US Patent & Trademark Office

US 6,240,073

USPTO Transaction Information*

SEQ. ^δ	DATE	DESCRIPTION				
1	15 Apr 1998	Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) Filed				
2	08 May 2014	Mail-Petition Decision - Granted				
3	08 May 2014	Petition Decision - Granted				
4	11 Mar 2014	Petition Entered				
5	23 Oct 2012	Correspondence Address Change				
6	04 Oct 2004	Applicant Has Filed a Verified Statement of Small Entity Status in Compliance with 37 CFR 1.27				
7	25 Jan 2001	Workflow - File Sent to Contractor				
8	29 May 2001	Recordation of Patent Grant Mailed				
9	11 May 2001	Issue Notification Mailed				
10	26 Apr 2001	Application Is Considered Ready for Issue				
11	04 Apr 2001	Workflow - Drawings Received at Contractor				
12	04 Apr 2001	Issue Fee Payment Verified				
13	04 Apr 2001	Workflow - Drawings Finished				
14	04 Apr 2001	Workflow - Drawings Matched with File at Contractor				
15	04 Apr 2001	Workflow - Drawings Sent to Contractor				
16	23 Apr 2001	Workflow - Complete WF Records for Drawings				
17	03 Jan 2001	Mail Notice of Allowance				
18	03 Jan 2001	Notice of Allowance Data Verification Completed				
19	26 Dec 2000	Date Forwarded to Examiner				
20	15 Dec 2000	Response after Non-Final Action				
21	15 Dec 2000	Request for Extension of Time - Granted				
22	06 Oct 2000	Case Docketed to Examiner in GAU				
23	19 Jul 2000	Mail Non-Final Rejection				
24	17 Jul 2000	Non-Final Rejection				
25	09 Jun 1999	Preexamination Location Change				
26	15 Apr 1998	Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) Filed				
27	15 Apr 1998	Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) Filed				
28	14 Nov 1997	Preliminary Amendment				
29	30 Apr 1998	Case Docketed to Examiner in GAU				
30	12 Mar 1998	Application Dispatched from OIPE				
31	25 Feb 1998	IFW Scan & amp; PACR Auto Security Review				
32	05 Dec 1997	Initial Exam Team nn				

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Page 1 of 1

 δ Transaction Sequence Number (SEQ.) is unrelated to Paper Number in File Table of contents.



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Patent Assignment Abstract of Title

Total Assign	ments:	2							
Application #:	08970922	Filing Dt: 11/14/1997	Patent #: 6240073	Issue Dt: 05/29/2001					
PCT #:	NONE	Intl Reg #:	Publication #: NONE	Pub Dt:					
Inventors:	ARIE REIC	RIE REICHMAN, SHAUL LAUFER, AVI BARDA, SORIN GOLDENBERG							
Title:	Title: REVERSE LINK FOR A SATELLITE COMMUNICATION NETWORK								
Assignment:	1								
Reel/Frame:	009126 / 0684	009126 / 0684 Received: 04/30/1998 Recorded: 04/20/1998 Mailed: 06/24/1998 Pages: 3							
Conveyance:	ASSIGN	ASSIGNMENT OF ASSIGNORS INTEREST (SEE DOCUMENT FOR DETAILS).							
Assignors:	rs: REICHMAN, ARIE Exec Dt : 03/30/1998								
	LAUFER,	SHAUL	Exec Dt: 03/3	30/1998					
	BARDA,	AVI	Exec Dt: 03/29/1998						
	GOLDEN	BERG, SORIN	03/30/1998						
Assignee:	SHIRON 14 KIRY TEL AVI	SATELLITE COMMUNICATIC AT SEFER STREET /, ISRAEL 65277	DNS (1996) LTD.						
0									

Correspondent: DARBY & DARBY P.C. S. PETER LUDWIG 805 THIRD AVENUE, 27TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022-7513

Assignment: 2

Reel/Frame:	024294 / 0787 Received: 04/28/2010 Recorded: 04/28/2010 Maile	d: 04/28/2010 Pages: 2			
Conveyance:	: ASSIGNMENT OF ASSIGNORS INTEREST (SEE DOCUMENT FOR DETAILS).				
Assignor:	SHIRON SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS (1996) LTD.	Exec Dt: 12/31/2009			
Assignee:	ELBIT SYSTEMS LAND AND C4I - TADIRAN LTD. 5 HAGAVISH STREET NATANIA, ISRAEL 42507				
Correspondent:	MARTIN D. MOYNIHAN P.O. BOX 16446 PRTSI, INC. ARLINGTON, VA 22215				

US Patent & Trademark Office

US 6,240,073 Maintenance Fee Statement*

	Fee Description	Amount	Surcharge	Small Entity	Attorney Docket No.	Status
1	4th yr. Maintenance Fee	455.00	0.00	SMALL	0866/OD811	PAID
2	8th yr. Maintenance Fee	1,180.00	0.00	SMALL	0866/OD811	PAID
3	12th yr. Maintenance Fee	2,365.00	0.00	SMALL	0866/OD811	PAID

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Patent and Trademark Office

NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND ISSUE FEE DUE

WM02/0103

DARBY & DARBY 805 THIRD AVENUE NEW YORK NY 10022

APPLICATION NO.		FILING DATE TOTAL CLAIMS		EXAMINE	R AND GROUP ART UNIT	DATE MAILED		
	08/970,922	11/14/97	036	VU, H	•	2663	01/03/01	
First Named Applicant	REICHMAN	3	35	USC 154(b)	term ext. =	0 Day	S .	
TITLE OF	REVERSE LIN	K FOR A SAT	ELLITE CO	MMUNICATION	NETWORK			

ATTY'S	DOCKET NO.	CLASS-SUBCLASS	BATCH NO.	APPL	N. TYPE	SMALL	ENTITY	FEE DUE		DATE DUE
. 2	0866/008	311 370-	319.000	A18	UTILI	TY`,	ŅŨ	\$1240.0	00	04/03/01

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.

THE ISSUE FEE MUST BE PAID WITHIN <u>THREE MONTHS</u> FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. <u>THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.</u>

HOW TO RESPOND TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above. If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:	If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:
A. If the status is changed, pay twice the amount of the FEE DUE shown above and notify the Patent and Trademark Office of the change in status, or	A. Pay FEE DUE shown above, or
B. If the status is the same, pay the FEE DUE shown above.	B. File verified statement of Small Entity Status before, or with, payment of 1/2 the FEE DUE shown above.

- II. Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned to the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) with your ISSUE FEE. Even if the ISSUE FEE has already been paid by charge to deposit account, Part B Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the ISSUE FEE to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.
- III. All communications regarding this application must give application number and batch number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Box ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE COPY PTOL-85 (REV. 10-96) Approved for use through 06/30/99. (0651-0033)

*U.S. GPO: 1999-454-457/24601

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt					
EFS ID:	9500609				
Application Number:	08970922				
International Application Number:					
Confirmation Number:	3419				
Title of Invention:	REVERSE LINK FOR A SATELLITE COMMUNICATION NETWORK				
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	ARIE REICHMAN				
Correspondence Address:	DARBY & DARBY - 805 THIRD AVENUE - NEW YORK NY 10022 US - -				
Filer:	Jason Harris Rosenblum/Dorit Handrus				
Filer Authorized By:	Jason Harris Rosenblum				
Attorney Docket Number:	0866/OD811				
Receipt Date:	23-FEB-2011				
Filing Date:	14-NOV-1997				
Time Stamp:	11:27:24				
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)				
Payment information:					

Submitted with Payment no File Listing: Image: Compare the second secon

Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)			
1	Miscellaneous Incoming Letter	25663 LBE Assertion.pdf	14870	no	1			
			7d8bf21dfa181b31742599e27a3514200b1 a1b8d					
Warnings:								
Information:								
Total Files Size (in bytes): 14870								
			•					

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New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111

If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371

If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office

If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.
Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt				
EFS ID:	13959677			
Application Number:	08970922			
International Application Number:				
Confirmation Number:	3419			
Title of Invention:	REVERSE LINK FOR A SATELLITE COMMUNICATION NETWORK			
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	ARIE REICHMAN			
Correspondence Address:	DARBY & DARBY - 805 THIRD AVENUE - NEW YORK NY 10022 US - -			
Filer:	Jason Harris Rosenblum/Dorit Handrus			
Filer Authorized By:	Jason Harris Rosenblum			
Attorney Docket Number:	0866/OD811			
Receipt Date:	11-OCT-2012			
Filing Date:	14-NOV-1997			
Time Stamp:	12:06:16			
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)			
Payment information:				

Submitted with Payment no File Listing: Image: Compare the second secon

Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1	Miscellaneous Incoming Letter	25663LBEAssertionRe-	14887	14887 no 27fae9674096553f9de20 d762	1
	······································	Filedon11-Oct-2012.pdf	f0a285b380689a227fae9674096553f9de20 d762		·
Warnings:					
Information:					
		Total Files Size (in bytes):	: 1	4887	
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National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371

If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office

If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt				
EFS ID:	13979966			
Application Number:	08970922			
International Application Number:	-			
Confirmation Number:	3419			
Title of Invention:	REVERSE LINK FOR A SATELLITE COMMUNICATION NETWORK			
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	ARIE REICHMAN			
Correspondence Address:	DARBY & DARBY - 805 THIRD AVENUE - NEW YORK NY 10022 US - -			
Filer:	Jason Harris Rosenblum/Dorit Handrus			
Filer Authorized By:	Jason Harris Rosenblum			
Attorney Docket Number:	0866/OD811			
Receipt Date:	15-OCT-2012			
Filing Date:	14-NOV-1997			
Time Stamp:	06:30:44			
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)			
Payment information:				

Submitted with Payment no File Listing: Image: Compared to the second s

Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)		
1	Miscellaneous Incoming Letter	25663FeeAddress.pdf	20439	no	1		
	······································	250051 centuress.par	c0d4800169c62417e6fb0787d04626abe02 b57e4	2			
Warnings:							
Information:							
		Total Files Size (in bytes):	2	0439			
			•				

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New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111

If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371

If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office

If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt				
EFS ID:	18747503			
Application Number:	08970922			
International Application Number:				
Confirmation Number:	3419			
Title of Invention:	REVERSE LINK FOR A SATELLITE COMMUNICATION NETWORK			
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	ARIE REICHMAN			
Customer Number:	106330			
Filer:	Jason Harris Rosenblum/Robert Shein			
Filer Authorized By:	Jason Harris Rosenblum			
Attorney Docket Number:	0866/OD811			
Receipt Date:	13-APR-2014			
Filing Date:	14-NOV-1997			
Time Stamp:	06:58:55			
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)			

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment no		no	no			
File Listin	g:					
Document Number	Document Description		File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1	Notification of loss of entitlement to small entity status	25	25663LargeEntityAssertion.pdf	16793	no	1
		25		c78a199470c0458a76b249bf703363dd7d8 9bab8		
Warnings:						
Information:						

Total	Files	Size	(in b	ytes):
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This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.

New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111

If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371

If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office

If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.
- a plurality of user terminals for generating data to be transmitted over said multiple access communication system;
- at least one hub for receiving data over said multiple access communication system from said plurality of ⁵ user terminals;
- transmitter means within each user terminal for receiving data to be transmitted from said user terminal to said hub, said transmitter means including first communication means for transmitting short bursty data in ¹⁰ combination with second communication means for continuous transmission of data;
- switching means coupled to said transmitter means for switching transmission between said first communication means and said second communication means in ¹⁵ accordance with predefined criteria, and
- receiver means within said at least one hub adapted to receive data transmitted by said plurality of terminals utilizing either said first communication means or said second communication means;
- wherein said switching means comprises means for switching transmission from said second communication means to said first communication means when a continuation flag in a message received by said transmitter means is turned off.

7. A multiple access communications system for use in a satellite communication network, comprising:

- a plurality of user terminals for generating data to be transmitted over said multiple access communication ₃₀ system;
- at least one hub for receiving data over said multiple access communication system from said plurality of user terminals;
- transmitter means within each user terminal for receiving ³⁵ data to be transmitted from said user terminal to said hub, said transmitter means including first communication means for transmitting short bursty data in combination with second communication means for continuous transmission of data; ⁴⁰
- switching means coupled to said transmitter means for switching transmission between said first communication means and said second communication means in accordance with predefined criteria, and
- receiver means within said at least one hub adapted to receive data transmitted by said plurality of terminals utilizing either said first communication means or said second communication means;
- wherein said switching means comprises means for switching transmission from said second communication means to said first communication means when the software application meeting a predetermined criteria that initiated a message to be transmitted via said transmitter means ceases to generate message data. 55

8. A multiple access communications system for use in a satellite communication network, comprising:

a plurality of user terminals for generating data to be transmitted over said multiple access communication system;

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- at least one hub for receiving data over said multiple access communication system from said plurality of user terminals;
- transmitter means within each user terminal for receiving data to be transmitted from said user terminal to said 65 hub, said transmitter means including first communication means for transmitting short bursty data in

combination with second communication means for continuous transmission of data;

- switching means coupled to said transmitter means for switching transmission between said first communication means and said second communication means in accordance with predefined criteria, and
- receiver means within said at least one hub adapted to receive data transmitted by said plurality of terminals utilizing either said first communication means or said second communication means; p1 wherein said at least one hub comprises collision detection means for determining when two frequency hops associated with two independent receivers are utilizing the same frequency at the same time, thus improving decoding within said receiver means.

9. A multiple access communication system for use in a satellite communication network, said satellite communication network including a plurality of user terminals and at least one hub, said system comprising:

- first transmitter means for transmitting data utilizing a non synchronous frequency hopping code division multiple access communication scheme;
- second transmitter means for transmitting data utilizing a frequency division multiple access communication scheme;
- switching means for switching transmission between said first transmitter means and said second transmitter means in accordance with predefined criteria;
- first receiver means for receiving data transmitted using utilizing said non synchronous frequency hopping code division multiple access communication scheme;
- second receiver means for receiving data transmitted using said frequency division multiple access communication scheme; and
- third receiver means for receiving preamble and synchronization data transmitted utilizing said utilizing a non synchronous frequency hopping code division multiple access communication scheme.

10. The system according to claim **9**, wherein said switching means comprises means for switching transmission from said first transmitter means to said second transmitter means in accordance with a source port field within messages received by said transmitter means.

11. The system according to claim 9, wherein said switch-ing means comprises means for switching transmission from said first transmitter means to said second transmitter means when the length of a message received by said transmitter means exceeds a predetermined threshold.

12. The system according to claim 9, wherein said switching means comprises means for switching transmission from said first transmitter means to said second transmitter means when a continuation flag in a message received by said transmitter means is turned on.

13. The system according to claim 9, wherein said switching means comprises means for switching transmission from said first transmitter means to said second transmitter means when a user buffer containing a plurality of messages to be sent via said transmitter means fills beyond predetermined level.

14. The system according to claim 9, wherein said switching means comprises means for switching transmission from said first transmitter means to said second transmitter means in accordance with the type and nature of the software application that initiated a message to be transmitted via said transmitter means.

15. The system according to claim 9, wherein said switching means comprises means for switching transmission from

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said second transmitter means to said first transmitter means when a source port matching a predetermined criteria ceases to transmit messages.

16. The system according to claim **9**, wherein said switching means comprises means for switching transmission from 5 said second transmitter means to said first transmitter means when the length of a message received by said transmitter means fails to exceed a predetermined threshold.

17. The system according to claim **9**, wherein said switching means comprises means for switching transmission from 10 said second transmitter means to said first transmitter means when a continuation flag in a message received by said transmitter means is turned off.

18. The system according to claim **9**, wherein said switching means comprises means for switching transmission from 15 said second transmitter means to said first transmitter means when a user buffer containing a plurality of messages to be sent via said transmitter means empties.

19. The system according to claim **9**, wherein said switching means comprises means for switching transmission from 20 said second transmitter means to said first transmitter means when the software application meeting a predetermined criteria that initiated a message to be transmitted via said transmitter means ceases to generate message data.

20. The system according to claim **1**, further comprising 25 interface means for interfacing said at least one hub to an external communications network.

21. The system according to claim 20, wherein said external communications network comprises the Internet.

22. The system according to claim 20, wherein said 30 external communications network comprises a packet switched telephone network (PSTN).

23. The system according to claim 20, wherein said external communications network comprises an Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN).

24. The system according to claim 20, wherein said external communications network comprises a Community Antenna Television (CATV) network.

25. The system according to claim **20**, wherein said external communications network comprises a Digital Sub- 40 scriber Loop (xDSL).

26. The system according to claim 20, wherein said external communications network comprises a Frame Relay network.

27. The system according to claim 9, further comprising 45 collision detection means for determining when two frequency hops associated with two independent receivers within said receiver means are utilizing the same frequency at the same time, thus improving decoding within said first receiver means. 50

28. A multiple access communications system for use in a satellite communication network, comprising:

- a plurality of user terminals for transmitting and receiving data over said multiple access communication system;
- at least one hub for transmitting and receiving data over ⁵⁵ said multiple access communication system to and from said plurality of user terminals;
- a forward communication link for transmitting data from said at least one hub to said plurality of user terminals;
- a return communication link for transmitting data from said plurality of user terminals to said at least one hub, said return communication link including a first communication means for transmitting short bursty data in

combination with second communication means for continuous transmission of data;

- switching means within said plurality of user terminals for switching transmission between said first communication means and said second communication means in accordance with predefined criteria; and
- receiver means within said at least one hub adapted to receive data transmitted by said plurality of terminals utilizing either said first communication means or said second communication means,
- wherein each user terminal comprises means for generating a request to be sent over said return communications link in order to utilize said second communication means.

29. A multiple access communications system for use in a satellite communication network, comprising:

- a plurality of user terminals for transmitting and receiving data over said multiple access communication system;
- at least one hub for transmitting and receiving data over said multiple access communication system to and from said plurality of user terminals;
- a forward communication link for transmitting data from said at least one hub to said plurality of user terminals;
- a return communication link for transmitting data from said plurality of user terminals to said at least one hub, said return communication link including a first communication means for transmitting short bursty data in combination with second communication means for continuous transmission of data;
- switching means within said plurality of user terminals for switching transmission between said first communication means and said second communication means in accordance with predefined criteria; and
- receiver means within said at least one hub adapted to receive data transmitted by said plurality of terminals utilizing either said first communication means or said second communication means,
- wherein said at least one hub comprises means for polling each user terminal over said forward communication link as to whether said transmission of data should be switched to utilize said second communication means.

30. The system according to claim **9**, further comprising interface means for interfacing said at least one hub to an external communications network.

31. The system according to claim **30**, wherein said external communications network comprises the Internet.

32. The system according to claim **30**, wherein said external communications network comprises a packet ₅₀ switched telephone network (PSTN).

33. The system according to claim **30**, wherein said external communications network comprises an Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN).

34. The system according to claim **30**, wherein said external communications network comprises a Community Antenna Television (CATV) network.

35. The system according to claim **20**, wherein said external communications network comprises a Digital Subscriber Loop (xDSL).

36. The system according to claim **20**, wherein said external communications network comprises a Frame Relay network.

* * * * *