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Summaries and Notices

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Cable Television for Business and Industry

E. Hadorn, Berne

The author defines the terms "public system" and "business system". He explains Swiss PTT's reasons for building and operating the business systems and renting transmission links to customers. Some technical aspects of video transmission over cable are dealt with and the types of cable used as well as some typical networks are described.

p. 92...103

Problems of Calculating the Electrical Characteristics of Microstrip Conductors

W. Fawer and D. Schweizer, Berne

Several methods of calculating the properties of microstrip conductors are shown and some of their advantages and disadvantages are discussed. The best results are obtained with methods assuming pure TEM mode of transmission. The calculation effort involved suggests the use of computers. Details are given of the Partial Surface method, for which a special programme has been written. Measurements are discussed and some problems mentioned, such as the change with frequency of the effective dielectric constant of epoxy hard glass, or the step discontinuity launcher microstrip, which for an initial approximation may be considered an inductance.

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Giro Forms for Optical Character Reading

H. Müller and A. Jung, Berne

The article outlines the plans for further mechanization and automation of the Swiss PTT Giro service in the near future and describes the requirements to be met by printers of OCR forms.

News Items

Posts

During the 1974 Christmas season Swiss PTT noted a heavy increase in letter post items, but parcels were down 10% on 1973.

Nearly 1000 letters addressed to **Santa Claus or Father Christmas** arrived at Swiss post offices. Replies were sent to 723 children at home and abroad who had given their address.

Thanks to the fine weather and excellent skiing conditions **postbus services** were heavily used in most parts of the country, though the total number of passengers did not exceed that of former years.

Swiss PTT has successfully tested a newly developed **parcel sorting installation**, which is to come into operation at the Däniken trunk centre in 1976.

Telephone

On 1 February the Swiss PTT news service by telephone went into its 26th year. It is available in German (No. 167) and French or Italian (168) depending on the region served.

A specification for the installation and operation of **fire-alarm exchanges** (telephone number 18 or 118) has been worked out jointly by the PTT and the Swiss fire-brigade association.

The **guide for telephone subscribers** (blue pages) in the Swiss directories will be supplemented by a page in **English** containing information on the service numbers, use of directories, dialling of international calls, and the various telephone signals.

Of a total of 46 million **international call minutes from Switzerland** in September and October 1974, 40.8 million or **88.7%** were **dialed direct by the subscribers**. The increase in ISD use was 3.5% over the same period of 1973.

In the last quarter of 1974, **international subscriber dialling** was opened in a further 10 Swiss exchanges serving 11,995 customers. By the end of the year, 15 network

groups were ISD equipped throughout and the facility was available to 87.1% of the subscribers (1973: 82.5%).

Last year **telephone main stations** increased by 106,484 to 2,390,852, and the number of **sets** rose by 186,317 to 3,790,351. The waiting-list was reduced by 4,457 to 19,387.

Telegraph, Telex, Leased Circuits

On 1 January Switzerland discontinued **letter telegram service** to Europe, North Africa, Spanish Sahara, the Canary Islands, the Azores, Madeira, Turkey and Cyprus.

Switzerland's 40th **telex call office** has been opened at Burgdorf near Berne.

A direct **voice-frequency telegraph link** was opened between **Zurich and Istanbul** in January.

During the **postal strike in France** last year, Switzerland's **outgoing telex traffic** to that country rose by 75,000 chargeable minutes in October and by 105,000 in November over the monthly average of 370,000.

In 1974 **telex subscribers** in Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein increased by 2,000 to 21,020. Growth was slightly down on 1973 (2,158).

Leased circuits totalled 1,425 at the end of 1974 (1973: 1,232). Teleprinter channels accounted for 61% and voice circuits for 39%. Modems for data transmission increased by 45% to 3,200. Of these, 45% were used on leased lines and 55% in the PSTN.

Radio, Television

A second **daily news studio** has been provided for the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation's **Zurich-Seebach TV centre**. It is equipped with three colour cameras, three VTR units, two colour slide scanners as well as video and sound control apparatus. Zurich is now able to broadcast the news simultaneously to two or three language regions.

In 1974 **radio broadcast receiving licences** increased by 33,227 (1.6%) to 2,036,431 and **TV licences** by 86,926 (5.3%) to 1,714,336. Growth was somewhat less than in 1973 (2.3% and 6% respectively).