

Zeitschrift: Technische Mitteilungen / Schweizerische Post-, Telefon- und Telegrafienbetriebe = Bulletin technique / Entreprise des postes, téléphones et télégraphes suisses = Bollettino tecnico / Azienda delle poste, dei telefoni e dei telegrafi svizzeri

Herausgeber: Schweizerische Post-, Telefon- und Telegrafienbetriebe

Band: 50 (1972)

Heft: 5

Rubrik: Summaries and notices

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Summaries

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Coaxial broad-band microwave attenuator of high loading capacity

Chr. Stäger, Berne

Two types of coaxial attenuator are mainly employed in microwave technology: broad-band designs of low power, and relatively narrow-band attenuators of high loading capacity. A new principle combining broad-band design and large loading capacity is described. The circuit essentially consists of a row of series voltage dividers in a strip conductor system. The attenuation and reflection behaviour can be calculated by means of a simple equivalent circuit. The specifications of attenuators actually built show good agreement with the theoretical values and demonstrate the superiority of the new attenuator design.

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Trends of television development, as reflected by CCIR studies

K. W. Bernath, Berne

First, the state of the technical development of television is outlined, as it appears from the recommendations of CCIR. Then, the objectives of various international commissions are discussed, some intermediate results being illustrated in tables. Finally, the major long-term development trends are touched on.

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Electronic data processing in the fault complaint service

P. Bührer, Zurich

After first outlining the tasks of the fault complaint service and the conventional operational concept of such an office, the new Zurich office of the fault complaint service connected to the ATECO computer centre is described, with special emphasis on the fact that this is the first time electronic data processing has been resorted to in the fault complaint service. The possibilities offered by the new system, as well as the experience gained with regard to data collection, placing the system in service, and operation, are examined.

News Items

Telephone

In the **trunk centre Zurich II** (Enge) the **rural main exchange**, system A 62 ESK, has been placed in service. For the present, it provides 2,400 incoming and 2,600 outgoing circuits.

A four-colour **leaflet advertising the classified business telephone directories** will be sent, as an addressed letter, to all Swiss telephone subscribers by mid-May.

In 1971 an average of **65.4% of all international calls were set up by direct subscriber dialling**, as against 51.4% in the previous year (rectification of the figures given in No. 4/1972).

The **circuit group of the Japan pool** between Zurich and Tokyo was expanded in March and now includes 30 circuits (15 cable circuits and 15 satellite circuits).

In the telephone service of the **CEPT countries the summoning charges** (ranging between fr. 1.50 and fr. 2.85) were abolished as of 1st April.

After the telephone charges, the **charges for phototelegrams to Portugal, Madeira and the Azores** have been reduced by 10 to 20 per cent.

A **second 4 GHz microwave link between Berne and Zurich** was placed in service in March. It provides 1,260 telephone channels at present, which are to be expanded to include 1,800 channels by mid-1973.

Telegraph, telex

The **placing in service of computer-controlled automatic telegram handling (ATECO)** was **completed** on 10th April. The last stage consisted in gradually taking over the traffic to and from the approximately 1,000 telegraph offices of the European Gen-tex network.

Since 15th March the **COMET automatic telegram handling system of Radio-Suisse Ltd** has been associated with ATECO; the entire overseas traffic of Radio-Suisse Ltd is now being handled via the two computer systems.

After the outgoing **telexogram service** had been **discontinued** in Switzerland last September already, the telexogram traffic coming in from Germany, Belgium and Luxemburg has now likewise been terminated, so that the service today only exists from Denmark and the Netherlands.

In the telegraph office of Chiasso the **18th public telex station** of Switzerland has been put into operation.

The **telex subscribers of Morocco** can now be called automatically from the trunk position in Zurich; the introduction of fully automatic service is to be expected in the near future.

Telex service to Kathmandu (Nepal) via Berne-Bombay has been introduced.

Radio, television

The preliminary interpretation of the measurements made in January and February during the **frequency shift trials between the transmitters of Beromünster and Ain Beida** has shown that mutual interference can be considerably reduced. In April an additional round of negotiations was held in Berne, at which the results of the trials and the future procedure were discussed. For the time being, it has been decided to continue to operate Ain Beida at 533 kHz, and Beromünster at 527 kHz—that is, with a frequency difference of 6 kHz.

The transmitting facilities for various mobile (vehicle) radio services **on the 'Signal de Bougy'** in the western part of Switzerland are now accommodated in **permanent premises**.

Miscellaneous

At its Lausanne meeting in March, the **coordinating committee for telecommunication by satellites (CCTS)** of CEPT discussed the questions of optimum co-operation with ESRO (European Space Research Organization) during the development of a European telecommunication satellite (1972 to 1976) and of the representation in the Governors' Council of INTELSAT, as well as the items on the agenda of the conference of the European PTT Ministers scheduled for April in Vienna.

At the Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich an **international seminar on integrated digital telecommunication systems** was held, in which the Swiss PTT took part. Papers on the present state of the art were presented to an audience of some 600 scientists, engineers and technicians from industry, universities and PTT Administrations by experts from all over the world. Members of the Swiss Working Party PCM talked about the fundamentals of the development of the Swiss integrated telecommunication system.