

Abstract

Method and network component of a communication network
for switching low bit rate connections between input
5 assemblies and output assemblies

The invention relates to the switching of low bit
rate connections between input assemblies and output
assemblies of a network component (for example BSC,
10 RNC, TRAU). According to the invention, the input
assemblies (ILIC) and the output assemblies (OLIC) form
a first switching level, and an ATM switching device
(ASW) which is arranged between the input assemblies
and the output assemblies forms a second switching
15 level. In the first switching level, a plurality of low
bit rate connections (TDM-I) which are applied to the
input assembly (ILIC) and are to be transmitted to the
same output assembly (OLIC) are in each case combined
by the input assembly (ILIC) to form at least one ATM
20 connection. In the second switching level, the ATM
switching device (ASW) switches through the ATM
connections in order to transmit information in ATM
cells. Then, in the first switching level, the
switched-through ATM connections, are converted by the
25 output assembly (OLIC) into the low bit rate
connections (TDM-O) of one or more input assemblies
(ILIC). The combined switching in two switching levels
represents a particularly economic solution for
functions specific to mobile radios, which at the same
30 time ensures acceptable speech quality with good
utilization of the ATM bandwidth.

Figure 1