[0005] Interworking of networks with each other may comprise, for example, that gateway functions are arranged at edges of network domains, the gateways being arranged to convey information to and from the network domain in which they are comprised.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0006] According to a first aspect of the present invention, there is provided a system including: means for storing a list of virtualized network functions, VNFs, active in a first network; means for processing, in the first network, a request originating in a second network, requesting to run a first VNF in the first network on behalf of the second network, and means for causing instantiation of the first VNF in the first network based at least partly on the request.

[0007] According to an embodiment of the present invention, there is provided a system comprising a memory configured to store a list of virtualized network functions, VNFs, active in a first network, and at least one processing core configured to process a request, originating in a second network, requesting to run a first VNF in the first network on behalf of the second network, and based at least partly on the request, to cause instantiation of the first VNF in the first network.

[0008] Certain embodiments of the first aspect may comprise at least one feature from the following bulleted list:

- the at least one processing core is further configured to allocate resources to the first VNF
- the at least one processing core is further configured to allocate resources to the first VNF dynamically
- the system is configured to configure the first VNF with at least one interface to the second network
- the system is configured to compile first information, describing an extent of resource usage of the first VNF in the first network
- the resources comprise at least one of electrical power, increased radio interference, processing resources and memory resources

- the system is further configured to participate in resource usage balancing with the second network based at least partly on the first information
- the system is further configured to participate in the resource usage balancing at least partly based on second information, describing an extent of resource usage of a second VNF in the second network, the second VNF being run on behalf of the first network
- the at least one processing core is further configured to determine a need to increase resources allocated to the first VNF, or detect spare capacity in the first network, and, responsively, to obtain authorization from the second network to increase the resources allocated to the first VNF in the first network.

[0009] According to a second aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method including storing a list of virtualized network functions, VNFs, active in a first network, processing, in the first network, a request originating in a second network, requesting to run a first VNF in the first network on behalf of the second network, and based at least partly on the request, causing instantiation of the first VNF in the first network.

[0010] Certain embodiments of the second aspect may comprise at least one feature from the following bulleted list:

- allocating resources to the first VNF
- allocating resources to the first VNF dynamically
- configuring the first VNF with at least one interface to the second network
- compiling first information, describing an extent of resource usage of the first VNF in the first network
- the resources comprise at least one of electrical power, increased radio interference, processing resources and memory resources
- participating in resource usage balancing with the second network based at least partly on the first information
- participating in the resource usage balancing at least partly based on second information, describing an extent of resource usage of a second VNF in the second network, the second VNF being run on behalf of the first network.

- determining a need to increase resources allocated to the first VNF, and, responsively, obtaining authorization from the second network to increase the resources allocated to the first VNF in the first network.

[0011] According to an embodiment of the present invention, there is provided a system including means for storing a list of virtualized network functions, VNFs, active in a first network, means for processing, in the first network, a request originating in a second network, requesting to run a first VNF in the first network on behalf of the second network, and means for causing instantiation of the first VNF in the first network based at least partly on the request.

[0012] According to an embodiment of the present invention, there is provided a non-transitory computer readable medium having stored thereon a set of computer readable instructions that, when executed by at least one processor, cause an apparatus to at least store a list of virtualized network functions, VNFs, active in a first network, process, in the first network, a request originating in a second network, requesting to run a first VNF in the first network on behalf of the second network, and cause instantiation of the first VNF in the first network based at least partly on the request.

[0013] According to a third aspect of the present invention, there is provided a computer program configured to cause the above method to be performed, when run.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0014] FIGURE 1 illustrates an example system capable of supporting at least some embodiments of the present invention;

[0015] FIGURE 2 illustrates an example network architecture in accordance with at least some embodiments of the present invention;

[0016] FIGURE 3 illustrates an example apparatus capable of supporting at least some embodiments of the present invention;

[0017] FIGURE 4 illustrates signalling in accordance with at least some embodiments of the present invention;