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Summaries and Notices

Summaries

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Digital Concentrator for a PCM Switching System

K. Waber, Berne

The digital concentrator enables digital voice and/or data terminals to be connected to a PCM telecommunication system over digital subscriber's lines. As the telecommunication system consists of several autonomous, superimposed PCM networks (planes), the concentrator also serves as a point of interconnection for these networks. Besides the switching network and the interconnection of planes, the digital subscriber's line and control problems are discussed. Equipment flexibility is achieved through modular design.

p. 185...191

Computer-controlled Measuring Position for performance tests of VHF Broadcasting Transmitters

B. Rütter, Berne

The article describes the design and use of a computer-controlled measuring position for performance tests of VHF broadcasting transmitters.

p. 192...198

New Application and Connection Procedure for Telephones

C. Baumann, Berne

This procedure simplifies the application for telephone service and cuts by several days the time required to connect new subscribers. Customers can now apply for a telephone by just filling out a reply card attached to a folder and handing it in at the nearest post office or licensed installer's. Additional savings in time are achieved with simpler and quicker administrative routines for the processing of orders.

p. 199...203

The AZ 44 Pay Station

P. Guyer, Berne

At the beginning of 1977, a new pay station will be introduced. In addition to the main specifications, the mechanical con-

struction and functioning are described of this electronically controlled apparatus, which can be connected to any normal subscriber's line. The article ends with a glance at the easy operating procedure and the installation of this apparatus of modern design.

News Items

Posts

Postal Giro accounts last year increased by 67,000 (1975: 43,000) to 661,468 thanks to local and national publicity efforts.

Telephone

A **telephone publicity drive** aimed at both existing and potential customers was launched in March with a view to achieving a steady rise in revenue from wider and increased use of the service.

The **Flexoprint** (directory production) service last year handled 586,279 (1975: 550,470) new or changed subscriber entries as well as 17,644 trade entries.

Automatic telephone service to Saudi Arabia became available on 1 March. At the same time the call charges were lowered by 9...18 pc.

A new agreement has been signed on **Switzerland's use of the French satellite earth station of Pleumeur-Bodou**. It enables the PTT to route 20 circuits over this station for 10 years on favourable terms.

Telegraph, Telex, Data

Last year 451,172 (1975: 485,779) **greetings telegrams** were sent in Switzerland. Of the proceeds from the sale of de luxe forms, 471,475 francs (507,639 francs) went to the «Pro Juventute» foundation.

It has been decided to extend the period of operation of Swiss PTT's experimental **public facimile service** by two years to April 1979 and to conduct tests of a number of terminals meeting recommended standards.

IXSD to the USA was extended to **TRT** Telecomms Corporation subscribers in mid-February.

By 20 January the **ATECO** telegram retransmission system had been in operation for **50,000 hours** with an overall availability of 99.94 pc.

The PTT administrations of the **Common Market** countries are now in the process of setting up their «**Euronet**» data communication network, which is to provide access to some 50 data banks from business, industry, scientific research, engineering, etc from early 1979. Switzerland, though not an EEC member, is seeking connection to Euronet so as to be able to offer its customers the same services and facilities.

Radio, Television

At the **Comano** (Ticino) television centre for Italian-speaking Switzerland the great **production studio** was opened in February. It replaces facilities at Lugano-Paradiso.

Two **microwave links** supplying the Austrian television programmes to **CATV systems** came into operation between Albis and Wohlen as well as Ulmizberg near Berne and Grenchen in mid-February.

The latest, and so far largest, company to use Swiss PTT's **Shortwave Radiophone Service with Aircraft** is **Alitalia**, the Italian airline.

In 1976, **transmitting licences** increased by 21 pc to 48,167, and licensed transceivers rose by 16 pc to 110,890.

At the **ITU World Administrative Conference for Satellite Broadcasting**, held in **Geneva** from 10 January to 13 February, 660 delegates from 111 countries worked out a plan theoretically enabling each member country to operate a broadcasting system over satellites.

Miscellaneous

Last year Swiss PTT placed orders for **telecommunication equipment** to the amount of **704 million francs** (706 million in 1975).

The **PTT's volume of business** remained stable last year (+0.1 pc on 1975). The **Postal Service** handled fewer letters and parcels, but there was a heavy increase in Giro transactions. In **Telecommunications**, inland trunk calls, international calls, and telex showed considerable growth rates, while telegrams continued to decline.