

Zeitschrift: Technische Mitteilungen / Schweizerische Post-, Telefon- und Telegrafienbetriebe = Bulletin technique / Entreprise des postes, téléphones et télégraphes suisses = Bollettino tecnico / Azienda delle poste, dei telefoni e dei telegrafi svizzeri

Herausgeber: Schweizerische Post-, Telefon- und Telegrafienbetriebe

Band: 53 (1975)

Heft: 7

Rubrik: Summaries and notices

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p. 234...251

New Equipment for the Geneva and Zurich TV Studios

M. Baud, Berne

The PTT has supplied identical technical installations and equipment for the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation's newly erected TV buildings at Geneva and Zurich. Several studios, continuity suites and a recording room are linked to a main control centre. The article describes the video, sound, synchronization and signalling equipment as well as the intercommunication system. In addition, it outlines the video recording and sequence finder apparatus used at Zurich to produce the daily news in three national languages.

p. 252...263

Water Conditioning by Reversed Osmosis

M. Wüthrich and H. Mauch, Berne

The terms Osmosis and Reversed Osmosis are explained and some theory is given. The authors then deal with the technical requirements for reversed osmosis, and outline the equipment used in their tests with a hollow-fibre module. The amount and quality of water produced under varying conditions are listed in tables as average values from several measurements. The tests have shown that pure water obtained in this way is suitable for major applications within the PTT.

p. 264...272

The Economic Impact of International Subscriber Dialling on the Swiss Telephone Service

H. Riniker, Berne

Having briefly outlined the changeover from semi-automatic service to subscriber dialling, the author explains the method used to calculate the differences in the cost of the two systems. The results of the study, presented in the form of diagrams, show a substantial reduction in the annual cost of both staff and equipment for automatic service.

News Items

Posts

In the first quarter of 1975, the number of households to be served by Swiss Posts rose further, though at a slightly lower rate than in 1974. While the **volume of business stagnated** in some services and even dropped in others, **staff increased** as a result of some of last year's vacancies being filled.

Telephone

In January and February, Swiss subscribers used **ISD facilities** on 90.3% of their international calls (41.14 out of 45.55 million chargeable minutes). The increase in self-dialling was 4.8% over the same period of last year.

Automatic frontier service has been opened between Hüttwilen, Thundorf, Uesslingen (Switzerland) and Donaueschingen, Ravensburg, Freiburg/Breisgau (Germany) as well as between Lausanne, Geneva and the French town of Annemasse.

By 1 May, 35 Swiss PTT customers were using a total of 83 **leased circuits for telephone conversations** to 7 European countries (France 26, Federal Republic of Germany 23, United Kingdom 21, Italy 8, Belgium 3, Luxemburg 1, Austria 1).

Gas-warning posters reminding cable maintenance staff of the hazards of smoking near open manholes have been distributed to the Swiss Telecoms Regions.

Switzerland's largest **public telephone and telegraph office** (365 m²) has been opened at Geneva-Cornavin.

On 15 May a **major breakdown** occurred in telephone service between **Rapperswil (St. Gall) and Lucerne**. It was found that 100 m of trunk cable, weighing about 1000 kg, had been neatly sawn off and removed by what is legally termed 'person or persons unknown'. Angry customer, or cable-collector?

Telegraph, Telex

The manually compiled **list of Swiss telegraph offices** and hours of service has been replaced by an ATECO (automatic telegram switching computer) print-out which can be distributed at shorter intervals, and relieves staff in the about 4000 offices of tedious correction work.

Radio, Television

An additional four national **TV transmitters and translators** came into operation in May. They are located at La Chaux-de-Fonds and Seewen (Solothurn).

A further **simplex relay for radiophone service** between fixed and mobile stations has been erected near Olten. It will cover large parts of central Switzerland.

Miscellaneous

Since 1970 Swiss PTT Telecommunications has been employing a number of **commercial apprentices** each year. So far, 45 have been fully trained, and 29 of them have opted for PTT careers.