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(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)*: GOETZ, Ian [GB/GB]; 39 Langdale Road, Thame, Oxfordshire OX1 3WL (GB). COXON, Mark, Cristopher [GB/GB]; 9 Whitethorn Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP3 8SS (GB). DAVIS, John, Richard [GB/GB]; Orchard View, Tye Lane, Flowton, Ipswich IP8 4LD (GB).

(74) Agent: LIDBETTER, Timothy, Guy, Edwin; BT Group Legal Services, Intellectual Property Dept., 8th floor, 120 Holborn, London EC1N 2TE (GB).

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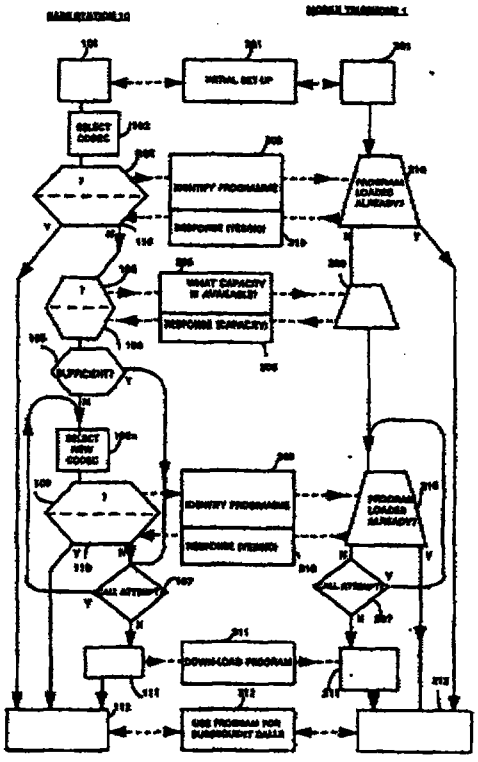
(54) Title: TELEPHONE SYSTEM

(57) Abstract

During the registration process by which a connection is set up between a mobile telephone and a base station of a mobile telephone network the telephone acquires program data from the network for controlling its operation. This allows upgrades of the system to be provided automatically to the mobile telephone. The mobile telephone (1) and base station (10) each have a memory (7, 19) for storing program data relating to one or more modes of operation. During the registration process the base station (10) transmits a signal indicative of a preferred mode of operation. The mobile telephone (1) responds with a signal indicative of whether its memory (7) already contains program data for this mode of operation. If the signal indicates that the memory (7) does not have this program data, the base station (10) transmits the required program data to the mobile telephone (1). The base station (10) and mobile telephone (1) can then operate in this mode. A check is made to establish if the mobile telephone (1) is able to accept the data. If it is not so capable (for example because it has insufficient memory), the process is repeated with different programs until a program is identified for which there is sufficient capacity in the memory (7). If a call attempt is initiated before this process is complete, the process is curtailed, such that the base station (10) and mobile telephone (1) identify programs already stored in the memory (7), but make no attempt to load a new program, as this could delay call set-up. If the base station (10) receives no response to its initial indication of a preferred program, as would occur if it establishes contact with a conventional (non-programmable) mobile telephone, the base station (10) operates in a default mode.