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Summaries and Notices

Summaries

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New Plastic Terminal Box for Underground Distribution of Telephones to Single-Family Residences

A. Rickli and A. Straubhaar, Berne

The new plastic terminal box, designed for outside installation and easy access on the customer's premises, both simplifies, and cuts the cost of, underground distribution to single-family residences.

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High-Speed Data Communication

H.P. Lutz, Berne

In Switzerland, 48 kbit/s data communication channels using the group band have been made available by the PTT. Together with appropriate private modems they enable systems of high transmission performance and reliability (error rates of $1...10 \times 10^{-8}$ bit/s) to be constituted. Over the next few years, long-distance pcm channels, too, will become available, which are expected to further improve transmission performance and cut the present high cost of wideband systems.

News Items

Posts

In 1973, tourists and commuters travelling by **Swiss postal coach** exceeded 50 million. The **total number of passengers was**

52.2 million, having increased by 5.2 million or 11.3% on 1972. Revenue rose by 9.2% over the same period.

Telephone

An additional two regions, **St. Gall** and **Bellinzona**, have been fully equipped for **international subscriber dialling**. ISD facilities are now available to nearly 85% of the Swiss subscribers.

At the **Swiss satellite earth station** near Leuk (Valais) the **operating programme for the SPADE processor** was read in and tested in February. Communication tests with overseas stations were completed by mid-March. At present, 20 earth stations are making use of the SPADE system, which enables them to share INTELSAT links for sporadic communication.

Owing to the tight labour market in Switzerland, the **telephone operating force** was only **3212 instead of the nominal 3379** at the end of 1973. There was a considerable turnover, with 828 operators leaving and 733 trainees joining the service.

The **Winterthur region** connected its **100,000th telephone customer** on 18 February.

Telegraph, Telex

For the **World Alpine Ski Championships** from 2–10 February, Swiss PTT opened a **temporary telephone and telegraph office at the St. Moritz press centre**. It was equipped with 24 call booths, 16 teleprinters, 2 telex conference units, 6 public telex booths and 5 picture transmitters. The office handled 3508 telephone calls, 2148 telex messages, 418 telegrams and 15 picture transmissions. In addition, 7 telex stations and 3 leased lines to Vienna, Paris and Zurich-Frankfurt-Brussels were provided for 10 press agencies.

In 1973, Swiss PTT recruited **131 telegraph trainees**, as against 153 in the preceding year.

Radio, Television

Large-scale technical preparations were made for **radio and television broadcasts of the St. Moritz World Alpine Ski Championships**. Besides 19 temporary microwave video links, the PTT provided a number of lines between St. Moritz and the Zurich repeater station for sound transmission to the various studios (27 programme and control circuits as well as 7 feedbacks for television, 17 programme lines and 7 feedbacks for radio). The Austrian broadcasting organization and ORTF Paris each used direct lines to their respective studios. The event was covered by 154 radio and 99 TV broadcasts for Switzerland; the number of international broadcasts, including Eurovision, was 179 and 219 respectively.

Miscellaneous

Access to the **Swiss PTT information system for telecommunication stores management (MATICO)** was extended to the regions in January. The materials and stores division of each regional headquarters is now able to obtain information direct from the central data bank at Berne by means of a terminal consisting of a printer and keyboard. This not only facilitates stores management and supervision, but also provides the basis for further rationalization.

In 1973, **8240 instances of radio and television interference** were reported to the PTT. Of these, 2014 concerned radio broadcast reception, 6071 TV reception, and 155 other radio services. A total of 6375 sources of interference were detected and eliminated; the rest, being of a temporary nature, could not be located.

Last year, PTT radio and TV technicians inspected 2643 out of 4957 newly installed **outdoor aerials**. Of these, 608 did not meet the **safety standards** and had to be removed or altered by the owners.

Since 1970, the number of **transmitting and receiving licenses** has almost doubled. Last year, licensed transmitters rose by 25% to 24,464 and portable sets by 26% to 66,472.