

ABSTRACT (Figure 2b)

A telecommunications network has switching means 11 configured such that a request from a first network termination 10 to establish a communications link with a second network termination is directed to the service processing means 12 which directs the switching means 11 to establish the link.

This enables the user terminal 10 to direct service and call set-up requests directly to the service control entities 12 the switch 11 not being involved with the call or service request until the service control entities 12 instruct it to participate, thereby minimising the establishment and allocation of resources until it is clear that such resources are required. A call can therefore be validated before any traffic links are established thus potentially offering savings in the capacity of the system.

