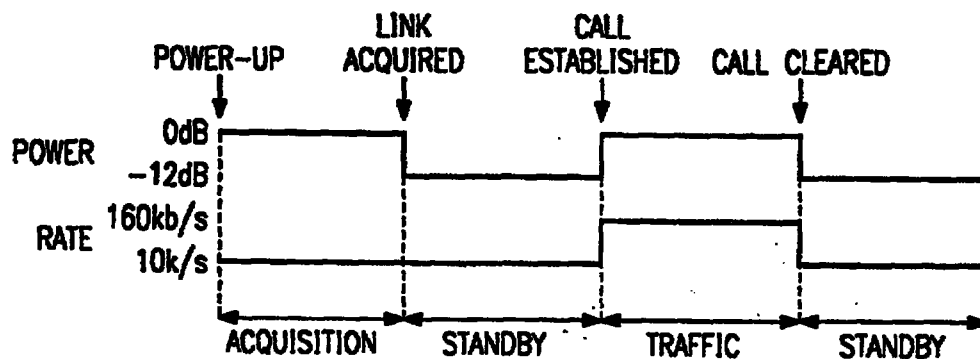


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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): DSC COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION [US/US]; 1000 Coit Road, Plano, TX 75075 (US).		Published Without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report.	
(72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): BHAGALIA, Shashikant [GB/GB]; 21 Seaton Street, Edmonton, London N18 2JP (GB). YEUNG, Joemanne, Chi, Cheung [GB/GB]; 95A Bedford Road, Wootton, Beds MK43 9JB (GB). COOPER, Ian, Leslie [GB/GB]; 20 Higher Mead, Old Basing, Basingstoke RG24 8YL (GB). LYSEJKO, Martin [GB/GB]; 61 Cedar Close, Bagshot, Surrey GU19 5AB (GB).			
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(57) Abstract

A wireless telecommunications system (1) includes a central terminal (10) for transmitting and receiving radio frequency signals to and from a subscriber terminal (20). The wireless telecommunications system (1) operates in one of three operating modes. In an acquisition mode during establishment of the downlink communication path, the downlink signal (212) is transmitted at a high power level and a low transmit rate with the receiver (202) operating at the low transmit rate. In a standby mode after establishment of the downlink communication path, the downlink signal (212) is transmitted at a low power level and a low transmit rate with the receiver (202) operating at the low transmit rate. In a traffic mode upon a request for wireless communication transmission, the downlink signal (212) is transmitted at a high power level and a high transmit rate with the receiver (202) adjusting to operate at the high transmit rate. Upon completion of the wireless communication transmission, the wireless telecommunications system (1) returns to the standby mode and the receiver (202) adjusts to operate at the low transmit rate.