**[0006]** The EMI skirt may be stamped from a planar section of sheet metal and formed to define a plurality of skirt walls. Each skirt wall is configured to extend adjacent to a planar side of the plug body. When the EMI skirt is shaped, however, the skirt walls may become non-planar such that the skirt walls are slightly curved and bow away from the plug body. In such instances, one or more of the spring fingers may not sufficiently engage the plug body when the pluggable connector and the receptacle assembly are mated. As a result, EMI may be permitted to radiate through the port of the communication system.

**[0007]** Accordingly, there is a need for a pluggable connector having an EMI skirt that can provide a sufficient level of EMI containment.

**[0008]** Embodiments of the present invention seek to solve this problem by providing a pluggable connector according to claim 1.

**[0009]** According to an aspect of the invention, a pluggable connector comprises a connector housing having a mating plug that is configured to be inserted into a receiving cavity of a communication system during a mating operation. The mating plug has an exterior surface. An electromagnetic interference (EMI) skirt is coupled to the mating plug. The EMI skirt has a skirt wall that extends alongside the exterior surface of the mating plug. The skirt wall has a wall edge portion and a spring beam that projects from the wall edge portion. The spring beam includes first and second beam segments and an inflection area located between the first and second beam segments. The first beam segment extends from the wall edge portion to the inflection area in a direction that is angled toward the exterior surface. The second beam segment extends from the inflection area in a direction that is angled away from the mating plug. The second beam segment is configured to be deflected toward the exterior surface during the mating operation. The mating plug is an elongated mating plug having a front edge. The skirt wall extends to at least the front edge.

**[0010]** The invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings wherein:

**[0011]** Figure 1 is a perspective view of a pluggable input/output (I/O) assembly that includes a pluggable connector formed in accordance with an embodiment.

**[0012]** Figure 2 is an exploded view of the pluggable connector that may be used with the pluggable I/O assembly of Figure 1.

**[0013]** Figure 3 is a plan view of a blank of material that may be used to form an electromagnetic interference (EMI) skirt in accordance with an embodiment.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A pluggable connector comprising a connector housing having a mating plug that is configured to be inserted into a receiving cavity of a communication system during a mating operation, the mating plug having an exterior surface, an electromagnetic interference (EMI) skirt coupled to the mating plug, the EMI skirt having a skirt wall that extends alongside the exterior surface of the mating plug, the skirt wall having a wall edge portion and a spring beam that projects from the wall edge portion, characterized in that the spring beam includes first and second beam segments and an inflection area located between the first and second beam segments, the first beam segment extending from the wall edge portion to the inflection area in a direction that is angled toward the exterior surface, the second beam segment extending from the inflection area in a direction that is angled away from the mating plug, the second beam segment configured to be deflected toward the exterior surface during the mating operation, wherein the mating plug is an elongated mating plug having a front edge, the skirt wall extending to at least the front edge.

2. The pluggable connector of claim 1, wherein the second beam segment is configured to be deflected toward the mating plug during the mating operation, the spring beam engaging the exterior surface proximate to the inflection area after the mating operation.

3. The pluggable connector of claim 1 or 2, wherein the skirt wall coincides with a wall plane that extends parallel to the exterior surface of the mating plug, the first beam segment forming a biasing angle $\theta_1$ with respect to the wall plane, the second beam segment forming a grounding angle $\theta_2$ with respect to the wall plane, the grounding angle $\theta_2$ having a value that is greater than a value of the biasing angle $\theta_1$.

4. The pluggable connector of claim 1, wherein the skirt wall clears the front edge such that the EMI skirt is inserted into the receiving cavity of the communication system prior to the mating plug during the mating operation.

5. The pluggable connector of claim 1 or 2, wherein the EMI skirt includes a plurality of the skirt walls, the skirt walls forming a plug passage that receives the mating plug.

6. The pluggable connector of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the inflection area is a first inflection area and the second beam segment includes a grounding portion, the grounding portion having a curved contour that forms a second inflection area, the grounding portion configured to engage the communication system at the second inflection area during the mating operation.