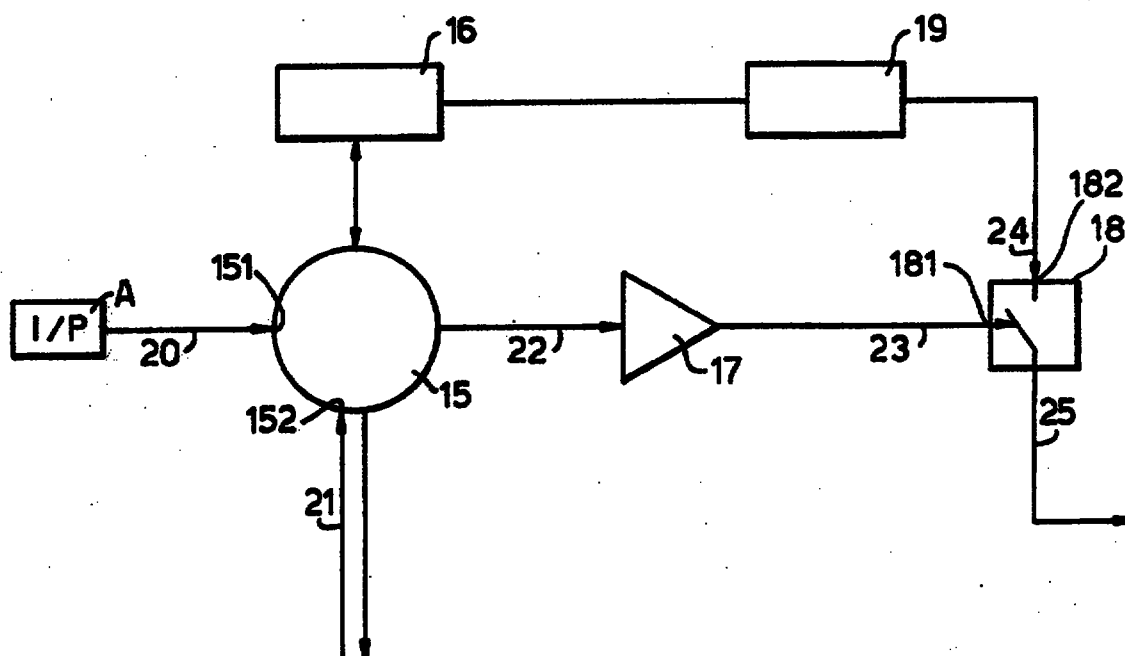




INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : H04J 14/08	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 96/20545 (43) International Publication Date: 4 July 1996 (04.07.96)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB95/03017 (22) International Filing Date: 21 December 1995 (21.12.95) (30) Priority Data: ✓ 94309761.8 23 December 1994 (23.12.94) EP (34) Countries for which the regional or international application was filed: GB et al. (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): BRITISH TELECOMMUNICATIONS PLC [GB/GB]; 81 Newgate Street, London EC1A 7AJ (GB). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): DAVIES, David, Arthur, Owen [GB/GB]; 1 Oak Cottage, Combs Lane, Gt. Finborough, Suffolk IP14 3BH (GB). ELLIS, Andrew, David [GB/GB]; 18 Bowland Drive, Ipswich, Suffolk IP8 3RW (GB). (74) Agent: GILL JENNINGS & EVERY; Broadgate House, 7 Eldon Street, London EC2M 7LH (GB).	(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, HU, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, TJ, TM, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG), ARIPO patent (KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG). Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>	

(54) Title: **NODE IN OPTICAL TDM NETWORK**

(57) Abstract

A node for an optical time division multiplexed communication system, and a method of operating such a node, are disclosed. In embodiments of the invention, the node comprises a multiplexer for receiving a plurality of optical signals, and a source of optical radiation, which may be a continuous wave source, or a source of optical pulses. The node is arranged so that the outgoing optical time division multiplexed signal consists only of optical pulses from the source of optical radiation.