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Summaries and Notices

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Enlarging the Saentis Multi-Purpose Installation

E. Schwarz, Berne

The multi-purpose installation on the Saentis is one of Swiss PTT's main relay stations for national and international wireless communication. An account of its recent enlargement is given, together with details of the special technical and physical problems encountered and the considerable financial effort involved.

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First Results of Medium-wave SSB Transmission Tests

A. Hunkeler, Berne

Some introductory remarks on ionospheric-wave vertical radiation coverage are followed by an outline of the characteristics and operation of the experimental setup used in measuring ssb and dsb transmission performance. The objective test results include mainly an indication of the time interval during which the k factor exceeded 10% and a presentation of the field strength at three different points of reception. Receiving technique and further work on the subject are discussed on the basis of the available data.

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An Introduction to Computer Networks

J. J. Jaquier, Berne

The present article is intended for the telecoms engineer and technician. Part I defines the computer network and outlines its various uses, its structure, and problems of interconnection. The term «protocol» is explained, a facility enabling compatibility problems to be solved and some independence to be achieved in the use of equipment. Part II deals with information transmission and describes some existing or planned networks.

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Video Input/Output Terminals for Swiss PTT's APL Computer System

A. Burgherr and T. Formanek, Berne

Tektronix 4013 vdu terminals enable the PTT to use its APL system for interactive computer graphic, a very efficient form of data processing and now practically indis-

pensable tool for the research and planning engineer. In addition to the direct output of graphic data to the terminal, the system can read data off the screen with the aid of a manually adjustable hairline cross.

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Stores Management in a Fluctuating Market – Part I

R. Urfer, Berne

In stores management, economic trends and market fluctuations have a far greater impact on capital goods than on consumer goods. The problems associated with storing capital goods for public services, such as telecommunications, in times of fast changing economic conditions are too little known, and this tends to provoke unfair criticism by those unfamiliar or little acquainted with the subject. The present article attempts to outline and illustrate Swiss PTT policy in telecommunication stores management. The relevant economic data are discussed in detail.

News Items

Posts

In 1974, Swiss PTT, including Postbus licensees, paid **2.7 million francs duty on fuel**.

Telephone

Switzerland has opened **direct telephone service to Nigeria and the Ivory Coast** over the SPADE facilities of the Leuk satellite earth station.

In May and June Swiss subscribers used **ISD facilities** on 90.1% of their international calls (40.8 out of 45.3 million chargeable minutes). This corresponds to an increase in self-dialling of 3.5% over the same period of 1974.

In the 3rd quarter of 1975, **ISD** was made available in **16 exchanges** serving a total of 15,253 lines.

Exchange Rates, a new recorded information service available over No. 160 since 15 March, was called 624,122 times – an average of 26,000 times a week – up to the end of August.

The Geneva, Lucerne and Winterthur Regions have introduced a **new, experimental procedure of dealing with applications for telephone service**. It is ex-

pected to improve service to customers by simplifying administrative routine and cutting out delays in the provision of lines.

Radiophone equipment worth some 600,000 francs has been ordered for the connection of a further 20 fixed subscribers to the PSTN.

The **Laufenburg television relay station**, erected on German territory to achieve optimum propagation, has been connected to the Swiss public telephone network over a **wireless subscriber's installation**.

The first of the new **INTELSAT communication satellites**, each of which will be able to carry 6250 telephone conversations and 2 TV transmissions, was launched from Cape Canaveral on 25 September.

Telegraph, Telex

Swiss PTT will be modernizing its telex system by replacing existing electromechanical plant with **Hasler T 200 electronic, stored program controlled exchanges**, the first of which is to come into operation at Zurich in 1977/78.

The size, layout and presentation of the **Swiss telex directory** have been changed. Its latest edition, published in October 1975, comes in A4 size/3 columns, employs computer-assisted phototypesetting and lists the some 22,000 subscribers in alphabetical and their answerback codes in numerical order.

Radio, Television

The **ITU Regional Administrative LS-Ms Broadcasting Conference** began its second meeting at Geneva in October to work out a new medium-wave and short-wave frequency plan for Regions 1 (Europe, North Africa/Near East) and 3 (Asia, Oceania).

On 1 October, 13 additional **TV transmitters and translators** came into operation in Southern Switzerland.

The **Ulmizberg multi-purpose station** was put into operation, and work started on the new **Chasseral station**, in September.

Miscellaneous

Architectural Heritage Year has prompted the PTT to arrange a **special exhibition** illustrating its own efforts to design and build structures and line plant in such a way as to preserve the character of towns, villages and the countryside. The material has been on show at the **PTT Museum in Berne** since 10 September.