Claims

1. A method (300) for establishing a call from an Originating subscriber (206) in an Originating network (203) to a Terminal subscriber (207) in a Terminal network (204) comprising:

establishing a call by the Originating subscriber (206) in the Originating network (203) to an automated switching centre (201);

initiating a call from the automated Switching Centre (201) to the terminal subscriber (207) in the terminal network (204) for request of charge confirmation;

receiving, by the automated switching centre (201), confirmation of whether the terminal subscriber (207) of the terminal network (204) wishes to accept charges for the call established by the originating subscriber (206) of the originating network (203);

bridging the calls between the originating subscriber (206) in the Originating network (203) and the terminal subscriber (207) in the Terminal network (204) via the automated Switching Centre (201), based upon confirmation of acceptance of charge by the terminal subscriber (207) in the terminal network (204); and

triggering the Terminal network (204) by the Automated Switching Centre (201) to charge the Terminal subscriber (207) for the call, based on the confirmation of acceptance of charge by the terminal subscriber (207).

2. The method (300) of claim 1 further comprises determining the Terminal network information of the Terminal subscriber (207).

3. The method (300) of claim 1 further comprises determining roaming information of the Terminal subscriber (207).

4. The method (300) of claim 1, wherein the Terminal subscriber (207) pre-approves charging of the call from the Originating subscriber (206).

5. The method (300) of claim 1 wherein the Terminal subscriber (207) receives a prompt message for charging the call.

6. The method (300) of claim 1 further comprises sending a value deduction pulses or triggers to the Terminal subscriber (207) of Terminal network (204).

7. The method (300) of claim 1, wherein triggering the Terminal network (204) further comprises querying the Terminal network (204) for prepaid balance of the Terminal subscriber (207).

8. A method (400) for establishing a call from Originating subscriber (206) from an Originating network (203) to Terminal subscriber (207) from a Terminal network (204), sponsored by a third party from a Sponsor network (205), by an automated Switching Centre (201) comprising:

establishing a call by the Originating subscriber (206) at the Originating network (203) to an automated switching centre (201);

initiating a call from the automated Switching Centre (201) to the third party from the sponsor network (205) for request of charge confirmation;

receiving, by the automated switching centre (201), confirmation of whether the third party from the sponsor network (205) wishes to accept charges for the call established by the originating subscriber (206) of the originating network (203);

bridging the calls between the originating subscriber (206) in the Originating network (203) and the terminal subscriber (207) in the Terminal network (204) via the automated Switching Centre (201), based upon confirmation of acceptance of charge by the third party of the sponsor network (205); and

triggering the sponsor network (205) to charge the third party of the sponsor network for the call, based upon confirmation of acceptance of charge by the third party of the sponsor network (205).

9. The method (400) of claim 8 further comprises determining the Sponsor or Terminal network information of the Sponsor or Terminal subscriber (207) respectively.

10. The method (400) of claim 8 further comprises, determining roaming information of the Sponsor or Terminal subscriber (207).

11. The method (400) of claim 8 further comprises receiving confirmation from the Sponsor subscriber in a Sponsor network (205) for charging the call between Originating subscriber (206) and the Terminal subscriber (207).

12. The method of (400) claim 8 allowing the Terminal subscriber (207) to directly answer the call from the Originating subscriber (206) while charging the Sponsor subscriber in a Sponsor network (205).

13. The method (400) of claim 8 further comprises sending a value deduction pulses or triggers to the Sponsor subscriber of Sponsor network (205).

14. The method (400) of claim 8, wherein triggering the Sponsor network (205) further comprises querying the sponsoring network (205) for prepaid balance of the Sponsor subscriber.

15. A system (200) for establishing a call from an originating subscriber (206) in an Originating network (203) to a Terminal subscriber (207) in a Terminal network (204), wherein the terminal subscriber (207) is charged for the call, the system (200) comprising a Switching Centre (201) that communicates with VoIP gateways and TDM gateways or equivalent systems of the Originating network (203) and Terminal network (204), the Switching Centre (201) is configured to:

receive a call from the originating subscriber (206) in the originating network (203);

initiate a call from the Switching Centre (201) to the terminal subscriber (207) in the terminal network (204) for request of charge confirmation;

receive confirmation of whether the terminal subscriber (207) of the terminal network (204) wishes to accept charges for the call established by the originating subscriber (206) of the originating network (203);

bridge the calls between the originating subscriber (206) in the originating network (203) and the terminal subscriber (207) in the terminal network (204), based upon confirmation of acceptance of charge by the terminal subscriber (207) in the terminal network (204); and

trigger the Terminal network (204) to charge the Terminal subscriber (207) for the call, based on the confirmation of acceptance of charge by the terminal subscriber (207).

16. The system (200) of claim 15, further comprises a number Portability database (202) communicating with the Switching Centre (201), wherein the number Portability database (202) stores information of number portability to determine the Terminal network (204).

17. The system (200) of claim 16, wherein the number Portability database (202) is a database external to the Switching Centre (201) or is located inside the Switching Centre (201).

18. The system (200) of claim 15 further comprises a sponsor gateway and sponsor TDM gateways or equivalent systems communicating with the Switching Centre (201) when a Sponsor party on a Sponsor network (205) sponsors the call.

19. The system (200) of claim 15, wherein the Switching Centre (201) further comprises:

an access Detection & Triggering Subsystem (501) that detects a request for initiation of service, e.g. a voice call and commences the service delivery and charging functions provided by the system;

a Service Data Collection Subsystem (502) that facilitates the collection of additional information necessary for the service logic to proceed to a next stage;

a Routing Logic Subsystem (503) that determines a network for charging purposes and for routing of calls to a selected network;

an acceptance of Charge Subsystem (509) that handles the confirmation by the Terminal or Sponsor party to accept the charges; and

an External Prepaid Value Query & Interface Subsystem (512) that queries a Sponsor network (205) or Terminal network (204) for the prepaid balance of the Sponsor or Terminal subscriber (207) for a particular request, and facilitating the charging of the service at the Terminal network (204) or Sponsor network (205).

20. The system (200) of claim 19, wherein the Switching Centre (201) further comprises:

a Subscriber Location Query Subsystem (506) to determine whether the Terminal subscriber (207) or Sponsor subscriber is in roaming;

a Customer Service Configuration Subsystem (510) that interacts with the users of the system (200) comprising the Originating (206), Sponsoring or Terminal subscribers (207), by way of IVR prompts, web interfaces, smart phone applications, USSD (Unstructured Supplementary Services Data) interactive menus, SMS, MMS and other means;

a Service Record Storage & Forwarding Subsystem (511) that handles the storage and forwarding of service records; and

a Product Marketing & Customer Experience Logic Subsystem (507) that determines deduction and customer experience.

21. The system (200) of claim 19, wherein the switching centre (201) further comprises an Internal Number Portability Database Subsystem (504) that stores information of number portability to determine the terminal network (204).

22. The system (200) of claim 19, wherein the switching centre (201) further comprises an External Number Portability Database Interface Subsystem (505) that interfaces with external database to enquire network of a particular subscriber.