Annex A

1. A method of controlling a transmission rate of ~~overhead data bits~~ **fast bytes or sync bytes** in a sequence of frames in digital subscriber line communication using multicarrier modulation, the method being characterized by:

   programming the transmission rate between a minimum rate and a maximum rate and selecting a value for a first parameter (n_{max}) that specifies which frames in the sequence of frames contain ~~overhead bits~~ **fast bytes or sync bytes** and which frames in the sequence of frames do not contain ~~overhead bits~~ **fast bytes or sync bytes**.

2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising selecting a value for a second parameter (K) that specifies a number of ~~overhead bits~~ **fast bytes or sync bytes** contained in each frame that contain ~~overhead bits~~ **fast bytes or sync bytes**.

3. The method according to claim 2, further comprising negotiating one or more of the first and the second parameters (n_{max}, K) with a transceiver (26, 34) at initialization, or during steady-state communication with the transceiver.

4. The method according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising transmitting or receiving the sequence of frames over a communications channel.

5. A digital subscriber line transceiver (26, 34) using multicarrier modulation designed to transmit or receive a sequence of frames over a communications channel, **characterized in that** the transceiver (26, 34) is designed to control a transmission rate or a reception rate of ~~overhead data~~ **fast bytes or sync bytes** by programming the transmission rate or the reception rate between a minimum rate and a maximum rate and by selecting a value for a first parameter (n_{max}) that specifies which frames in the sequence of frames contain ~~overhead bits~~ **fast bytes or sync bytes** and which frames in the sequence of frames do not contain ~~overhead bits~~ **fast bytes or sync bytes**.

6. The transceiver according to claim 5, **characterized in that** a value for a second parameter (K) is selectable that specifies a number of ~~overhead bits~~ **fast bytes or sync bytes** contained in each frame that contain ~~overhead bits~~ **fast bytes or sync bytes**.

7. The transceiver according to claim 6, characterized in that the transmitter (26, 34) is designed such that one or more of the first and second parameters (n_{max}, K) are negotiated with another transceiver (26, 34) at initialization, or during steady-state communication with the other transceiver (26, 34).

8. A multicarrier communications device (26, 34) for-communication both ~~overhead data~~ **fast bytes or sync bytes** and payload data including a transceiver (26, 34) according to any one of claims 5 to 7, comprising:

   means (TX) for transmitting a signal for initiating negotiation of a rate of transmission of said ~~overhead data~~ **fast bytes or sync bytes**; or means or permitting changing of a data framing parameter used by said device to control formatting and type of data in data frames generated by said device.

9. The device according to claim 8, **characterized in that** the device is designed to perform the method according to any one of claim 1 to 4.