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Summaries

p. 310...318

Television Coverage by UHF Translators in Mountainous Regions

H. Hügli, Berne

In a number of typical translator-supplied regions of Switzerland the field strength distribution at various altitudes has been examined for the UHF band. In planning supply regions the translator power is calculated on the basis of a topographical factor and compared with reception measured in the usual way at 10 m above ground. The author explains problems of reception which may arise from the Swiss channel allocation system and proposes solutions involving both the transmitting and receiving ends.

p. 319...327

Mechanization of the Swiss PTT Telecommunications Motor Vehicle Account

R. Gennari, P. Bühler and H. Bührli, Berne

Until recently the data on fuel consumption and mileage supplied by the Regions were compiled manually. A new system has now been introduced which enables these and other operational data to be entered direct on optical mark reading cards for processing by a central computer. Print-outs are made available monthly or annually to Headquarters departments and the regional transport services for planning and supervision.

p. 328...333

Pneumatic Ticket Carrier at the Berne International Manual Telephone Exchange

M. Hochuli, Berne

The pneumatic ticket carriers installed at 6 international manual exchanges in Switzerland are giving full satisfaction. They are

automatic and enable each operator to direct tickets to any desired switchboard position. The first of these systems, at Berne, has now been supplemented by an automatic date and time printer.

News Items

Telephone

Swiss PTT has developed a **new traffic metering system** enabling more frequent readings to be taken of loads on switching equipment and lines and at the same time requiring fewer staff to operate. The recordings will no longer be evaluated manually, but processed by a computer supplying the data for exchange and line planning. The system will be incorporated in all exchanges by the end of 1975.

Field trials with the **HS-68 partially electronic switching system** have been discontinued. The prototype installation is to be replaced by an HS-52-A central-register exchange.

A **6.2-GHz/1800-channel microwave link** has come into operation between **Basle and Stuttgart**.

In the first half of 1974, **telephone main stations** increased by 57,569 to 2,341,937 and the **total number of sets** rose by 101,833 to 3,705,867. In the same period 23 new exchanges (including 5 mobiles) and 32 extensions, with a total of 72,000 lines, were put into operation.

Telegraph, Telex

On 1 July Switzerland increased the **in-land telegram rates**.

Switzerland's 20,000th telex station came into operation on 8 July. The service had been opened with only 6 subscribers on 11 May 1934.

On 1 July the **Zurich-Singapore telex circuits** were connected to the new Singapore switching computer, enabling subscriber dialling from Switzerland to be opened after a trial period.

Swiss customers' **leased circuits** rose by 69 to 1,300 in the first half of this year. Of the 836 teleprinter channels and 464 voice circuits, 69% are inland, 23% European and 8% overseas.

Radio, Television

In July the **Swiss television network** was extended by 4 transmitters and transposers in the Grisons (3) and Ticino (1).

In August a new 800 m² **TV production studio** came into operation at **Geneva**. It is equipped with 5 colour cameras, 2 video tape recorders, 2 colour slide scanners as well as video and sound control facilities. Both the Zurich and Geneva new TV production centres, provided by the PTT for the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation, are now complete.

An additional 4 airlines have joined the **Swiss PTT Shortwave Radiophone Service with Aircraft**, which enables operational messages to be exchanged between pilots and the home airport. They are Jet Aviation SA (Geneva), Schweizerische Luft-Ambulanz AG (Zurich), Air Charter (Vaduz) and Hertie Luftreise GmbH (Frankfurt/Main).

The 18th simplex relay for the **Swiss mobile radiophone service** has come into operation near Zurich.

In the first half of this year **radio broadcast receiving licences** in Switzerland increased by 12,273 to 2,015,477 and **television licences** rose by 60,858 to 1,688,268.

Miscellaneous

Energy saving measures imposed by Swiss PTT have so far been quite effective. In Berne, for example, the saving was 14.6% at PTT Headquarters and 9.7% at the postal operating centre.

Some 50 tours of the **Swiss satellite earth station** at Leuk (Valais) have been arranged for 1,500 visitors from all over the world since the opening on 9 January 1974.