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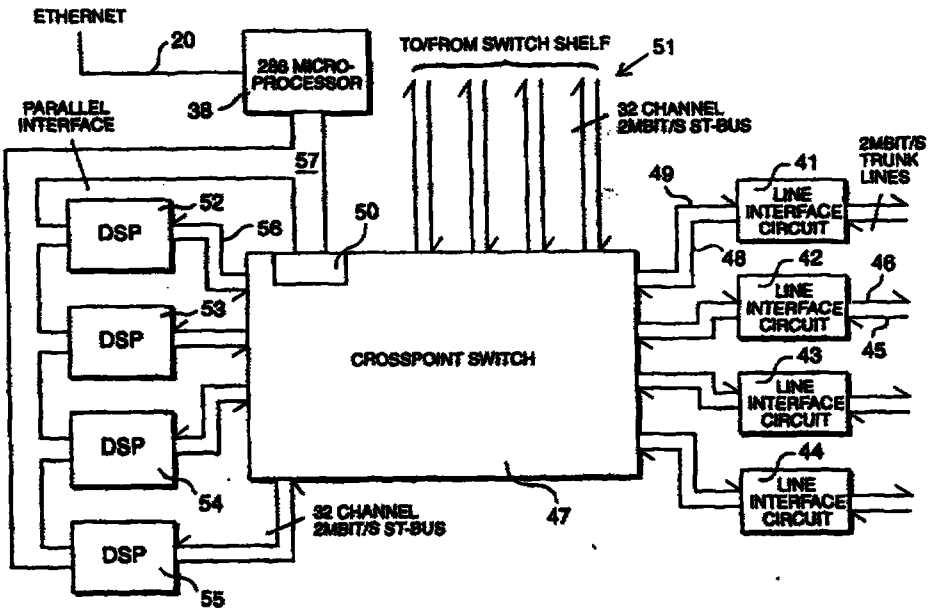

(57) Abstract

A switch (25) for a service node (18) forming part of a telecommunications network (figure 1), having a switching matrix (32) and a plurality of line interface circuits (37). Each of the line interface circuits (37) includes a cross-point switch (47), a plurality of a first type of processing means (such as digital signal processors (52), and a second type of processing means, such as a microprocessor (38). The digital signal processors are connected to the cross-point switch (47) by a serial interface (56) suitable for receiving digitised speech signals. The microprocessor is connected to the cross-point switch via a parallel bus (57) and the cross-point switch includes means for facilitating a communication between the digital signal processor and the cross-point switch.

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