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Summaries and Notices

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Safeguards in the Swiss Telephone and TV Microwave Systems

A. Schütz and J. Stalder, Berne

The article describes and compares the spare-channel switching systems incorporated in the various Swiss microwave networks to secure appropriate standards of reliability for each type of communication. It is shown what aspects may determine the type of system to be used and what standards of reliability should be adopted in practice. Finally, the functioning of the main switching systems operated by Swiss PTT is outlined.

p. 353...360

Development of a Turntable Rumble Voltage Meter

C. Béguin, Berne

Taking his rumble voltage meter as an example, the author examines the way in which modern semiconductors, and monolithic linear amplifiers in particular, can be used. Active filters enabled him to design some elegant circuits, which are described in detail. These notes and calculations should help the reader to plan his own applications without having to go into general problems of filter theory.

p. 361...373

Ground Networks of Zinc-coated Copper Strip

A. Brunold, Berne

Large ground networks have frequently proved dangerous sources of corrosion to underground base-metal conduit (water pipes, lead cable, etc.) as a result of the high equilibrium potential of copper in contact with ground humidity. Attempts are being made, therefore, to reduce the potential difference between conduit and attached earth wires by zinc-coating the latter. The article describes a series of tests that have been conducted to establish the reaction of copper to the zinc bath, and to develop a suitable process for zincing copper strip.

p. 374...376

Optical Communications: Their Present and Their Promise

A.F. Donnelly, New York

This paper is a brief, non-technical overview of the technology of communicating on beams of light using glass optical waveguides. Much of the impetus in this technology has stemmed from the research and development laboratories of Corning Glass Works.

News items

Postal Service

To mark the **125 years of the Federal postal service (1849-1974)** the PTT-Museum has set up a special commemorative exhibition lasting until 2 February 1975.

Another exhibition at the PTT-Museum in Berne will be showing **modern postal uniforms from the CEPT countries** until 3 November 1974.

Telephone

In future, **Swiss telephone directories** will appear in 18 volumes, with a new district division. They will not contain any business entries at first. From 1975 onward, the classified directories will be brought out by private advertising firms.

In the first six months of 1974 the number of customers on the **waiting list** for telephone service fell by 3,000 to 20,944.

In March and April this year, **subscriber dialled international calls** accounted for 38.4 million chargeable minutes or **85.9%** of the total international traffic volume of 44.7 million chargeable minutes, an increase of 3.9% over the figure of the corresponding months in the preceding year.

The Swiss PTT has acquired 204 telephone circuits in the **Barcelona-Rome submarine cable**.

At the end of August the **microwave telephone link Lausanne-Geneva** (1,800 voice circuits) was placed in service.

Under the **programmed instruction scheme for telephone operators** a new course entitled «The Recording of Call Bookings» has appeared.

Telegraph and Telex

The new **telegraph office Geneva-UN** has been opened in the United Nations building. It contains 2 counters, 7 attended telephone stations, 1 telex booth and 1 picture transmission booth.

As a result of the **political crisis and the armed conflict in Cyprus**, both the **telegram and the telex services** to that country were temporarily interrupted.

Effective 1 September, **letter telegrams** to Belgium, Finland, the Federal Republic of Germany (inclusive of West Berlin), Great Britain, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Yugoslavia **will no longer be admitted**.

A new **telex directory** (1974/1975 edition) has come out. With 70 additional pages, its volume has increased by 12% as compared with the previous issue.

A new telex exchange having recently been placed in service in Bukarest, fully **automatic telex service** is now available from Rumania to Switzerland.

Radio and Television

On 21 August the **Swiss television network** was extended by the following transmitters:

Moron in the Bernese Jura district, which broadcasts the programmes of German and Italian speaking Switzerland;
Grindelwald in the Bernese Oberland, which broadcasts the German speaking programme.

The **multi-purpose** stations on Mt-Pèlerin, Chasseral and La Dôle received new, fully transistorized television microwave link equipment in replacement for old tube systems; on Mt. Pèlerin and Chasseral an intermediate-frequency protective circuit system (7+1) was installed at the same time.

The «Compagnie Europe Falcon Service» (Le Bourget/Paris) is the 11th aviation company to join the **Swiss radiotelephone service with aircraft**.

Switzerland's **19th simplex relay station** for two-way radiotelephone service has started operations **on the Gempen** near Basel.

Miscellaneous

With the Swiss Credit Bank another banking establishment has joined the **automatic urban pneumatic tube system of Berne**.

In **Zurich** the first 22 connections of the automatic urban pneumatic tube system **automatic urban pneumatic tube system have been placed in service**. The Zurich network will be the last in Switzerland to go fully automatic (towards the end of 1974).