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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR FAST INTER-SYSTEM HANDOVER

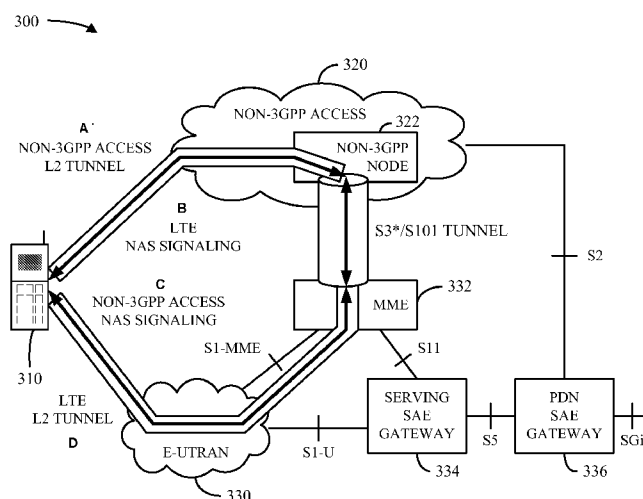


FIG. 3

(57) Abstract: Systems and methodologies are described that facilitate inter-system handover in a wireless communication system. Various aspects described herein provide for handover techniques that enable a target system to be prepared by a mobile device via a source system in order to minimize specific changes required to source system and/or target system. Techniques are described herein in which the radio link of a source system can be utilized to tunnel signaling messages which are in a format understood by a destination node in a target system. Further, fast inter-access handover can be facilitated by establishing a simple generic transmission tunnel between respective network nodes in source and target systems that handle intra-system mobility and providing a Layer 2 (L2) tunneling mechanism over the radio interface of each involved system technology.

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