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DATA COMMUNICATION TERMINAL PROVIDING
VARIABLE LENGTH MESSAGE CARRY-ON

ABSTRACT

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A data communication terminal (102) transmits messages to a plurality of data communication receivers (106), and has an input for receiving messages and assigning the same into a plurality of transmission frames which are assigned for
10 transmission to the plurality data communication receivers. The data communication terminal (102) comprises a first memory (210) for storing the received messages, a timer (214) for generating periodic timing signals, a controller (204) responsive to the periodic timing signals, for recovering
15 the stored messages and queueing the same into a second memory (1910) having a predetermined transmission frame queue capacity. A monitoring circuit (1902, 1908) monitors the transmission frame queue capacity of the second memory (1910), and expected transmission frame queue capacities for
20 one or me subsequent transmission frames. The monitoring circuit (1902, 1908) determines when the messages stored within the second memory (1910) will exceed the predetermined transmission frame queue capacity, and enables the storage of the excess messages in a third memory (1912). A controller
25 (1902) generates designating information designating one or more of the subsequent transmission frames during which the excess messages stored are to be transmitted. A transmitter (104) transmits the messages and designating information stored in the second memory (1910) within the assigned
30 transmission frame, and transmits the excess messages stored in the third memory (1912) within the one or more of the subsequent transmission frames designated by the designating information.

Fig.2 accompanies this abstract

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