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(54) Title: ACTIVE EQUIPMENT PROTECTION METHODS AND APPARATUS

(57) Abstract: Systems and methods are described for communications networks. A method, includes deploying a communication link, at least a portion of which is protected against active equipment failure, that includes a splitter-combiner communicatively coupled between a data drop/add device and a headend. The systems and methods provide advantages because a communication network can be protected, at least in-part, against active equipment (e.g., data drop/add device) failure, passive equipment (e.g. optical fiber) failure, and/or equipped for non-intrusive expansion of the network.

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