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(54) Title: ALTERNATIVE ROUTING SYSTEM FOR MOBILE TELEPHONE CALLS

(57) Abstract

A cellular telephone (1) is provided with a connector (7) for conecting it to an interface unit (11). The interface unit (11) can exchange speech and data signals with the telephone (1) as well as providing power. When the telephone (1) is connected to the interface unit (11), its antenna (3) is effectively disabled. The interface unit (11) provides a link between the telephone (1) and a BTS via a communication path other than the cellular telephone system's conventional cell arrangement. The communication path can comprise telephone or ISDN connections, leased lines, point-to-point microwave links or coaxial cable. In the cases of telephone and ISDN lines and leased lines, baseband speech and data signals pass between the telephone (1) and the interface unit (11), and a modem (14) is used to transmit and receive these signals over the communication path. If a microwave link or coaxial cable is used, r.f. speech and data signals may be passed between the telephone and the interface unit (11). A single interface unit may be used to provide connections for a plurality of telephones.

