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Summary and Notices

Summary

p. 285...318

The Future Swiss Satellite Earth Station

P. Breu and K. Scherrer, Berne

Under a contract signed in May 1972, Nippon Electronic Company (NEC) is to supply the antenna and other radio plant for Swiss PTT's satellite earth station now under construction at Leuk (Valais). Installation work will begin this summer, and the station is expected to come into operation in December. Besides NEC a number of Swiss and foreign firms are supplying technical material for this plant. In the present article, general aspects of the project as well as planning-objectives and particular equipment characteristics are dealt with.

News Items

Telephone

The new International Conference Centre at Geneva has been equipped with one of Switzerland's largest telegraph and telephone offices. It is divided into two sections, one comprising 14 telephone and 7 telex booths for use by delegates, the other providing 16 telephone and 7 telex booths for the Press. The facilities are operated from 4 control desks. Connections for phototelegraph equipment have been installed in two of the Press booths.

A public telephone and telegraph office with 11 attended telephone booths (including 1 for invalids) and a telex booth has been opened at the centre of Montreux. The office is linked to the express delivery service by a new type of pneumatic tube with 100 mm diameter.

After a delay in the completion of the 12-MHz coaxial feeder cable at the Basle end, the first 1800-channel microwave link for the Basle-Berne route has now been put into service.

Between Locarno and Lugano a 360-channel carrier system has come into operation, which is used to only a third of its capacity for the time being.

On 25 and 26 May about 52,000 subscribers' numbers in central and southern Switzerland were changed from 5 to 6 digits.

Of the 36.3 million international calls from Switzerland in January and February, 29.8 million or 82% were dialled direct by the subscribers. This is an increase of 9% over the preceding year.

Swiss PTT has purchased the indefeasible right of user of 48 and 36 circuits respectively in the new Algiers-Pisa and Algiers-Marseilles Mediterranean sea cables.

Telegraph, Telex

Montreux is the 23rd Swiss town to have installed telex facilities at its new public call office.

Automatic telex service to Lesotho was opened on 1 May. New telex links have also been established with Macao (via Hong Kong) as well as Angola and Mozambique (via Berne Radio-Suisse-Lisbon).

Radio-Suisse Ltd at present operates 24 circuits to the USA, 9 being rented to customers and 5 used as spares.

Radio, Television

On the site of the Swiss satellite earth station under construction at Leuk (Valais) the antenna supports are being installed between mid-May and the end of July when the telecommunication plant, factory tested over the last few weeks, will arrive from Japan.

From 18 to 24 May the 8th International Television Symposium and associated technical exhibition were held at Montreux. Both events, which were opened by Mr Roger Bonvin, President of the Swiss Confederation, met with worldwide interest. Some 1800 visitors of 40 different nationalities attended the 110 lectures and inspected the TV industry's latest products exhibited by 98 firms from 15 countries.

Miscellaneous

The first three Swiss Telecommunication Regions (Biel, Lucerne and Thun) have been equipped with data terminals giving direct access to the PTT information system for telecommunication stores management (MATICO).

The new Sion-Sierre district cable is the first to have been fitted with a corrugated aluminium sheath made in Switzerland. This sheath affords better protection from electrical interference by high-tension lines and railway traction systems, thus helping to reduce longitudinal voltage to the permissible limit.