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Summaries and Notices

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Utilization of the «Free Megahertz» in the UHF Television Channel, CCIR Standard G, for the Transmission of FM Sound

K. W. Bernath and R. Klingler, Berne

Extensive laboratory and field tests have been conducted with four additional FM sound channels in the free megahertz portion of the UHF television channel (CCIR Standard G). It was found that, with sound channel levels of 15 to 20 dB below the peak (line synchronizing pulse) value of the picture carrier level and parallel reception, the quality of these channels is about the same as that of the voice channel (10 dB below) accompanying the picture demodulated using the inter-carrier principle. Interference with neighbouring channels is not expected with the European UHF plan. Test broadcasts as well as subjective observations involving a considerable number of home receivers (both monochrome and colour) have shown that, for sets with well aligned front ends and normal input levels, no objectionable video- and sound-impairments are to be expected with sound carrier levels of 20 to 25 dB below that of the picture carrier.

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Training of Communication and Electronic Equipment Installers «FEAM» by Swiss PTT

P. Kummer, Berne

It is not widely known that over the last few years training facilities for FEAM apprentices were made available in seven Telephone Regions. The quality of instruction is constantly being improved and the choice of apprenticeship widened. The trainee receives a systematic, target-oriented instruction, complemented by practical training periods in the various technical departments of a Telephone Region.

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Apprentice Training in the Construction and Fabrication Section

M. Lehmann, Berne

Since 1957, the Construction and Fabrication Section of the Swiss PTT General Directorate has been training communication and electronic equipment installers (FEAMs). This article depicts the history of apprentice training, the admission procedure as well as the development and updating of the training programme. Some problems and alternatives are dealt with.

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Lifetest of tubular plate accumulators

Th. Gerber, Berne

This work is about the testing of tubular plate accumulators, the way they are used as direct-current supply in the telecommunication services of the Swiss PTT. It provides details about the influence of operating voltage on the current and water consumption, on the so-called antimony poisoning as well as on corrosion and consequent aging processes. Furthermore, criteria to obtain the optimum voltage for charge retention are established. The results are based on measurements and tests conducted during the past 15 years and performed on an accumulator bank under laboratory conditions.

News Items

Posts

On 24 May Swiss PTT informed the Press of **improvements planned in the postal service**. They include a general letter-mail delivery on Saturday mornings and an additional parcel delivery on Friday afternoons.

Telephone

New Speaking Clock machines came into operation on 31 May. Instead of tapes they use a magnetic disc with separate pickups for the three constituent parts of the announcement.

The new range of **coloured telephones**, available since the beginning of this year, is proving popular with the public. The leader among the 12,000 sets ordered in the first four months was orange (5600), followed by brown (3500) and red (2900).

A one-year field trial of the new AZ 44 coinbox telephone is being conducted with 50 stations in 4 Telephone Regions.

Switzerland's circuits to Rome and Milan will be increased to 212 and 325 respectively by the end of 1976. A new group from Lausanne and one from Lugano to Catania are scheduled for 1978.

In January and February Switzerland's subscribers used **ISD facilities** on 93.4 pc of their international calls (46.53 out of 49.8 million chargeable minutes). The increase in self-dialling was 3.1 pc over the same period of last year.

Automatic telephone service to Finland, Morocco, Hong Kong and Taiwan was opened on 1 June.

Two direct satellite circuits to Singapore were opened via Raisting on 12 May.

Telephone service to North Korea has been available since May. The charge is 48 fr. for 3 minutes and 16 fr. for each additional minute or fraction thereof. The charge for calls to **South Korea** has been reduced by about 10 pc to the same level.

A visitors' pavilion housing a permanent exhibition on satellite communication was officially opened at the **Leuk earth station** in May.

Telegraph, Telex

On 1 May Swiss PTT opened an **experimental public facsimile service** between 6 national telegraph offices.

Telex service was opened to the **Falkland Islands** on 30 March, and to the **Arab Emirates of Ajman and Umm Al Qaiwain** on 3 May. At the same time a direct telegraph link and 4 telex circuits were established to **Taipeh**.

Radio, Television

A new **multipurpose station** came into operation at **Ravore** (Valais) in May. It accommodates transmitters for 2 VHF radio and 3 television programmes as well as transceiver installations for microwave telephony and radiopaging.

In the service area of the Mt Pelerin VHF transmitter, tests have been conducted in broadcast band II with a view to establishing the type of polarization best suited for **VHF supply to civil defence buildings**.

Miscellaneous

The **pneumatic ticket carrier systems** of the Lugano and St Gall international manual offices have been equipped with **automatic date and time printers**.