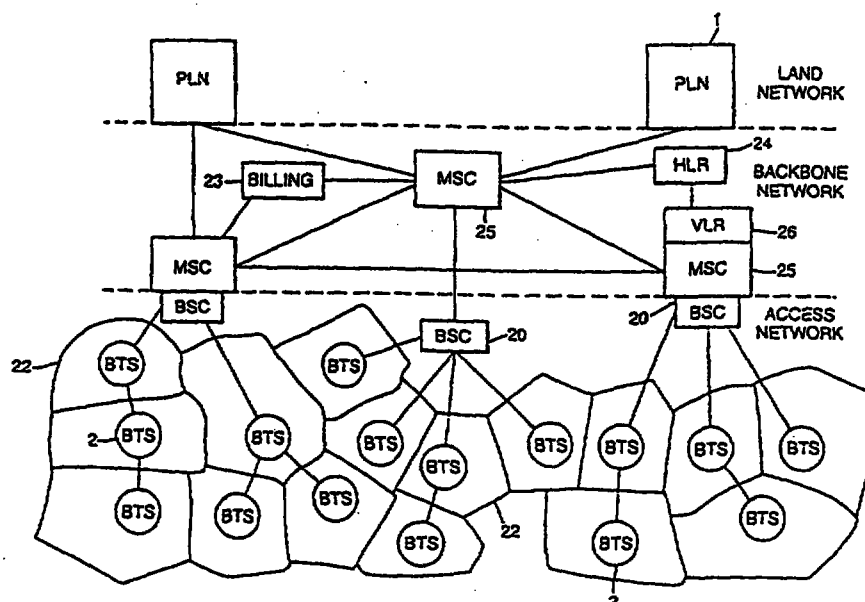




INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : H04Q 7/22, H04M 15/00		A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 97/37503
			(43) International Publication Date: 9 October 1997 (09.10.97)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB97/00923		(74) Agent: DUTTON, Erica, Lindley, Graham: BT Group Legal Services, Intellectual Property Dept., 8th floor, 120 Holborn, London EC1N 2TE (GB).	
(22) International Filing Date: 1 April 1997 (01.04.97)			
(30) Priority Data: 96302237.1 29 March 1996 (29.03.96) EP (34) Countries for which the regional or international application was filed: AT et al. 9619897.3 24 September 1996 (24.09.96) GB		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, HU, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SI, SK, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ARIPO patent (GH, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).	
(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): BRITISH TELECOMMUNICATIONS PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY [GB/GB]; 81 Newgate Street, London EC1A 7AJ (GB).			
(72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): SMYTH, Peter, Paul [GB/GB]; The Old Piggery, Newbourne, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 4NP (GB). MCKEE, Paul, Francis [GB/GB]; 2 Celandine Court, Braiswick, Colchester, Essex CO4 5UQ (GB). DOYLE, Katherine, Emma [GB/GB]; 2 Farrows Close, Chevington, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk IP29 5QJ (GB).		Published With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.	

(54) Title: CHARGING SYSTEMS FOR SERVICES IN COMMUNICATIONS



(57) Abstract

In a charging system for cellular communications, real-time prices for new connections are offered to the customer. The real-time prices take into account both prevailing and historic traffic patterns, together with the probability that the customer will move from their current cell into a neighbouring cell. Cells of the network are monitored in clusters. If a customer is located in one particular cell, the price offered to that customer will take into account the probability of handover to a neighbouring cell during the connection, and may also take into account the probability of incoming traffic from neighbouring cells during the connection. To enable this predictive pricing, the system stores, and may also update, historic data.