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Summaries and Notices

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PCM 30-Channel Basic System for Transmission and Switching Networks

J. Fluhr, Zurich

This system by Siemens-Albis AG, Zurich, meets the relevant CCITT and CEPT recommendations as well as the Swiss PTT specification for the IFS-1 integrated telecommunication system. Its application in both switching and transmission networks differs with regard to signalling only.

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PCM 30-Channel Multiplexer

P. A. Merz, Zurich

The PCM 30-channel multiplexer by Siemens-Albis AG is described. Diagrams of the principal circuits and units are explained and the results of measurements given.

News Items

Posts

At Glarus a **television cable** has been laid between the **post office** and the **giro office**. The link will be used for **verifying signatures** on giro cheques. Similar installations are already in use in 9 other towns, among them Basle, Geneva and Lugano.

Postal service by land and air between **Switzerland and France** was interrupted from the end of October to the beginning of December due to strike action by French postal staff.

Telephone

Of a total of 42.4 million **international call minutes from Switzerland** in July and August 1974, 37.2 million or **87.7%** were **dialed direct by the subscribers**. The increase in ISD use was 5.1% over the same period of 1973.

Automatic telephone service has been opened between **Switzerland and Brazil** over 5 cable and 4 satellite circuits.

The charge for a three-minute **station call from Switzerland to Australia** has been reduced by 12 francs to 36 francs.

Two direct satellite circuits have been opened between **Switzerland and the Sudan** over the newly erected earth station near Khartoum.

The **Zurich-Shanghai** shortwave radio-telephone link has been replaced by a **satellite circuit**.

Telegraph, Telex

Five direct Gentex circuits have been opened between **Zurich and Budapest** to replace the indirect route to Hungary via Austria.

Bahrain and Dubai have opened **IXSD to Switzerland** over their automatic exchanges, which came into operation in November. Subscriber dialling from Switzerland to these emirates will be available shortly.

Radio, Television

In November the medium-wave broadcasting stations of **Beromünster** (Switzerland) and **Ain Beida** (Algeria) returned to

their **frequency offset** arrangement (527/533 kHz) which had been temporarily abandoned because of a technical fault in the Algerian transmitter.

Following the example of foreign companies, a Swiss firm of publishers acquired the **transmission rights for the Ali/Foreman boxing match** in Kinshasa last October, which was **not relayed by Swiss Television**. The event was brought to large audiences at two stadiums in Berne and Zurich over microwave video and sound links provided by the PTT.

Miscellaneous

An **emergency power plant** with 2 diesel-driven generating sets of 700 kVA each has been installed at the **Swiss PTT Data Processing Centre** in Berne to enable this important service to operate independent of the mains supply in the event of power cuts or shortages.

Each of the 17 Swiss **Telecommunications Regions** now has access over VDU terminals to the inventory data stored in the **central materials management information system** (MATICO) at Berne. This has made it possible to discontinue the Regions' card indexes of outgoing items and stocks and to assign other duties to the 17 staff formerly in charge of records.

An additional 4 stations have been connected to **Zurich's new automatically controlled pneumatic tube system**, which is used jointly by banks, post offices, telegraph, and giro office.

At the Zug Cantonal Police headquarters a new 3200-line **fire-brigade alarm call system** has been installed which enables all of the canton's communal fire-brigades to be centrally summoned or alerted.