

MULTIPOINT-TO-MULTIPOINT SERVICE FOR A COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

Abstract of the Invention

A multipoint-to-multipoint service is provided between a set of edge nodes (T- PE) of a communications network (10). The network (10) comprises at least two subnetworks (11- 14) and an intermediate node (S-PE) at a boundary between subnetworks. For each pair of edge nodes (T-PE) comprising an edge node in a first of the sub-networks and an edge node in a second of the sub-networks, a multi-segment pseudowire connection (20) is configured between the pair of edge nodes (T-PE). The pseudowire connection passing via at least one intermediate node (S-PE). At the intermediate node (S-PE) forwarding data is configured which specifies a forwarding relationship between pseudowire segments corresponding to the multi-segment pseudowire connections. A topology of Label Switched Paths (LSP) carry the multi- segment pseudowires. Edge nodes (T-PE) within a sub-network (11, 12, 13) can be connected with a mesh topology or a hub-and-spoke topology.

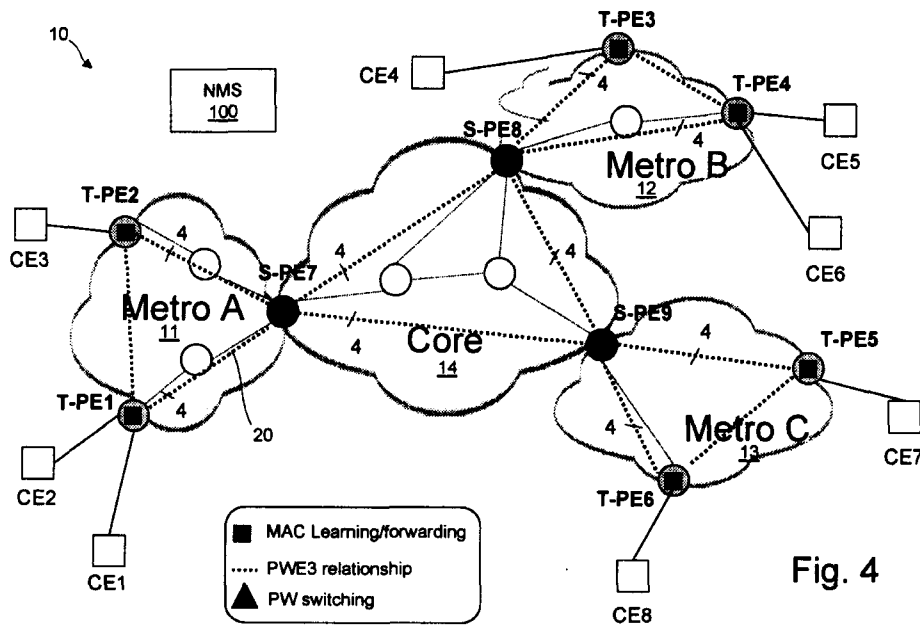


Fig. 4

