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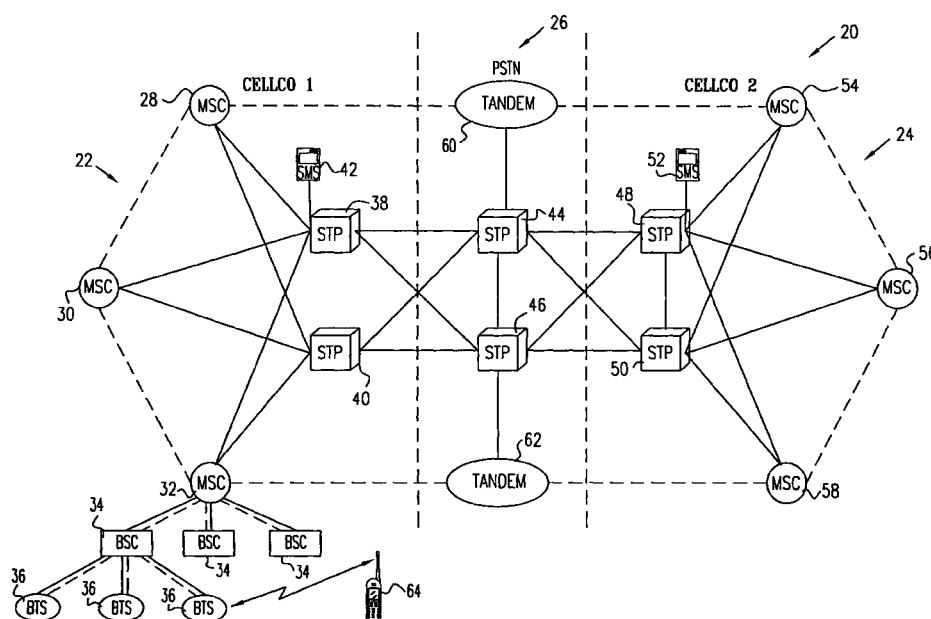
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(54) Title: CONVERGENCE OF TELEPHONE SIGNALING, VOICE AND DATA OVER A PACKET-SWITCHED NETWORK



(57) Abstract: Cellular communications apparatus (70) includes a plurality of cellular network switches (28, 54), each switch adapted to transmit and receive signaling messages and media data, and a plurality of gateways (74, 78). At least one gateway is associated with each of the plurality of network switches. The gateway is coupled to receive the signaling messages and media data transmitted by the associated switch and to convey the messages and data together over a common, packet-switched communication link (76) to another of the gateways associated with another one of the network switches.