direction is less than the axial shifting speed of the outer portion of the second assembly relative to the inner portion of the second assembly in the second direction such that the connection speed of the first and second fiber optic connectors is less than the disconnection speed.

22. The method as recite in claim 21 wherein the transfer piston is more restrictive to flow of the metering fluid therethrough in the first direction than in the second direction.

23. A method for controlling a connection speed of first and second downhole connectors in a subterranean well, the method comprising the steps of:

positioning a first assembly in the well, the first assembly including the first downhole connector and a first communication medium;

engaging the first assembly with a second assembly, the second assembly including the second downhole connector and a second communication medium;

axially shifting an outer portion of the second assembly relative to an inner portion of the second assembly while metering a fluid through a transfer piston to control the rate at which the outer and inner portions of the second assembly axially shift relative to one another; and

operatively connecting the first and second downhole connectors to each other, thereby enabling communication between the first and second communication media.

24. The method as recited in claim 23 wherein axially shifting the outer portion of the second assembly relative to the inner portion of the second assembly further comprises releasing a lock initially coupling the outer and inner portions of the second assembly.

25. The method as recited in claim 24 wherein releasing the lock initially coupling the outer and inner portions of the second assembly further comprises radially inwardly compressing a collet assembly of the outer portion of the second assembly with an inner surface of the first assembly.

26. The method as recited in claim 23 further comprising anchoring the second assembly within the first assembly.

27. The method as recited in claim 26 wherein anchoring the second assembly within the first assembly further comprises engaging a collet assembly of the outer portion of the second assembly with a profile of the first assembly.

28. The method as recited in claim 23 further comprising disposing the first downhole connector of the first assembly at a location uphole of a packer of the first assembly.

29. The method as recited in claim 23 wherein the communication media are selected from the group consisting of optical fibers, electrical conductors and hydraulic fluid conductors.

30. The method as recited in claim 23 further comprising operating the first communication medium as a distributed temperature sensor.

31. A method for controlling a connection speed of first and second fiber optic connectors in a subterranean well, the method comprising the steps of:

positioning a first assembly in the well, the first assembly including the first fiber optic connector and a first optical fiber;