network technology type, the UE may be implemented as a multi-mode device and may accordingly include a plurality of access-specific entities in accordance with an embodiment. The particular configuration **700** is illustrative only and is provided only to facilitate an understanding of embodiments disclosed herein.

[0068] In the illustrative example, configuration **700** includes a cellular modem driver **702** for providing a physical interface with the access network in which the UE is deployed. An access-stratum **704** and a non-access stratum **706** may be included in configuration **700**. A cellular radio interface **708** may be communicatively coupled with lower layers of configuration **700** and may additionally interface with network and session management layers, e.g., a network stack **710**. Configuration **700** may include an operating system **714**, such as Symbian, Blackberry O/S, or another operating system suitable for mobile applications, and may coordinate and provide control of various components within the UE.

[0069] Configuration **700** may include a femto application **712** that facilitates femtocell network acquisition and handoff of a UE from a macrocellular network to a femtocell system in accordance with an embodiment. In one implementation, a femtocell or femtocell network, such as that comprising femtocell systems **650a-650c**, may be acquired by a micro-pilot assisted handoff routine or a mobile assisted handoff routine as described more fully hereinbelow.

[0070] Configuration **700** may include a preferred roaming list (PRL) **716** that contains information used during the

system selection and acquisition process. PRL **716** indicates which bands, sub-bands and service provider identifiers will be scanned, and the priority of the scan order. In the illustrative example, PRL **716** includes four entries **716a-716d** that respectively specify four networks (illustratively designated “Femto”, “Macro 1”, “Macro 2”, and “Roam 1”). In the present example, assume “Femto” refers to the network of femtocell systems **650a-650c**. The femtocell network is specified first in the prioritized list of PRL entries and thus indicates that the femtocell network is the preferred access network. Assume “Macro 1” refers to radio access network **610**, and “Macro 2” refers to another cellular network. “Roam 1” specified by PRL entry **716d** may refer to another cellular network that may have a roaming agreement with the UE home network. As is understood, PRL **716** may comprise an acquisition table that specifies a list of frequencies associated with each of the networks specified in the roaming list on which the UE may scan during search of a particular system and may further specify PN offsets thereof. The acquisition table may additionally specify a network type of each listed network and associated channel blocks.

[0071] In accordance with an embodiment, femtocell systems **650a-650c** include ESN and/or MEID screening to allow only designated UEs to access the femtocells thereby restricting access to authorized home or small office UEs. To this end, mechanisms for configuration of femtocell systems **650a-650c** with authorized UE ESNs and/or MEIDs are provided in accordance with embodiments.

[0072] FIG. 8 depicts a flowchart **800** of a femtocell system configuration provisioning routine implemented in accordance with an embodiment. The provisioning routine is invoked (step **802**), and the femtocell system may be provisioned with an ID (step **804**). The femtocell system may then be provisioned with a default BSM IP address (step **806**), e.g., the IP address of BSM **678**. Provisioning of the femtocell system ID and default BSM IP address may, for example, be made at the factory or production facility of the femtocell system. The femtocell system may then be deployed in a small office/home office network (step **808**). The femtocell system may then request and receive a configuration download (step **810**), e.g., from the default BSM. In accordance with an embodiment, the configuration download may include an ESN and/or MEID list that specifies ESN(s) and/or MEID(s) of UE(s) authorized to access the femtocell system. The provisioning routine cycle may then end (step **812**).

[0073] FIG. 9 is a configuration routine **900** that facilitates generation of femtocell system configuration data implemented in accordance with an embodiment.

[0074] The configuration routine is invoked (step **902**), and an account identifier and femtocell ID may be received (step **904**), e.g., at a default BSM. Handset IDs in the customer plan associated with the femtocell system may then be received (step **906**). A femtocell system identification number (SID)/network identification number (NID) may then be allocated for the femtocell system (step **908**). ESNs and/or MEIDs of UEs authorized to access then femtocell system may then be compiled (step **910**), e.g., from customer account information. The configuration information may then be transferred to the femtocell system (step **912**), e.g., upon request of the configuration information from the femtocell system. The configuration information may include ESN(s) and/or MEID (s) of UEs authorized to access the femtocell system. Optionally, the configuration information may include the PRL of one or more UEs authorized to access the femtocell system. In

this instance, the femtocell system may transfer the PRL to the UE over an air-interface. On receipt of the configuration information, the femtocell system may load the ESN and/or MEID list including the ESNs and/or MEIDs of UES authorized to access the femtocell system.

**[0075]** In an implementation, a femtocell system may be configured for ESN and/or MEID screening by downloading a configuration file from a BSM. When a UE attempts to register with the femtocell system, the femtocell system may interrogate an ESN and/or MEID list that specifies ESNs and/or MEID(s) of UEs authorized to access the femtocell system. If the ESN or MEID of the UE is included in the ESN and/or MEID list of authorized ESNs and/or MEIDs, the registration may be completed, otherwise the registration may be rejected. In a similar manner, UEs attempting to place a call through the femtocell system may be screened for an authorized ESN or MEID. In an implementation, the femtocell system may be configured to allow a call to be placed by a UE regardless of whether the UE has an authorized ESN or MEID in the event the call request comprises an emergency call request, e.g., a 911 call. In a non-emergency scenario, a call is allowed to be placed through the femtocell system only if the UE placing the call has an ESN or MEID that matches an authorized ESN or MEID of the femtocell system's ESN and/or MEID list.

**[0076]** FIG. 10 is a flowchart 1000 that depicts processing of a call screening routine implemented in accordance with an embodiment. The processing steps of FIG. 10 may be implemented as computer-executable instructions executable by a processing system, such as a femtocell system, in accordance with an embodiment.

**[0077]** The call screening routine is invoked (step 1002), and a call request is received by the femtocell system (step 1004). A femtocell system may then evaluate the call request to determine if the destination number is an emergency number (step 1006), e.g., 911. In the event the destination number is an emergency number, the femtocell system may complete the call setup (step 1008). In the event the UE is equipped with global positioning system (GPS) capabilities, or alternatively if the network includes GPS or other suitable location determination services, the GPS or other location information of the UE may be included in the call setup signaling transmitted to the core network. The call screening routine cycle may then end (step 1018).

**[0078]** Returning again to step 1006, in the event that the destination number is not an emergency number, the femtocell system may then determine the ESN or MEID of the call originating user equipment (step 1010). The femtocell system may then interrogate the ESN and/or MEID list maintained by the femtocell system (step 1012). An evaluation may then be made to determine if the ESN or MEID of the origination user equipment matches an ESN or MEID of the ESN and/or MEID list (step 1014). In the event that the ESN or MEID of the originating user equipment matches an ESN or MEID of the ESN and/or MEID list, the call may be setup according to step 1008. If, however, the ESN or MEID does not match an authorized ESN or MEID maintained in the femtocell system's ESN and/or MEID list, the call setup may be rejected (step 1016), and the call screening routine cycle may then end according to step 1018.

**[0079]** FIG. 11 is a flowchart 1100 that depicts processing of a user equipment registration screening routine implemented in accordance with an embodiment. The processing steps of FIG. 11 may be implemented as computer-executable

instructions executable by a processing system, such as a femtocell system, in accordance with an embodiment.

**[0080]** The registration screening routine is invoked (step 1102), and a registration request is received (step 1104), for example, when a user equipment is powered on within a femtocell system service area or when a user equipment is registered in a macrocell system and moves within range of a femtocell system. The femtocell system may determine the ESN or MEID of the user equipment (step 1106), and may then evaluate the ESN and/or MEID list of authorized ESNs and/or MEIDs to determine if the user equipment requesting to register with the femtocell system is authorized to access the femtocell system (step 1108). If the ESN or MEID of the user equipment matches an ESN or MEID of the ESN and/or MEID list, registration of the user equipment may be completed by the femtocell system (step 1110), and the registration screening routine cycle may end (step 1114).

**[0081]** Returning again to step 1108, if the ESN or MEID of the user equipment that has requested registration with the femtocell system does not match an ESN or MEID of the ESN and/or MEID list maintained by the femtocell system, the femtocell system may reject the registration request (step 1112), and the registration screening routine cycle may end according to step 1114.

**[0082]** As described, a communication system featuring an IP-based femtocell system for provisioning communication services to a user equipment is provided. In one implementation, a list of ESNs and/or MEIDs of handsets in the user subscription may be compiled by a base station manager. The femtocell system may connect with the base station manager and request a configuration download once deployed in a SOHO. The compiled ESNs and/or MEIDs may then be transferred from the base station manager to the femtocell system in a configuration download. The femtocell system may then screen ESNs and/or MEIDs of user equipments that attempt to register with the femtocell system. In an embodiment, the femtocell system may allow calls to be placed through the femtocell system on an emergency basis regardless of whether the user equipment has an ESN or MEID that is authorized for access by the femtocell system. In non-emergency scenarios, only user equipments having an ESN or MEID that match an ESN or MEID in the femtocell system's ESN and/or MEID list are allowed to place calls or register with the femtocell system.

**[0083]** The flowcharts of FIGS. 8-11 depict process serialization to facilitate an understanding of disclosed embodiments and are not necessarily indicative of the serialization of the operations being performed. In various embodiments, the processing steps described in FIGS. 8-11 may be performed in varying order, and one or more depicted steps may be performed in parallel with other steps. Additionally, execution of some processing steps of FIGS. 8-11 may be excluded without departing from embodiments disclosed herein.

**[0084]** The illustrative block diagrams depict process steps or blocks that may represent modules, segments, or portions of code that include one or more executable instructions for implementing specific logical functions or steps in the process. Although the particular examples illustrate specific process steps or procedures, many alternative implementations are possible and may be made by simple design choice. Some process steps may be executed in different order from the specific description herein based on, for example, considerations of function, purpose, conformance to standard, legacy structure, user interface design, and the like.

**[0085]** Aspects of the present invention may be implemented in software, hardware, firmware, or a combination thereof. The various elements of the system, either individually or in combination, may be implemented as a computer program product tangibly embodied in a machine-readable storage device for execution by a processing unit. Various steps of embodiments of the invention may be performed by a computer processor executing a program tangibly embodied on a computer-readable medium to perform functions by operating on input and generating output. The computer-readable medium may be, for example, a memory, a transportable medium such as a compact disk, a floppy disk, or a diskette, such that a computer program embodying the aspects of the present invention can be loaded onto a computer. The computer program is not limited to any particular embodiment, and may, for example, be implemented in an operating system, application program, foreground or background process, driver, network stack, or any combination thereof, executing on a single processor or multiple processors. Additionally, various steps of embodiments of the invention may provide one or more data structures generated, produced, received, or otherwise implemented on a computer-readable medium, such as a memory.

**[0086]** Although embodiments of the present invention have been illustrated in the accompanied drawings and described in the foregoing description, it will be understood that the invention is not limited to the embodiments disclosed, but is capable of numerous rearrangements, modifications, and substitutions without departing from the spirit of the invention as set forth and defined by the following claims. For example, the capabilities of the invention can be performed fully and/or partially by one or more of the blocks, modules, processors or memories. Also, these capabilities may be performed in the current manner or in a distributed manner and on, or via, any device able to provide and/or receive information. Further, although depicted in a particular manner, various modules or blocks may be repositioned without departing from the scope of the current invention. Still further, although depicted in a particular manner, a greater or lesser number of modules and connections can be utilized with the present invention in order to accomplish the present invention, to provide additional known features to the present invention, and/or to make the present invention more efficient. Also, the information sent between various modules can be sent between the modules via at least one of a data network, the Internet, an Internet Protocol network, a wireless source, and a wired source and via plurality of protocols.

What is claimed is:

1. A method of service screening in a network system, comprising:
  - provisioning a femtocell system with a list of at least one electronic serial number of at least one user equipment authorized to access the femtocell system;
  - receiving, by the femtocell system, a service request from a user equipment;
  - determining an electronic serial number of the user equipment; and
  - comparing the electronic serial number with the list of at least one electronic serial number.
2. The method of claim 1, where receiving a service request comprises receiving a call setup request.
3. The method of claim 1, where receiving a service request comprises receiving a registration request.

4. The method of claim 1, where comparing the electronic serial number further comprises determining the electronic serial number does not match any of the at least one electronic serial number, the method further comprising rejecting the service request.

5. The method of claim 1, where comparing the electronic serial number further comprises determining the electronic serial number matches one of the at least one electronic serial number, the method further comprising completing the service request.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
  - determining the service request is an emergency service request; and
  - completing the service request.

7. The method of claim 1, where provisioning the femtocell system further comprises receiving the list from a base station manager as a configuration download.

8. The method of claim 1, where the list of at least one electronic serial number comprises a list of electronic serial numbers of user equipments registered on a customer account associated with the femtocell system.

9. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for execution by a processing system, the computer-executable instructions for service screening in a network system, the computer-readable medium comprising instructions for:
  - receiving, by a femtocell system, a list of at least one electronic serial number from a base station manager as a configuration download, wherein the at least one electronic serial number is an electronic serial number of a user equipment authorized to access the femtocell system;
  - provisioning the femtocell system with the list;
  - receiving, by the femtocell system, a service request from a user equipment;
  - determining an electronic serial number of the user equipment; and
  - comparing the electronic serial number with the list of at least one electronic serial number.

10. The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the instructions for receiving a service request comprise instructions for receiving a call setup request.
11. The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the instructions for receiving a service request comprise instructions for receiving a registration request.
12. The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the instructions for comparing the electronic serial number further comprise instructions for determining the electronic serial number does not match any of the at least one electronic serial number, the computer-readable medium further comprising instructions for rejecting the service request.
13. The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the instructions for comparing the electronic serial number further comprise instructions for determining the electronic serial number matches one of the at least one electronic serial number, the computer-readable medium further comprising instructions for completing the service request.
14. The computer-readable medium of claim 9, further comprising instructions for:
  - determining the service request is an emergency service request; and
  - completing the service request.
15. The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the list of at least one electronic serial number comprises a list of

electronic serial numbers of user equipments registered on a customer account associated with the femtocell system.

**16.** A system configured for service screening in a network system, comprising:

a packet-switched network including a base station manager server; and

a femtocell system communicatively coupled with the packet-switched network adapted to provide a radio interface with a user equipment, wherein the femtocell system receives a configuration download from the base station manager that includes a list of at least one electronic serial number of at least one user equipment registered on a customer account associated with the femtocell system, wherein the femtocell system receives a service request from a user equipment, determines an electronic serial number of the user equipment, and

compares the electronic serial number with the list of at least one electronic serial number.

**17.** The system of claim **16**, wherein the service request comprises a call setup request.

**18.** The system of claim **16**, wherein the service request comprises a registration request.

**19.** The system of claim **16**, wherein the femtocell system determines the electronic serial number does not match any of the at least one electronic serial number and rejects the service request.

**20.** The system of claim **16**, wherein the femtocell system determines the electronic serial number matches one of the at least one electronic serial number and completes the service request.

\* \* \* \* \*