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Summaries and Notices

Summaries

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Screened Information in the Home

R. Klingler, Berne

Screened information turns the domestic television receiver into a data terminal. The information is either broadcast in the gaps between television signals (teletext systems) or it is transmitted over telephone lines (Viewdata). The principal teletext systems developed in Europe over the last few years are Britain's Ceefax and Oracle as well as France's Antiope. While Ceefax and Oracle are fast and simple systems tailored to the conditions in the United Kingdom, Antiope offers universal use and flexibility. The main problems of system standardization are the type and size of the alphabet as well as transmission in the television signal.

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Signal processing: Trapezoidal Modulation, Clipping

M. Zimmermann, Beromünster

The three most common signal processing units — the compressor, limiter and clipper — are presented. For trapezoidal modulation the formula for increased transmitter power is derived. As the most important point the difference in the loudness characteristic of music and speech is examined and a possible solution is proposed: the exclusive use of a clipper, but with different threshold levels so that only speech will be clipped.

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New Video Recording Vans for Swiss Television

W. Frei, Berne

With its new video recording vans, the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation closes a gap in its production facilities. The units are each equipped with two recording machines for increased scope and operational safety. The illustrated article describes the design and layout of the vehicles.

Telephone

The introduction of **periodic pulse metering for local calls** in Switzerland has led to an increase in the number of conversations (up to 4.1 pc in some telephone regions) while the average call duration has dropped from 210 to 199 seconds.

The PTT's **EDP information system TERCO** (TElephone Rationalization by COmputer) was demonstrated to the Press on 24 May. At the present stage the system is used for directory enquiries as well as directory editing and production, but it will gradually take over a number of additional functions.

In January and February Switzerland's subscribers used **ISD facilities on 96.2 pc** of their international calls (55.02 out of 57.18 million chargeable minutes).

A **direct telephone link to Paraguay** has been established via SPADE from Leuk satellite earth station, which now operates to 19 overseas countries.

Telegraph, Telex

In the first quarter of 1978, **inland telegrams** rose by 5.3 pc in Switzerland.

Letter telegram and press telegram services to Egypt were discontinued on 1 May.

A **direct automatic telex link to Bogota** (Colombia) was opened via Raisting and Chochonta satellite earth stations on 3 May.

Switzerland's telex subscribers last year used **international direct dialling facilities** on 99.9 pc of their European and 84.6 pc of their overseas calls.

Radio, Television

Stereophonic radio broadcasting was introduced in French-speaking Switzerland on 17 May, when the new **La Dôle** multipurpose station came into operation. In the German- and Italian-speaking

parts of the country, 'stereo' will become available in August and September respectively.

A new **vertical-radiation antenna** for the German-language medium-wave programme on 1566 kHz is being built at **Beromünster**.

In May three **television translators** came into operation, one at Ravoire (Valais) for the French-language programme and two at Arbedo (Ticino) for the German and French-language programmes.

A new recording van with two colour video-tape units has been supplied to **Comano** (Ticino) **television studio**.

The **Schöftland—Sursee bus service**, which is operated by the PTT, has been provided with a **radiophone network** enabling the 5 vehicles on the line to be monitored and directed as required.

Miscellaneous

At a recent meeting in Rapperswil SG, representatives of the **Austrian Postal and Telegraph Administration** and the **Swiss PTT** discussed the development of telephone service between their countries and agreed on facilities to ensure smooth handling of the expected traffic volumes.

After several postponements due to technical difficulties, Europe's **OTS 2 test satellite** was launched from Cape Kennedy on 11 May. Swiss PTT is using OTS 2 for **propagation beacon experiments** with a small 11 GHz receive-only station in Berne. In addition, sky noise temperature at 11.4 GHz will be measured with a radiometer.

The **PTT's cost accounts for 1977** show an overall operating profit of 346.8 million francs, and a revenue/cost ratio of 1.07 as against 1.04 in the previous year. The postal service's operating result has improved by 5 million francs, but its revenue/cost ratio remains at 0.96. Telecommunications' operating profit has risen from 233.2 to 376.1 million francs, an upturn in telephone business accounting for the bulk of this increase.