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Summaries

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Putting Modems into Service in Automatic Network

M. Béhar and G. Meyenberg, Berne

In the first part of this contribution the noise sources present on data links are described and a data signal is analyzed to point out the most important quality criteria. The second part is devoted to preparing, bench-testing and putting the modem into service on subscriber's premises.

p. 47...49

Measurement of Lines for Data Transmission

F. Nüsseler, Berne

This article attempts to infer the suitability of a line for data transmission from measurement results. It is shown how results can depend on the test circuit and be falsely interpreted. Last but not least, the type of modulation used must be considered when evaluating line qualities.

p. 50...60

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

Posts

Further automation of the postal giro service will enable a number of new services to be introduced over the next few years. Some will be tailored to the needs of large businesses while others, such as a wider range of standing orders and a guaranteed giro cheque, will be welcomed by the account holders generally.

Telephone

Five units of a new electronic PABX, ECS 400, have been sent to three Telephone Regions for field testing.

Following a recent poll on the subject of coloured telephones, a fern-green station will be added to the existing range this summer. The majority of customers now prefer coloured instruments with either a black cord for pushbutton sets or a cream dial and cord for conventional sets.

The first telephone directory based entirely on the Terco data bank will be printed in February 1979.

Periodic pulse metering of local calls was extended to the smaller areas in January.

«Reports on snow and skiing conditions», an information service available over the telephone from popular winter resorts, has been extended to Canton Grisons. In the directory, the number to be dialled is listed under the standard entry of «Schnee- und Pistenbericht» for each locality.

An 11 GHz microwave radio relay link with 1800 telephone channels and a protection channel with automatic change-

over facility came into operation between St Gallen and Feldkirch (Austria) in December.

Additional cable or satellite circuits have been connected for telephone service between Switzerland and the following overseas countries: Philippines, Korea, Thailand, Hong Kong, Kuwait, Japan (JASC POOL circuits for Spain and Greece), Mexico, Venezuela, Ivory Coast, Tunisia, Iran and Saudi Arabia.

The number of international circuits from and to Switzerland last year rose by 543 to 11,041. Of these, 10,445 (+4.7 pc) are operated with Europe and 596 (+13.3 pc) with overseas countries.

Telegraph, Telex

DATAC (data base access) service, operated by Radio-Suisse Ltd to the USA, was extended to Canada on 15 December 1978.

Radio, Television

Since the introduction of the new medium and long-wave plan on 23 November 1978, reception of the Swiss home service stations of Beromünster (531 kHz) and Sarnen (1566 kHz) has been seriously impaired by interference from the Ain Beida (Algeria) and Sfax (Tunisia) transmitters.

Miscellaneous

Large parts of the Swiss Bank Corporation headquarters in Basle were destroyed by fire in the night of 8/9 December 1978. The PTT's immediate action to restore communications involved the provision of over 300 branch lines to temporary offices and the installation of 280 telephones.