

mobile communication networks; and a central core common to each of the mobile communication networks, comprising a policy master arranged to determine resource requirements within the mobile communication networks in accordance with one or more defined policies and a resource manager arranged to allocate resources to the mobile communication networks in response to resource requests from the router and to resource requests from the policy master.

[0006] The resource manager may control which of the link interfaces are active at any one time and/or may vary the communication resources available through each of the link interfaces. The allocation of communication resources may be varied dynamically. The resource manager may apply one or more predetermined rules or heuristics based on a number of conditions, including but not limited to the nature of the resource requests, the conditions or available capacity within the mobile communication networks, the current or future position of the mobile platform, or cost, energy, latency or efficiency requirements.

[0007] The resource manager may be located within a Network Operations Centre (NOC). The resource manager may be responsive to network metrics and parameters, for example provided by Network Management Station (NMS).

[0008] The router may select different interfaces for uplink and downlink communications. The router may select more than one of the interfaces for simultaneous communications.

[0009] The mobile platform may comprise an aeronautical platform or a maritime platform, for example. The mobile platform may include a local network for connecting a plurality of on-board devices to the router. The local network may be a wired and/or wireless network.

[0010] Aspects of the invention include the mobile platform, the router and the resource manager.

[0011] Aspects of the present invention are defined with reference to the accompanying claims.

7. The system of claim 6, wherein the network metrics and/or parameters are collected and provided by a Network Management System Station.
8. The system of any preceding claim, wherein the router is able to select different ones of the interfaces for uplink and downlink communications.
- 5 9. The system of any preceding claim, wherein the router is able to select more than one of the interfaces for simultaneous communications.
10. The system of any preceding claim, wherein the mobile platform includes a local network for connecting a plurality of communication devices to the router.
11. The system of claim 10, wherein the local network comprises a wireless and/or
10 wired network.
12. The system of any preceding claim, wherein the mobile platform comprises an aeronautical or maritime platform.

13. A method of operating the system of any one of claims 1 to 12, comprising:

- a) sending said resource request from the router to the resource manager in response to traffic demand within the mobile platform; and
- b) allocating, by the resource manager, said communication resources to the link
5 interfaces.

14. A method of operating the system of any one of claims 1 to 12, comprising:

- a) detecting, by the policy master, a change in communication resource requirements within the mobile platform;
- b) requesting, by the policy master to the resource manager, a corresponding
10 variation in communication resources; and
- c) varying, by the resource manager, the allocation of said communication resources to the interfaces.