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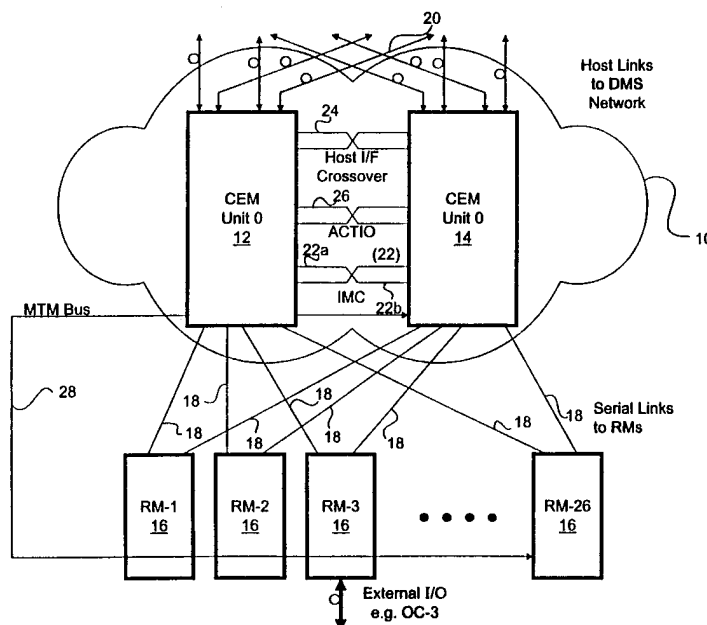
US

(71) Applicant: NORTHERN TELECOM LIMITED [CA/CA];
P.O. Box 6123, Station A, Montreal, Quebec H3C 3J5 (CA).(72) Inventors: SNOW, Harold, J.; #105, 218 Viewmount Drive,
Nepean, Ontario K2E 7X5 (CA). WONG, Edmund; 1191
Plante Drive, Ottawa, Ontario K1V 9E9 (CA). TARSKY,
Anatoly; 4 Hyde Park Way, Nepean, Ontario K2G 5R6
(CA). BARKHOUSE, Bruce, I.; 116 Summerwalk Place,
Nepean, Ontario K2G 5Y4 (CA).(74) Agent: SMART & BIGGAR; Attn.: Zischka, Matthew, Suite
2300, 439 University Avenue, P.O. Box 39, Station P,
Toronto, Ontario M5S 2S6 (CA).(81) Designated States: CA, JP, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE,
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(57) Abstract

An architecture for a modular communications system is disclosed. The modular communications system comprises at least one control module; a plurality of resource modules for receipt of external payload data provided to said system of for manipulation of the payload data; a plurality of resource module links, one link connecting each resource module to the control module and each resource module. The control module comprises a switch for switching payload data between the plurality of resource modules; and a bandwidth allocator comprising a bandwidth selector and a distributor each connected to the switch and to the resource module links. The bandwidth selector allows the selection of the bandwidth of payload data passed from any of the resource modules to the time switch. Similarly, the bandwidth distributor allows for the selection of the bandwidth of payload data switched through the switch and provided to any of the resource modules from the control module. Preferably, all the resource module links are electrically isolated from each other. The architecture provides for the modular assembly of a telecommunications offering varied capacities, redundancies and services.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 6 H04Q11/04 H04Q3/545

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 6 H04Q

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	EP 0 451 400 A (AMERICAN TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY) 16 October 1991 see page 3, line 38 - page 4, line 7 see page 6, line 1 - page 8, line 11 ---	1-5, 11-18
A	US 4 254 498 A (TAWARA ET AL) 3 March 1981 see column 4, line 33 - column 5, line 58 ---	19,20
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☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

De Muyt, H

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A	HOLLAND H G ET AL: "THE 5ESS-2000 SWITCH: EXCEEDING CUSTOMER EXPECTATIONS" AT & T TECHNICAL JOURNAL, vol. 73, no. 6, 1 November 1994, pages 28-37, XP000476706 see the whole document -----	1
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