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Summaries and Notices

Summaries

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The CST 70 Executive-Secretary Telephone System

K. Stähli, Berne

Unlike its electromechanical predecessor, the electronic system CST 70, which will be available from the end of 1979, requires no separate control box. Its two sets are of identical outward design, the executive's housing the power supply and the secretary's accommodating a TTL-based control unit. The operation of the system is described and its functional characteristics are explained with the aid of block diagrams.

p. 124...136

The RATA System

J.-F. Savoy, R. Mengisen and F. Schütz, Berne

The call-duration recording equipment used in international centres will be replaced by the new RATA (*Recording and Analysis of Telephone traffic with Abroad*) system. The article describes the new equipment and the data supplied by RATA for conversation-time accounting with foreign countries as well as traffic distribution and service quality analysis.

p. 137...145

Lightning Protection of Mains-supplied Equipment

E. Montandon, Berne

Lightning protection of mains-supplied equipment is especially important in the case of remote, unattended installations. Effective, well-balanced protection necessitates careful coordination of requirements regarding earth system, insulating strength and surge arresters. Some main considerations are outlined and practical solutions are presented which have been worked out in close collaboration with the Power Installations Branch of the PTT General Directorate.

News Items

Posts

The PTT's **giro service** last year handled 71.3 million punched inpayment cards as well as 53.9 million (+46 pc) OCR inpayment and outpayment forms from customers with data processing systems.

No fewer than 172,200 withdrawals totalling 51 million francs have been made from **Postomats** since their introduction a year ago in April. The number of Postomat users now stands at 45,327.

Telephone

The average charge for a **pulse-metered local call** was 17.2 centimes in 1978. The average call duration has dropped from 220 to 207.5 seconds since the changeover from flat-rate charging.

Customers on the 3-month-plus **waiting list** dropped by 881 to 4253 last year.

A **4 GHz microwave link** with 1800 voice channels came into operation between **Berne** and **Lucerne** in February.

Telephone service to Irak (formerly via Raisting) is now available over 4 permanent circuits from Leuk satellite earth station.

For traffic between Switzerland and **Saudi Arabia**, there are now 11 permanent satellite circuits via Leuk earth station.

Telegraph, Telex

With only 115 minutes downtime, the **Ateco telegram retransmission system**

in Zurich last year reached an availability ratio of 99.9781.

In March the PTT opened a **public message switching system, SAM**, which offers practically unlimited multi-address facilities on the telex network.

Radio, Television

A **vertical radiation antenna** serving as standby for the medium-wave broadcasting station of Sarnen (1566 kHz) was commissioned at **Beromünster** in February.

Radio transmitting licences last year increased by 17.9 pc to 69,538, and licensed transceivers rose by 17.1 pc to 156,098.

In 1978, **community antenna systems** went up by 218 to 1656 with some 750,000 users and an ultimate capacity of about 1.1 million.

Miscellaneous

A collection of **Swiss telegraph stamps**, 1868-1886, loaned by a Basle philatelist, is on display at the **PTT Museum in Berne** until 3 June 1979.

The **PTT's 1978 accounts** closed with a profit of 333 million francs, about 6 pc of turnover. **Business increased** by 2.7 pc overall, with the **postal service** accounting for 2 pc and **telecommunications** for 3.3 pc. The main growth areas were: postal passenger service, 4.3 pc; giro, 3.5 pc; parcels, 2.8 pc; international telephone calls, 9.5 pc; international telex, 6.3 pc; inland telegrams, 3.5 pc.