

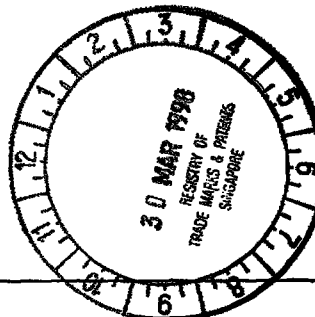
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(54) Title: RATE CONTROLLER ✓ (57) Abstract A network for ATM signals includes source end systems SES1, SES3 connected by a permanent virtual connection PVC1 through switch SW1....SWN. Dynamic bandwidth controllers DBC1, DBC2 operate as virtual source/virtual destinations. The individual switches, such as switch SW2 have associated rate controllers RC1 which determine the available bandwidth for the signal path PVC1. Dynamic bandwidth controller DBC1 interrogates the rate controller RC1, RC2 using resource management RM signals which cascade from switching node to switching node along the path in a forward direction and then in a backward direction. The DBC's communicate with the SES's using RM signals which may be of a different format to the RM signals which pass from switching node to switching node.			



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