

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: 54 (1976)

Heft: 1

Rubrik: Summaries and notices

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Summaries and Notices

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50 Years of Swiss PTT Pneumatic Tube Systems

M. Hochuli, Berne.

An outline is given of the history and development of the PTT's pneumatic tube systems including the latest, fully automatic installations. The conditions governing the automation of systems are dealt with in some detail and future developments, such as the use of 100 mm diameter tubes at Basle, are described.

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Reconditioning of Switzerland's Multiple Twin Cable System

W. Knuchel, Berne.

Operated alongside the modern large-capacity systems, the now 40-year-old multiple twin cables are still of considerable importance. They not only serve as emergency routes but will also be used to provide a PCM trunk system for data transmission. Reconditioning involves considerable expenditure and therefore requires extensive and careful planning. In general, a circuit quality equal to that of new systems can be achieved.

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Sound Engineering in Switzerland's Broadcasting Studios

P.H. Werner, Berne

Under the licence agreement with the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation, the PTT supplies the radio and television studio equipment. The author outlines the history of sound engineering, the principles of recent installations, and future developments.

News Items

Telephone

In July and August 1975, Swiss subscribers used **ISD facilities** on 90.5% of their international calls (38.9 out of 43 million chargeable minutes). The increase in self-dialling was 2.8% over the same period of 1974.

International telephone circuits to and from Switzerland increased by 709 between January and September 1975. Of these, 685 are operated with European countries.

In November 1975, **direct telephone service to Venezuela** was opened over the SPADE facilities of the Leuk satellite earth station.

On 1 December **automatic telephone service** was opened to **Cyprus** (Greek sector), **Tunisia**, and the **Faeroe Islands**.

Telegraph, Telex

Automatic telex service to Kuwait, Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Saudi Arabia and the Ivory Coast was opened in November/December 1975. Besides all of Europe, 28 overseas countries are now on IXSD from Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein.

Since November, **telex service with TRT Telecommunications Corporation subscribers in the USA** has been available from Switzerland.

Radio, Television

Under the new frequency plan worked out by the **ITU Regional Administrative LS-MS Broadcasting Conference** at Geneva in October and November 1975, Switzerland will continue to operate its existing stations of **Sarnen** (1566 kHz), **Sottens** (765 kHz),

Monte Ceneri (558 kHz) and **Savièse**. The frequency of **Beromünster** (531 kHz), which has been subject to interference by a foreign station for some years, will no longer be used during the night.

The **Lausanne radio studio** has been supplied with a new broadcasting complex, comprising a central switching area, three identical transmission circuits, a current affairs production control room, and drama facilities.

In November 1975, 8 new **television translators** came into operation in cantons Neuchâtel, Schwyz, St. Gall and Valais.

The **multi-purpose stations of Haute Nendaz «Valais», Valzeina and Celerina**, which were redesigned in part and enlarged, have been reopened.

Miscellaneous

Between January and October 1975, **data modems** in Switzerland rose by 33% to 4000.

During the first 9 months of 1975, **Swiss PTT personnel** averaged 50,714, that is 14 less than in the same period of 1974.

Swiss PTT's main objectives for 1976 are: to prevent a further decline in the volume of business, to recover business lost, to stimulate the demand for service, and to improve the organization's finances. Attempts to balance the budget include a number of rate increases from 1 January, affecting inland posts, letter post items to CEPT countries (80 cts and 70 cts minimum charge respectively for letters and postcards) as well as telephone and telex calls to Europe, which will go up by an average 15%.

For the **Group B World Ice Hockey Championships at Bienne and Aarau** from 18-27 March 1976, Swiss PTT will provide 40 circuits each for radio and television coverage.