



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁷: H04L 29/06, 12/18, H04N 7/15	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/33534 (43) International Publication Date: 8 June 2000 (08.06.00)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB99/03870 (22) International Filing Date: 19 November 1999 (19.11.99) (30) Priority Data: 9826157.1 27 November 1998 (27.11.98) GB (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): BRITISH TELECOMMUNICATIONS PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY [GB/GB]; 81 Newgate Street, London EC1A 7AJ (GB). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): BELL, Sarah [GB/GB]; 9 Brenda Gautry Way, Cottenham, Cambridge CB4 8XW (GB). ING, Sarom [GB/GB]; 112 Spring Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP4 2RR (GB). RUDKIN, Steven [GB/GB]; 52 Corder Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP4 2XD (GB). (74) Agent: SHELLEY, Mark, Raymond; BT Group Legal Services, Intellectual Property Dept., Holborn Centre, 8th floor, 120 Holborn, London EC1N 2TE (GB).		(81) Designated States: AU, CA, JP, SG, US, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). 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: ANNOUNCED SESSION CONTROL**(57) Abstract**

The invention provides a method and system for managing media stream connections in a media session, for example a multimedia conference, that is to take place over multicast capable links provided in networks configured for Internet Protocol operation, that is to say, the communications network known as the Mbone (Internet Protocol Multicast Backbone). The method comprises the steps of: receiving a session description of a media session by way of a session announcement over a network; parsing the session description to determine appropriate media application programs for processing the or each media stream of the session description (600); selecting one or more media streams identified in the session description (630); and, connecting the or each selected media stream to one or more respective media application program or programs (660) utilising a session control (500) configured for managing media stream connections for the or each media application program.

