

CORRECTED VERSION

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau(43) International Publication Date
14 March 2002 (14.03.2002)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 02/021736 A3(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **H04B 10/213**,
H04L 12/437

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US01/26692

(22) International Filing Date: 24 August 2001 (24.08.2001)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
09/658,420 8 September 2000 (08.09.2000) US(63) Related by continuation (CON) or continuation-in-part
(CIP) to earlier application:US 09/658,420 (CON)
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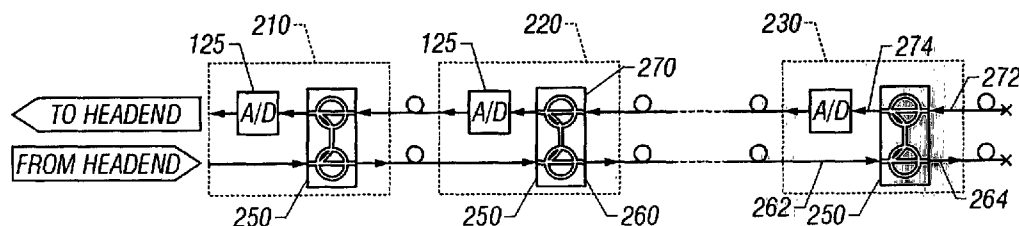
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Austin, TX 78746-6875 (US).(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,
AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU,
CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH,
GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC,
LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW,
MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI,
SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU,
ZA, ZW.(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM,
KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian
patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European
patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE,
IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF,
CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD,
TG).

Published:

— with international search report

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
23 January 2003(48) Date of publication of this corrected version:
2 October 2003(15) Information about Correction:
see PCT Gazette No. 40/2003 of 2 October 2003, Section IIFor two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: ACTIVE EQUIPMENT PROTECTION METHODS AND APPARATUS



(57) Abstract: Systems and methods are described for communications networks. A method, includes deploying a communication link, at least a portion of which is protected against active equipment failure, that includes a splitter-combiner communicatively coupled between a data drop/add device and a headend. The systems and methods provide advantages because a communication network can be protected, at least in-part, against active equipment (e.g., data drop/add device) failure, passive equipment (e.g. optical fiber) failure, and/or equipped for non-intrusive expansion of the network.

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