Claims:

1. An apparatus for controlling a connection speed of fiber optic connectors in a subterranean well comprising:

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

a second assembly including a second fiber optic connector and a second optical fiber, the second assembly having an outer portion and an inner portion with a transfer piston positioned therebetween, the outer portion selectively axially shiftable relative to the inner portion,

wherein, upon engagement of the first assembly with the second assembly, axially shifting the outer portion of the second assembly in a first direction relative to the inner portion of the second assembly meters a fluid through the transfer piston which controls the speed at which the outer and inner portions of the second assembly axially shift relative to one another allowing the first and second fiber optic connectors to be operatively connected to each other at a predetermined connection speed, thereby optically coupling the first and second optical fibers.

2. The apparatus as recite in claim 1 wherein the first assembly further comprises a completion assembly positionable in the well and the second assembly further comprises an anchor assembly operable to be run in the well on a tubing string.

3. The apparatus as recited in claim 2 wherein engagement of the first assembly with the second assembly further comprises inserting an orienting key of the anchor assembly into an orienting guide of the completion assembly to rotate the anchor assembly relative to the completion assembly, thereby circumferentially aligning the first fiber optic connector with the second fiber optic connector.

4. The apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein the first optical fiber further comprises a plurality of first optical fibers, wherein the second optical fiber further comprises a plurality of second optical fibers and wherein each of the first optical fibers is optically coupled to one of the second optical fibers upon connection of the first fiber optic connector with the second fiber optic connenctor.

5. The apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein the inner portion of the second assembly further comprises a lock and the outer portion of the second assembly further comprises a collet assembly, the lock initially coupling the outer and inner portions of the second assembly together and the collet releasing the lock in response to being radially inwardly compressed by an inner surface of the first assembly.

6. The apparatus as recited in claim 5 wherein, after releasing the lock, the collet of the outer portion of the second assembly operably engages with a profile of the inner surface of the first assembly to secure the second assembly within the first assembly.

7. The apparatus as recited in claim 1 further comprising a spring positioned between the outer portion of the second assembly and the inner portion of the second assembly such that additional axially shifting of the outer portion of the second assembly in the first direction relative to the inner portion of the second assembly after connecting the first and

second fiber optic connectors creates a biasing force between the first and second fiber optic connectors opposing disconnection thereof.

8. The apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein the first assembly further comprises a packer and the first downhole connector of the first assembly is positioned at a location uphole of the packer.

9. A method for controlling a disconnection speed of fiber optic connectors in a subterranean well comprising:

establishing a predetermined tensile force between a first assembly and a second assembly in the well, the first assembly including a first fiber optic connector and a first optical fiber, the second assembly including a second fiber optic connector and a second optical fiber;

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 speed at which the outer and inner portions of the second assembly axially shift relative to one another; and

operatively disconnecting the first and second fiber optic connectors from each other, thereby optically decoupling the first and second optical fibers.

10. The method as recited in claim 9 wherein establishing the predetermined tensile force between the first assembly and the second assembly in the well further comprises releasing the outer portion of the second assembly from a connection with the first assembly.

11. The method as recited in claim 10 wherein releasing the outer portion of the second assembly from the connection with the first assembly further comprises radially inwardly compressing a collet assembly of the second assembly with an inner surface of the first assembly.

12. The method as recited in claim 9 wherein establishing the predetermined tensile force between the first assembly and the second assembly in the well further comprises removing a biasing force between the first and second fiber optic connectors opposing disconnection thereof.

13. The method as recited in claim 9 wherein the first optical fiber further comprises a plurality of first optical fibers, wherein the second optical fiber further comprises a plurality of second optical fibers and wherein operatively disconnecting the first and second fiber optic connectors from each other further comprises optically decoupling each of the first optical fibers from one of the second optical fibers.

14. A method for controlling connection and disconnection speeds of fiber optic connectors in a subterranean well comprising:

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

engaging the first assembly with a second assembly having a second fiber optic connector and a second optical fiber;

axially shifting an outer portion of the second assembly relative to an inner portion of the second assembly in a first direction while metering a fluid through a transfer piston to control the axial shifting speed thereof;

operatively connecting the first and second fiber optic connectors to each other to optically couple the first and second optical fibers;

establishing a predetermined tensile force between the first assembly and the second assembly;

axially shifting the outer portion of the second assembly relative to the inner portion of the second assembly in a second direction while metering the fluid through the transfer piston to control the axial shifting speed thereof; and

operatively disconnecting the first and second fiber optic connectors from each other to optically decoupling the first and second optical fibers.

15. The method as recited in claim 14 wherein axially shifting the outer portion of the second assembly relative to the inner portion of the second assembly in the first direction further comprises releasing a lock initially coupling the outer and inner portions of the second assembly.

16. The method as recited in claim 15 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.

17. The method as recited in claim 14 further comprising securing the second assembly within the first assembly by engaging a collet assembly of the outer portion of the second assembly with a profile of the first assembly.

18. The method as recited in claim 17 wherein establishing the predetermined tensile force between the first assembly and the second assembly in the well further comprises releasing the collet assembly of the outer portion of the second assembly from the profile of the first assembly.

19. The method as recited in claim 14 wherein establishing the predetermined tensile force between the first assembly and the second assembly in the well further comprises removing a biasing force between the first and second fiber optic connectors opposing disconnection thereof.

20. The method as recited in claim 14 wherein the first optical fiber further comprises a plurality of first optical fibers, wherein the second optical fiber further comprises a plurality of second optical fibers, wherein operatively connecting the first and second fiber optic connectors to each other further comprises optically coupling each of the first optical fibers to one of the second optical fibers and wherein operatively disconnecting the first and second fiber optic connectors from each other further comprises optically decoupling each of the first optical fibers from the respective one of the second optical fibers.

21. The method as recited in claim 14 wherein the axial shifting speed of the outer portion of the second assembly relative to the inner portion of the second assembly in the first

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 downhole connectors in a subterranean well comprising:

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

engaging the first assembly with a second assembly, the second assembly including a second downhole connector and a second communication medium, the second assembly having an outer portion including a collet and an inner portion including a lock;

initially coupling the outer and inner portions of the second assembly together with the lock;

radially inwardly compressing the collet assembly with the inner surface of the first assembly to release the lock;

axially shifting the outer portion of the second assembly relative to the inner portion of the second assembly; 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 controlling an axial shifting speed of the outer portion of the second assembly relative to the inner portion of the second assembly with a resistance assembly.

25. The method as recited in claim 24 wherein controlling the axial shifting speed of the outer portion of the second assembly relative to the inner portion of the second assembly with the resistance assembly further comprises metering a fluid through a transfer piston.

26. The method as recited in claim 23 further comprising securing the second assembly within the first assembly by engaging the collet assembly of the outer portion of the second assembly with a profile of the first assembly.

27. The method as recited in claim 23 further comprising creating a biasing force between the first and second downhole connectors opposing disconnection thereof by continued axial shifting of the outer portion of the second assembly relative to the inner portion of the second assembly after connecting the first and second downhole connectors.

28. 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.

29. A method for controlling a connection speed of fiber optic connectors in a subterranean well comprising:

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

engaging the first assembly with a second assembly, the second assembly including a second fiber optic connector and a second optical fiber, the second assembly having an outer portion including a collet and an inner portion including a lock;

initially coupling the outer and inner portions of the second assembly together with the lock;

radially inwardly compressing the collet assembly with the inner surface of the first assembly to release the lock;

axially shifting the outer portion of the second assembly relative to the inner portion of the second assembly; and

operatively connecting the first and second fiber optic connectors to each other, thereby optically coupling the first and second optical fibers.

30. The method as recited in claim 29 wherein axially shifting the outer portion of the second assembly relative to the inner portion of the second assembly further comprises controlling an axial shifting speed of the outer portion of the second assembly relative to the inner portion of the second assembly with a resistance assembly.

31. The method as recited in claim 30 wherein controlling the axial shifting speed of the outer portion of the second assembly relative to the inner portion of the second assembly with the resistance assembly further comprises metering a fluid through a transfer piston.

32. The method as recited in claim 29 further comprising securing the second assembly within the first assembly by engaging the collet assembly of the outer portion of the second assembly with a profile of the first assembly.

33. The method as recited in claim 29 further comprising creating a biasing force between the first and second fiber optic connectors opposing disconnection thereof by continued axial shifting of the outer portion of the second assembly relative to the inner portion of the second assembly after connecting the first and second fiber optic connectors.

34. An apparatus for controlling a connection speed of first and second downhole connectors in a subterranean well comprising:

a first assembly positionable in the well, the first assembly including a first downhole connector, a first communication medium and an inner surface; and

a second assembly including a second downhole connector and a second communication medium, the second assembly having an outer portion including a collet and an inner portion including a lock, the outer portion selectively axially shiftable relative to the inner portion, the lock initially coupling the outer and inner portions of the second assembly together and the collet operable to release the lock in response to being radially inwardly compressed by engagement with the inner surface of the first assembly, wherein, after releasing the lock, the outer portion of the second assembly is axially shiftable relative to the inner portion of the second assembly allowing the first and second downhole connectors to be operatively connected to each other, thereby enabling communication between the communication media.

35. The apparatus as recited in claim 34 further comprising a resistance assembly positioned between the outer portion of the second assembly and the inner portion of the second assembly that controls an axial shifting speed at which the outer and inner portions of the second assembly axially shift relative to one another.

36. The apparatus as recited in claim 35 wherein the resistance assembly further comprises a transfer piston operable to have fluid metered therethrough.

37. The apparatus as recited in claim 34 wherein, after connection of the first and second downhole connectors, the collet assembly is operably engageable with a profile of the first assembly to secure the second assembly within the first assembly.

38. The apparatus as recited in claim 34 wherein the first assembly further comprises a packer and the first downhole connector of the first assembly is positioned at a location uphole of the packer.

39. The apparatus as recited in claim 34 wherein the communication media are selected from the group consisting of optical fibers, electrical conductors and hydraulic fluid.

40. An apparatus for controlling a connection speed of first and second fiber optic connectors in a subterranean well comprising:

a first assembly positionable in the well, the first assembly including a first fiber optic connector, a first optical fiber and an inner surface; and

a second assembly including a second fiber optic connector and a second optical fiber, the second assembly having an outer portion including a collet and an inner portion including a lock, the outer portion selectively axially shiftable relative to the inner portion, the lock initially coupling the outer and inner portions of the second assembly together and the collet operable to release the lock in response to being radially inwardly compressed by engagement with the inner surface of the first assembly,

wherein, after releasing the lock, the outer portion of the second assembly is axially shiftable relative to the inner portion of the second assembly allowing the first and second fiber optic connectors to be operatively connected to each other, thereby optically coupling the first and second optical fibers.

41. The apparatus as recited in claim 40 further comprising a resistance assembly positioned between the outer portion of the second assembly and the inner portion of the second assembly that controls an axial shifting speed at which the outer and inner portions of the second assembly axially shift relative to one another.

42. The apparatus as recited in claim 40 wherein the resistance assembly further comprises a transfer piston operable to have fluid metered therethrough.

43. The apparatus as recited in claim 40 wherein, after connection of the first and second fiber optic connectors, the collet assembly is operably engageable with a profile of the first assembly to secure the second assembly within the first assembly.

44. The apparatus as recited in claim 40 wherein the first assembly further comprises a packer and the first fiber optic connector of the first assembly is positioned at a location uphole of the packer.

45. 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.

46. The method as recited in claim 45 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.

47. The method as recited in claim 46 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.

48. The method as recited in claim 45 further comprising anchoring the second assembly within the first assembly.

49. The method as recited in claim 48 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.

50. The method as recited in claim 45 further comprising disposing the first downhole connector of the first assembly at a location uphole of a packer of the first assembly.

51. The method as recited in claim 45 wherein the communication media are selected from the group consisting of optical fibers, electrical conductors and hydraulic fluid conductors.

52. The method as recited in claim 45 further comprising operating the first communication medium as a distributed temperature sensor.

53. 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;

engaging the first assembly with a second assembly, the second assembly including the second fiber optic connector and a second optical fiber;

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 fiber optic connectors to each other, thereby enabling light transmission between the optical fibers.

54. The method as recited in claim 53 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.

55. The method as recited in claim 54 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.

56. The method as recited in claim 53 further comprising anchoring the second assembly within the first assembly by engaging a collet assembly of the outer portion of the second assembly with a profile of the first assembly.

57. The method as recited in claim 53 further comprising disposing the first fiber optic connector of the first assembly at a location uphole of a packer of the first assembly.

58. An apparatus for controlling a connection speed of first and second downhole connectors in a subterranean well comprising:

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

a second assembly including the second downhole connector and a second communication medium, the second assembly having an outer portion and an inner portion with a transfer piston positioned therebetween, the outer portion selectively axially shiftable relative to the inner portion,

wherein, upon engagement of the first assembly with the second assembly, the outer portion of the second assembly is axially shifted relative to the inner portion of the second assembly while metering a fluid through the transfer piston to control the rate at which the outer and inner portions of the second assembly axially shift relative to one another allowing the first and second downhole connectors to be operatively connected to each other, thereby enabling communication between the communication media.

59. The apparatus as recited in claim 58 wherein the inner portion of the second assembly further comprising a lock and the outer portion of the second assembly further comprises a collet assembly, the lock initially coupling the outer and inner portions of the second assembly together and the collet releasing the lock in response to being radially inwardly compressed by an inner surface of the first assembly.

60. The apparatus as recited in claim 58 wherein the outer portion of the second assembly further comprises a collet assembly and the first assembly further comprises a profile, the

collet assembly operably engageable with the profile to anchor the second assembly within the first assembly.

61. The apparatus as recited in claim 58 wherein the first assembly further comprises a packer and the first downhole connector of the first assembly is positioned at a location uphole of the packer.

62. The apparatus as recited in claim 58 wherein the communication media are selected from the group consisting of optical fibers, electrical conductors and hydraulic fluid conductor.

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

establishing a predetermined tensile force between a first assembly and a second assembly in the well, the first assembly including the first downhole connector and a first communication medium, 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 disconnecting the first and second downhole connectors from each other, thereby disabling communication between the first and second communication media.

64. The method as recited in claim 63 wherein establishing a predetermined tensile force between a first assembly and a second assembly in the well further comprises releasing an anchor of the second assembly from a profile in the first assembly.

65. The method as recited in claim 64 wherein releasing the anchor of the second assembly from a profile in the first assembly further comprises radially inwardly compressing a collet assembly of the second assembly with an inner surface of the first assembly.

66. The method as recited in claim 63 wherein the communication media are selected from the group consisting of optical fibers, electrical conductors and hydraulic fluid conductor.

Claims:

1. An apparatus for controlling a connection speed of fiber optic connectors in a subterranean well comprising:

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

a second assembly including a second fiber optic connector and a second optical fiber, the second assembly having an outer portion and an inner portion with a transfer piston positioned therebetween, the outer portion selectively axially shiftable relative to the inner portion,

wherein, upon engagement of the first assembly with the second assembly, axially shifting the outer portion of the second assembly in a first direction relative to the inner portion of the second assembly meters a fluid through the transfer piston which controls the speed at which the outer and inner portions of the second assembly axially shift relative to one another allowing the first and second fiber optic connectors to be operatively connected to each other at a predetermined connection speed, thereby optically coupling the first and second optical fibers.

2. The apparatus as recite in claim 1 wherein the first assembly further comprises a completion assembly positionable in the well and the second assembly further comprises an anchor assembly operable to be run in the well on a tubing string.

3. The apparatus as recited in claim 2 wherein engagement of the first assembly with the second assembly further comprises inserting an orienting key of the anchor assembly into an orienting guide of the completion assembly to rotate the anchor assembly relative to the completion assembly, thereby circumferentially aligning the first fiber optic connector with the second fiber optic connector.

4. The apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein the first optical fiber further comprises a plurality of first optical fibers, wherein the second optical fiber further comprises a plurality of second optical fibers and wherein each of the first optical fibers is optically coupled to one of the second optical fibers upon connection of the first fiber optic connector with the second fiber optic connenctor.

5. The apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein the inner portion of the second assembly further comprises a lock and the outer portion of the second assembly further comprises a collet assembly, the lock initially coupling the outer and inner portions of the second assembly together and the collet releasing the lock in response to being radially inwardly compressed by an inner surface of the first assembly.

6. The apparatus as recited in claim 5 wherein, after releasing the lock, the collet of the outer portion of the second assembly operably engages with a profile of the inner surface of the first assembly to secure the second assembly within the first assembly.

7. The apparatus as recited in claim 1 further comprising a spring positioned between the outer portion of the second assembly and the inner portion of the second assembly such that additional axially shifting of the outer portion of the second assembly in the first direction relative to the inner portion of the second assembly after connecting the first and

second fiber optic connectors creates a biasing force between the first and second fiber optic connectors opposing disconnection thereof.

8. The apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein the first assembly further comprises a packer and the first downhole connector of the first assembly is positioned at a location uphole of the packer.

9. A method for controlling a disconnection speed of fiber optic connectors in a subterranean well comprising:

establishing a predetermined tensile force between a first assembly and a second assembly in the well, the first assembly including a first fiber optic connector and a first optical fiber, the second assembly including a second fiber optic connector and a second optical fiber;

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 speed at which the outer and inner portions of the second assembly axially shift relative to one another; and

operatively disconnecting the first and second fiber optic connectors from each other, thereby optically decoupling the first and second optical fibers.

10. The method as recited in claim 9 wherein establishing the predetermined tensile force between the first assembly and the second assembly in the well further comprises releasing the outer portion of the second assembly from a connection with the first assembly.

11. The method as recited in claim 10 wherein releasing the outer portion of the second assembly from the connection with the first assembly further comprises radially inwardly compressing a collet assembly of the second assembly with an inner surface of the first assembly.

12. The method as recited in claim 9 wherein establishing the predetermined tensile force between the first assembly and the second assembly in the well further comprises removing a biasing force between the first and second fiber optic connectors opposing disconnection thereof.

13. The method as recited in claim 9 wherein the first optical fiber further comprises a plurality of first optical fibers, wherein the second optical fiber further comprises a plurality of second optical fibers and wherein operatively disconnecting the first and second fiber optic connectors from each other further comprises optically decoupling each of the first optical fibers from one of the second optical fibers.

14. A method for controlling connection and disconnection speeds of fiber optic connectors in a subterranean well comprising:

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

engaging the first assembly with a second assembly having a second fiber optic connector and a second optical fiber;

axially shifting an outer portion of the second assembly relative to an inner portion of the second assembly in a first direction while metering a fluid through a transfer piston to control the axial shifting speed thereof;

operatively connecting the first and second fiber optic connectors to each other to optically couple the first and second optical fibers;

establishing a predetermined tensile force between the first assembly and the second assembly;

axially shifting the outer portion of the second assembly relative to the inner portion of the second assembly in a second direction while metering the fluid through the transfer piston to control the axial shifting speed thereof; and

operatively disconnecting the first and second fiber optic connectors from each other to optically decoupling the first and second optical fibers.

15. The method as recited in claim 14 wherein axially shifting the outer portion of the second assembly relative to the inner portion of the second assembly in the first direction further comprises releasing a lock initially coupling the outer and inner portions of the second assembly.

16. The method as recited in claim 15 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.

17. The method as recited in claim 14 further comprising securing the second assembly within the first assembly by engaging a collet assembly of the outer portion of the second assembly with a profile of the first assembly.

18. The method as recited in claim 17 wherein establishing the predetermined tensile force between the first assembly and the second assembly in the well further comprises releasing the collet assembly of the outer portion of the second assembly from the profile of the first assembly.

19. The method as recited in claim 14 wherein establishing the predetermined tensile force between the first assembly and the second assembly in the well further comprises removing a biasing force between the first and second fiber optic connectors opposing disconnection thereof.

20. The method as recited in claim 14 wherein the first optical fiber further comprises a plurality of first optical fibers, wherein the second optical fiber further comprises a plurality of second optical fibers, wherein operatively connecting the first and second fiber optic connectors to each other further comprises optically coupling each of the first optical fibers to one of the second optical fibers and wherein operatively disconnecting the first and second fiber optic connectors from each other further comprises optically decoupling each of the first optical fibers from the respective one of the second optical fibers.

21. The method as recited in claim 14 wherein the axial shifting speed of the outer portion of the second assembly relative to the inner portion of the second assembly in the first

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.

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;

engaging the first assembly with a second assembly, the second assembly including the second fiber optic connector and a second optical fiber;

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 fiber optic connectors to each other, thereby enabling light transmission between the optical fibers.

32. The method as recited in claim 31 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.

33. The method as recited in claim 32 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.

34. The method as recited in claim 31 further comprising anchoring the second assembly within the first assembly by engaging a collet assembly of the outer portion of the second assembly with a profile of the first assembly.

35. The method as recited in claim 31 further comprising disposing the first fiber optic connector of the first assembly at a location uphole of a packer of the first assembly.

36. An apparatus for controlling a connection speed of first and second downhole connectors in a subterranean well comprising:

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

a second assembly including the second downhole connector and a second communication medium, the second assembly having an outer portion and an inner portion with a transfer piston positioned therebetween, the outer portion selectively axially shiftable relative to the inner portion,

wherein, upon engagement of the first assembly with the second assembly, the outer portion of the second assembly is axially shifted relative to the inner portion of the second assembly while metering a fluid through the transfer piston to control the rate at which the outer and inner portions of the second assembly axially shift relative to one another allowing the first and second downhole connectors to be operatively connected to each other, thereby enabling communication between the communication media.

37. The apparatus as recited in claim 36 wherein the inner portion of the second assembly further comprising a lock and the outer portion of the second assembly further comprises a collet assembly, the lock initially coupling the outer and inner portions of the second assembly together and the collet releasing the lock in response to being radially inwardly compressed by an inner surface of the first assembly.

38. The apparatus as recited in claim 36 wherein the outer portion of the second assembly further comprises a collet assembly and the first assembly further comprises a profile, the

collet assembly operably engageable with the profile to anchor the second assembly within the first assembly.

39. The apparatus as recited in claim 36 wherein the first assembly further comprises a packer and the first downhole connector of the first assembly is positioned at a location uphole of the packer.

40. The apparatus as recited in claim 36 wherein the communication media are selected from the group consisting of optical fibers, electrical conductors and hydraulic fluid conductor.

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

establishing a predetermined tensile force between a first assembly and a second assembly in the well, the first assembly including the first downhole connector and a first communication medium, 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 disconnecting the first and second downhole connectors from each other, thereby disabling communication between the first and second communication media.

42. The method as recited in claim 41 wherein establishing a predetermined tensile force between a first assembly and a second assembly in the well further comprises releasing an anchor of the second assembly from a profile in the first assembly.

43. The method as recited in claim 42 wherein releasing the anchor of the second assembly from a profile in the first assembly further comprises radially inwardly compressing a collet assembly of the second assembly with an inner surface of the first assembly.

44. The method as recited in claim 41 wherein the communication media are selected from the group consisting of optical fibers, electrical conductors and hydraulic fluid conductor.