Claims:

1. A method for ensuring continuity of management of communications sessions operated from a fourth-generation mobile terminal communicating on an IP network, said network including at least one radio network provided with a plurality of base stations with which said terminal is capable of communicating, said radio network being linked via access gateways to an interconnection network provided with communications session management application servers, said communication session management servers being SIP servers, the sessions of a mobile terminal being managed by one of said servers, said communications session management application servers including at least two IP addresses, a first address, identical for all servers, being used to access said servers from the mobile terminal, a second IP address being used to address the servers within the interconnection network, the method comprising:

in the event of a movement of the mobile terminal resulting in a change of access gateway, transmitting an alert message to a new communications session management server, said alert message being transmitted by the new gateway in charge of the mobile terminal to the SIP server closest to said new gateway;

said new server transmits an interrogation request destined for a multicast address to which said SIP servers are subscribed in order to recover the call context of the mobile terminal from the server which managed the sessions of said terminal prior to its movement; and

the new session management server transmits an invitation message to the mobile terminal accompanied by connection parameters, in such a way that said terminal can connect to said new server,

wherein said server including at least one mobility manager capable of recovering the call context of the mobile terminal from a different management server,

wherein the mobile terminals communicate according to a "group call" call mode.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the session management protocol is the Session Initiation Protocol (SIP), the mobile terminal comprising an SIP client module, the communications management servers comprising an SIP server module.

3. The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the invitation message transmitted by the new management server to the terminal is a "re-invite" or "update" message.

4. An IP communications network including at least one radio network provided with a plurality of base stations with which the fourth-generation mobile terminals are capable of communicating, said radio network being connected via access gateways to an interconnection network provided with communications session management application servers, wherein said servers are provided with at least two IP addresses, a first address, identical for all servers, being used to access said servers from the mobile terminals, a second IP address being used for addressing within the interconnection network, said servers being configured to implement the method as claimed in claim 1.

5. A network as claimed in claim 4, in which each base station comprises a communications session management server.

6. The network as claimed in claim 4, in which the communications session management servers are servers running the Session Initiation Protocol (SIP).

7. A method for ensuring continuity of management of communications sessions operated from a fourth-generation mobile terminal communicating on an IP network, said network including at least one radio network provided with a plurality of base stations with which said terminal is capable of communicating, said radio network being linked via access gateways to an interconnection network provided with communications session management application servers, the sessions of a mobile terminal being managed by one of said servers, the method comprising:

in the event of a movement of the mobile terminal resulting in a change of access gateway, transmitting an alert message to a new communications session management server;

said new server transmits an interrogation request to, at least, the session management servers of said interconnection network different from said new server in order to recover the call context of the mobile terminal from the server which managed the sessions of said terminal prior to its movement; and

the new session management server transmits an invitation message to the mobile terminal accompanied by connection parameters, in such a way that said terminal can connect to said new server,

wherein said server including at least one mobility manager capable of recovering the call context of the mobile terminal from a different management server, and

wherein the mobile terminals communicate according to a "group call" call mode.

CLAIMS

1. A method for ensuring the continuity of the management of communications sessions operated from a fourth-generation mobile terminal (130) communicating on an IP network, said network including at least one radio network (110) provided with a plurality of base stations (111) with which said terminal (130) is capable of communicating, said radio network (110) being linked via access gateways (113, 113b, 113c) to an interconnection network (120) provided with communications session management application servers (150a, 150b, 150c), the sessions of a mobile terminal (130) being managed by one of said servers (150a, 150b, 150c), the method being characterized in that it comprises at least the following steps:
   - in the event of the movement of the mobile terminal (130) resulting in a change of access gateway, transmitting (303) an alert message to a new communications session management server (150b);
   - said new server (150b) transmits an interrogation request (305) to, at least, the session management servers (150a, 150c) of said interconnection network (120) different from said new server in order to recover (307) the call context of the mobile terminal (130) from the server (150a) which managed the sessions of said terminal prior to its movement (130);
   - the new session management server (150b) transmits (309) an invitation message to the mobile terminal (130) accompanied by connection parameters, in such a way that said terminal (130) can connect to said new server (150b).

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the communications session management application servers (150a, 150b, 150c) include at least two IP addresses, a first address, identical for all servers (150a, 150b, 150c), being used to access said servers from the mobile terminal (130), a second IP address being used to address the servers (150a, 150b, 150c) within the interconnection network (120).

3. The method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the alert message is transmitted by the new gateway (113b) in charge of the mobile terminal (130) to the SIP server (150b) closest to said new gateway (113b).

4. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the session management protocol is the "Session Initiation Protocol", the mobile terminal (130) comprising an SIP client module, the communications management servers comprising an SIP server module.

5. The method as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the invitation message transmitted by the new management server (150b) to the terminal (130) is a "re-invite" or "update" message.

6. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the mobile terminals communicate according to a "group call" call mode.

7. A session management server implementing the method according to one of claims 1 to 6, said server (150a) including at least one mobility manager (201) capable of recovering the call context of the mobile terminal (130) from a different management server (150a).

8. An IP communications network including at least one radio network (110) provided with a plurality of base stations (111) with which the fourth-generation mobile terminals (130) are capable of communicating, said radio network (110) being connected via access gateways (113, 113b, 113c) to an interconnection network (120) provided with communications session management application servers (150a, 150b, 150c), characterized in that said servers (150a, 150b, 150c) are provided with at least two IP addresses, a first address, identical for all servers, being used to access said servers (150a, 150b, 150c) from the mobile terminals, a second IP address being used for addressing within the interconnection network (120), said servers (150a, 150b, 150c) being configured to implement the method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 6.

9. A network as claimed in claim 8, in which each base station (111) comprises a communications session management server (150a, 150b, 150c).

10. The network as claimed in claim 8 or 9, in which the communications session management servers (150a, 150b, 150c) are servers running the "Session Initiation Protocol".