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(54) Title: **SERVICE CREATION APPARATUS FOR A COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK**

(57) Abstract

A service creation system for a communications network of the intelligent network type has 3 different levels at which service creation activities can be carried out, these being SCE1, SCE2 and SCE3. The use of separate levels allows access to the service creation system to be kept functionally separate for users having different interests in the network. Hence, features which have to be installed at the network element level for a selected service to be available can be created in SCE1. Marketable service features, which give a view of features in that they encapsulate call handling logic thereof together with support and management descriptions of the feature, can be created in SCE2. Service packages, which permit collection of marketable service features to meet requirements of a service together with service-specific support and management information, can be created in either of SCE2 or SCE3. The service provider at SCE2 creates and tests edit graphs which comprise ordered sequences of marketable service features. These are then made available to the customer at SCE3. Profiles, which list the features relevant to a service for a user and provide data slots for the data necessary to each feature, can be provisioned and modified in SCE3 by the creation of execute graphs from edit graphs. In addition to marketable service features, metafeatures can be embedded in edit graphs. These are similar to marketable service features but have no associated screen information. This allows the user to generate execute graphs from what appears to be a blank screen but in practice has embedded constraints by means of the metafeatures, thus ensuring that the execute graph is still within tested constraints.

