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Summaries and Notices

Summaries

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Experiments with Data Emission in a TV Channel

Ch. Bärffuss, Berne

Radio information systems use the TV network as transmission medium. To evaluate the capabilities of these new systems, tests have been carried out with the British teletext system Ceefax/Oracle and the French DIDON-system for data transmission. The results clearly indicate the role of the transmitter and receiver and the effect of transmission path and reveal the importance of the choice of the characteristics of the digital information.

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Corrosion of Lead Sheathed Cables in Plastics Multiway Ducts

A. Brunold, Berne

Only a few years after plastics ducts encased in lean concrete were first used to accommodate bare lead sheathed cables — i. e. with the introduction of plastics multiway ducts — corrosion of a formerly unknown type occurred. Investigation of various instances of corrosion damage in installations of this type has shown that the corrosion attack, which is usually strictly limited to a particular site but which progresses rapidly, is caused by highly basic water containing calcium hydroxide. The questions which arise in this context, i. e. «What is responsible for the presence of water of unnaturally high basicity?» and «Why does highly basic water have an unusually aggressive effect on lead?» are dealt with and answered in so far as the results of the investigations and experiments permit.

News Items

Telephone

The PTT's first optical cable was laid between two Berne local exchanges at the beginning of last December. The cable, which has eight 0.12 mm fibres, is being used for test purposes before it becomes part of a pcm link this spring.

Switzerland's first 60 MHz coaxial transmission system came into operation on the Zurich—Schaffhausen—Donauessingen route on 28/29 November. Its capacity is 10,800 simultaneous telephone calls per pair of tubes.

In the Zurich and Rapperswil telephone regions, all subscribers of network group 01 now have seven-digit numbers.

In Geneva telephone region, international direct dialling facilities have been extended to the Nyon and Founex areas.

Radio, Television

The new medium and long-wave plan, which became effective on 23 November, has improved long-distance reception in some parts of Switzerland.

Two 460 MHz simplex relays for radio-telephone service between fixed and mobile stations have come into operation at Schaffhausen and Zurich.

In November and December 1978, the Swiss television network was extended by 35 transposers.

According to the Federal Government, the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation's present licence, which expires at the end of 1979, will be extended by three years after some modifications.

Miscellaneous

Under the 'Gift Token for Phone Calls' scheme, 16,851 inpayments totalling 746,025 francs were made in the first 12 months after its introduction on 16 November 1977. The average inpayment was 45 francs.

A new international manual office has been opened at Lausanne-Préville. It is equipped with an automatic ticket carrier system.

On 6 December 1978 it was 25 years since the Hasler Foundation had set up a Group for the Promotion of Communications Research in Switzerland. During that time the Foundation had made available some 10 million francs for research projects and laboratory equipment.

Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein have signed an agreement on the implementation of their Post and Telecommunications Treaty. Under this treaty, which came into force on 1 January 1979, Swiss PTT continues to operate Liechtenstein's postal and telecommunication services while granting the Principality its own radio and television monopoly.