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Summaries and Notices

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A New Test Pattern for the Swiss Television Service

P. Sollberger, Berne

The new, fully electronic colour test pattern takes the special characteristics of the PAL colour television standard into account and, besides, retains essential features of the previous black-and-white test patterns. From path measurement to receiver servicing it performs good work as a test and adjusting signal. The viewing screen is a largely adequate indicator. Accurate measurements can be undertaken by means of an oscilloscope. Moreover, the article describes the additional fade-ins for identifying the origin and the programme chain.

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Development of an Identification Generator for a Colour Television Test Pattern

G. Collet, Berne

The author first states the reasons which have led the Swiss PTT to identify the new colour television test pattern after the origin of the transmissions. He then goes on to describe the realization of a fully electronic identification generator.

p. 103...109

High-accuracy Impulse Measuring Set for Acceptance Measurements on Signal Receivers

F. Bütkofer, Berne

This article describes an impulse measuring set for laboratory and acceptance measurements on signal receivers of frequency multiple systems and on signalling channels of pulse code modulation systems. The set has an accuracy of $\pm 0.2\%$ and is able to measure the duration of the first impulse of a series (transient) and of an impulse in the steady-state condition.

p. 110...114

Radio Control

H. Künzle, Berne

Being entrusted with the telecommunication monopoly, the Swiss PTT make use of radio control to ensure that the licensing regulations are observed and to trace transmitters operating without a licence. For this purpose, a central measuring station, four manned stations in different parts of the country, as well as a number of unmanned automatic stations are available to them. The control and supervisory tasks expand along with growing private radio traffic.

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Motor Vehicle Utilization in a Regional Telephone Directorates

René Aubry, Biel/Bienne

Among the rationalization measures introduced by the Swiss PTT during the last few years the growing motorization of certain services is worthy of mention. The author describes the tasks of the transport centre of a Regional Telephone Directorate and the means at its disposal. Some aspects of vehicle maintenance and the handling of road traffic accidents are also highlighted.

News items

Postal services

At the end of January the Federal Council published the **message to Parliament on the increase of postal rates**. The new postal rates are designed to bring supplementary revenue of the order of 200 million francs a year from 1973 onward. With the rate increases in the telecommunication services (which became effective at the beginning of 1972) as an additional boost, the PTT accounts should just break even after two years of loss-making operation.

On two **postal bus routes** in the Berne area, **stop signs** have tentatively been placed at right angles with the roadway, to give them better prominence.

Telephone services

At the end of 1971 only **12 telephone exchanges** (with 21,600 subscribers) of the total of 957 had **not yet been converted to periodic pulse metering**; these exchanges are to be replaced or extended in 1972/73.

Of the **new telephone set Model 70** a zero series with **push-buttons** for genuine and fictitious touch-tone dialling has been ordered.

On 1 February **direct subscriber dialling to Portugal** was introduced; at the same time, **call charges were reduced by about 20%**. On calls charged for by periodic pulse metering 2.5 seconds of conversation now cost 10 centimes.

A **second satellite circuit to Teheran**, routed via Pleumeur Bodou, has been introduced.

Telegraph and telex services

In connection with the **introduction of the ATECO system**, the traffic with the 16 countries connected to the Gentex network will gradually be taken over by this system between December 1971 and mid-April 1972.

In the **telecommunication centre of Basle-Zwingerstrasse** the first **booth for handing in telegrams with remote control** at night has been placed in service. It is linked with the Basle telegraph office via an intercom system and a pneumatic tube system.

Telex calls to the towns of Boma, Kinshasa and Matadi in the Republic of Zaire (formerly Kongo-Kinshasa) can now be put through automatically by the international position in Zürich via a through-dialling circuit Zurich-Brussels.

To speed up **telex traffic with Pakistan**, Radio-Suisse Ltd. has opened a direct, two-way telex channel to Karachi.

Thanks to a second circuit Oslo-Zurich the **international telex position in Oslo** can now set up **automatic telex calls to Europe and overseas countries via our network**.

Radio and television services

Since 1 February the new **VHF station of Frick** (canton Aargau) has been broadcasting the first and the second programme of the Swiss-German Radio.

In January, the Swiss PTT and the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation (SBC) undertook a successful **drive intended for radio and television licence evaders**.

Following German speaking Switzerland, French Switzerland is now likewise in possession of **equipment for the remote control of VHF transmitters**. The facility installed in the Lausanne studio enables three different programmes to be controlled simultaneously, either manually or by means of time switches.

Miscellaneous

On 1 January 1972 **higher telephone rentals and new rates for inland telegrams** became effective.

As a result of the revaluation of the Swiss franc it has been possible to **reduce charges for international rented lines**.

The first **programmed learning course** – on fixed-time calls – for **telephone operator trainees** is ready for use.

Short-wave radiotelephony is now available to the **airliners of Swissair and Balair**. It enables operational messages between the aircraft crew and the flight control centre at Zurich Airport to be exchanged anywhere and at any time. Calls are put through by the overseas terminal in Berne via PTT facilities at Schwarzenburg and Châtonnay.