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Summaries

p. 206...213 (Part 1)

The information system for the management of telecommunication stores (MATICO FM)

H. Lippuner and A. Stärkle, Berne

On 1 July 1971 the first information system of the Swiss PTT went into operation. This system is intended for the management of telecommunication stores and employs advanced data processing methods. It was set up, within two years time, as a joint effort of the Telecommunication Stores Division and the Electronic Computer Centre of PTT. This article discusses the work on the project, the stores management procedures applied, the electronic data processing techniques, and the further development of the system.

p. 214...231

PCM transmission of sound broadcasts

R. Mury, Berne

This article outlines the main problems of PCM transmission of audio-frequency signals. The noise behaviour is examined, which depends on the resolution of the coder. With a view to a future integrated telecommunication system, compatibility of sound broadcasting circuits is to be achieved with primary and secondary PCM multiplex systems for telephony, in accordance with CCITT specifications. Taking into consideration the basic scanning and resolution parameters, the author shows some possibilities of constituting high-quality programme channels, and examines certain distortions typical of the digitalization of music signals. Finally, the consequences of too high an error rate are mentioned, which necessitate protection of the wanted signals by a certain redundancy.

p. 232...235

Stranded conductors for telephone cords

W. Fierz, Berne

Telephone cords are subject to hard wear. In practice it has been found that the structure of cords greatly influences their durability. The author describes the tests which have been conducted with a view to determining the most suitable cord make-up.

News Items

Telephone

The **14th mobile telephone exchange** has been installed at its temporary site in Naters (Valais).

The **Berne customer information service** has moved to new rooms in the regional telephone directorate's main building.

A **small coaxial cable**, which will connect the future Swiss satellite earth station to Switzerland's telecommunication system, is being laid between **Sion** and the site at **Leuk-Brentjong**.

On 1 May, **telephone service** was opened with **Equatorial Guinea**.

Telegraph, telex

In accordance with international agreements, **new rates for telegrams to European and overseas destinations** have been applied from 1 April. Instead of the former 52 to 86 centimes, there is now a uniform word charge of 65 centimes for telegrams to European countries, with the exception of Iceland (80 cts) and the USSR (100 cts).

On 17 April, **telex service** was opened with **Mozambique** and **Bangla Desh**. At the same time, **subscriber dialling** was introduced for calls to the **Republic of South Africa** (including South-West Africa), and to Botswana, Rhodesia, Malawi and Zambia.

Radio, television

Since 7 May, **Switzerland's most powerful shortwave transmitter** (500 kW) at Sottens has been regularly broadcasting

overseas programmes by the Swiss Shortwave Service. The directional aerial erected at a distance of 600 metres from the transmitter has a 40 to 80-fold gain and is the **world's largest rotary curtain antenna**. There are now two transmitting stations (Sottens and Schwarzenburg) for the overseas service, and one (Beromünster) for the European service.

The transmitting stations of **Lenzerheide** and **Ruschein** have been extended by TV transposers relaying the **French-spoken Swiss programme**.

With the exception of a few sections between attended stations, the **entire Swiss TV microwave network** has been equipped with **stand-by links**, which, in case of breakdowns, take over automatically and with practically no interruption to broadcasting.

Since 3 May the **new electronic colour TV test pattern** has been broadcast from the German and Italian-speaking Swiss studios; in the French-speaking part of Switzerland the pattern will be introduced in autumn, when the new Geneva studio has been completed.

Miscellaneous

The PTT Research and Development Division is conducting an **extensive field test of various contact cleaning methods and agents**, which are being applied to about 10,000 contacts in the Zug telephone exchange. For the first time during such a test, contact resistances are periodically measured and the results evaluated by means of mathematical and statistical methods. The data obtained in the next two to three years is expected to be much more representative than that of former investigations, which concentrated on fault reports and obvious contact flaws only.

In April, the **first business trainee** taken on by a **regional telephone directorate** (Rapperswil) successfully passed his final examination.