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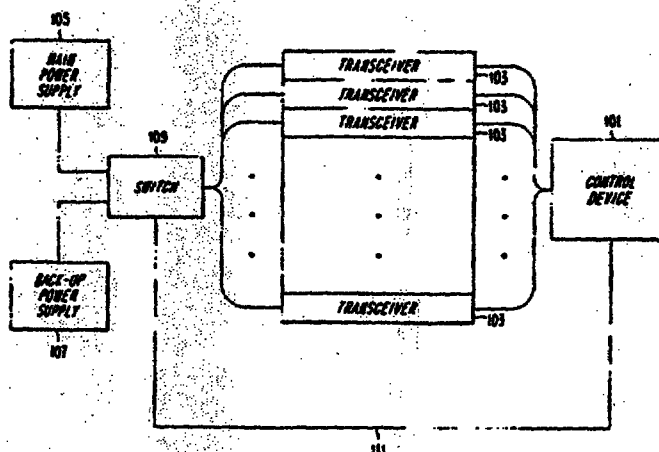
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(54) Title: CONTROL OF A RADIO COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM BASE STATION



(57) Abstract

In a radio communications system having at least one base station, the base station including a plurality of transceivers, a control method and apparatus includes the steps of comparing the number of transceivers in a call state to a first predefined number. If the number of call state transceivers is greater than the first predefined number, then all of the idle transceivers except at least one are switched off. If the number of call state transceivers is less than the first predefined number, then all excess idle transceivers are switched off. Also, after switching off the first subset of the plurality of transceivers, a second subset may be switched off after waiting a predetermined time period. The number of operational transceivers in the second subset is less than in the first subset. To further reduce the power consumption of the base station, a first group of radio communications system subscribers is designated as a high priority group, and a second group of subscribers is designated as a low priority group. The system is designed to grant service to the high priority group, while denying it to the low priority group. The control methods and apparatus are useful, for example, for reducing power consumption and/or traffic handling capacity of a base station.