

Summaries and notices

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Summaries

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A Method to Determine the Cost Price of Telephone Calls

L. Praz, Berne

Random sampling, along with the increasing use of computers, has revolutionized statistical techniques over the past few years. A recent study of the cost price of telephone calls has shown that in view of the numerous and manifold problems involved the use of sampling techniques is justified, if not obligatory, in such cases. Indeed, with so many parameters and unknowns, it is practically impossible to include all of the elements.

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Effects on the Swiss Telephone Service of the 1974 Inland Trunk Rate Increases and Changes in Cheap-Rate Periods

J. Krapf, Berne

In the years prior to this increase, which became effective on 2 December 1974, periodic pulse metering was made available throughout the network with a view to achieving a fairer charging system and introducing international subscriber dialling. The increase was coupled with a change in cheap-rate periods to obtain lower traffic peaks in the evenings. The effects of these measures, and rate increases in general, are discussed.

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The New Explosimeter «Gasotrans»

F. Rohrer, Berne

With the introduction of natural gas in Switzerland the danger of gas accumulation in underground cable systems has increased considerably. As a result, the telephone regions have had to be supplied with a new explosimeter, whose technical data and operating principle are described. Finally, attention is drawn to some points that should be observed when using the instrument in the field.

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Reinforcement of Support Structures Using Glued Girders

R. Tausky, Zurich

Because of high density construction methods, new technical equipment requires high stress capacity of the support. This leads to problems when the surface destined for construction has not the necessary strength. Since it is not always possible to increase the load capacity of a weak floor using conventional techniques, a new procedure is described. The use of synthetic-resin cementing techniques opens new ways of strengthening reinforced concrete floors.

News Items

Telephone

A new recorded information service, **No 166 - Stock Market Report**, has been available throughout Switzerland since 15 December 1976. In six bulletins daily it gives major quotations from the world's leading stock exchanges.

Swiss PTT's first **mobile PBX** has been in experimental operation at Berne since January. It is intended for use in emergencies and can accommodate up to 40 exchange lines and 400 extensions.

Up to the end of 1976, nine volumes of Switzerland's **telephone directory** had been produced by OCR and computer-typesetting techniques available as part of system **TERCO** (Telephone Rationalization by COmputer). In the meantime, the last of the 18 volumes has been stored in the central data bank.

In 1976, 122 **local cable projects** worth over 0.25 million francs each and totalling 66.9 million francs were approved as against 123 projects worth 58.7 million francs in 1975.

On 1 December 1976 a **direct satellite circuit** was opened between **Switzerland** and **Jordan**. This enabled the call charge to be reduced by about 40 pc.

In the fourth quarter of 1976, **ISD** was made available in 10 exchanges serving a total of 13,430 lines.

Telegraph, Telex, Leased Circuits

Automatic telex service was opened to the Arab Emirate of **Fujairah** on 24 November, and to **Indonesia** on 15 December. In 1976 the number of countries available on **IXSD** from Switzerland rose by 15 to 72.

On 1 December 1976 the **rentals for intercontinental leased telecommunication circuits** were adjusted in accordance with international agreements. As a result, Switzerland's revenue from the business has dropped by 25 pc.

Radio, Television

In December 1976 the **Swiss television network** was enlarged by 79 translators. By the end of last year it comprised 358 stations with 834 transmitters and translators (369, 233 and 232 respectively on chains 1-3). Programme 1 was supplied to 99 pc of the population, and some 93 pc were able to receive all three national programmes.

New equipment for two production control rooms at **Zurich radio studio** was supplied by the PTT in December. At the same time, **Geneva and Zurich TV studios** each took delivery of a recording van with two VTRs. The Swiss Broadcasting Corporation now has its full fleet of 7 outside broadcast units and 6 recording vans.

Two new **10 kW ssb transmitters** for Swiss PTT's **short wave radiophone service with aircraft** have come into operation at Schwarzenburg station.

Research into the problems of **radio communication in tunnels** has been conducted worldwide for many years. The PTT and a Swiss cable firm have now come up with a joint solution: a **radiating coaxial cable** enabling all types of radio service to be supplied to tunnels. Field tests are being conducted in the Baregg motorway tunnel near Baden, where a 1.1 km length of the cable was installed in December 1976.

Miscellaneous

Swiss PTT's main objectives for 1977 are: to retain existing business, to win new business, and to achieve a **return to profit**. A promising start was made in 1976 by means of a massive marketing effort and improvements in a number of services. Follow-up campaigns and new drives to promote individual services and stimulate demand will be launched nationally and locally this year. These, along with further rationalization and careful management of available means, offer good prospects for growth and a return to overall economic health.

A large **telecommunication stores depot** serving several telephone regions in eastern Switzerland has been opened at **Urdorf** near Zurich.