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Summaries

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Electronic News Gathering (ENG): A New Instrument for TV News Production

M. Baud, Berne

After defining the term ENG, the article outlines the evolution of TV equipment which has resulted in today's miniaturized versions. A detailed description is given of the various items of ENG equipment, such as cameras, VTRs, editing positions, etc. One paragraph deals with microwave links and the configuration of a network allowing rapid transmission of signals, both video and sound, from new feeding points. The article concludes with an account of Switzerland's experience with ENG and details of the overall concept for its definitive introduction.

p. 195...212

Experimental 8.448 Mbit/s Optical Fiber System

C. Béguin, Berne

The author deals with the opto-electronic components, waveguides, transmission codes and types of modulation used in digital optical transmission systems and describes a link set up by the PTT's R + D division for measurement and test purposes.

p. 213...221

Problems Due to Static Electricity

C. J. Nadler, Berne

The theoretical first part examines the peak currents and average voltages produced by electrostatic discharges. Some fundamentals, such as Coulomb's law as well as the electrostatic field and potential, are recalled and examples are given of disturbances due to discharges. The third part deals with protective measures. The discussion is limited to aspects of special interest to the PTT.

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New Technologies in the Compact Set of the Eighties

A. Hartlauer, Grassau

Entertainment electronics, too, is beginning to make use of microprocessors. This article describes a compact set (radio, record player, cassette recorder) in

which a microprocessor together with a 64 byte RAM and a 1 kbyte ROM initiates and monitors the control functions. Input is either direct over the control panel or — partly — via infra-red remote control.

Thanks to the microprocessor, it is also possible to preselect and store any AM or FM station by means of a synthesizer circuit. The article gives an idea of the features of microprocessor-equipped future radio sets.

News Items

Telephone

The charge for **local calls** was reduced by **25 percent** on 1 June. A 10c unit now buys 6 instead of 4.8 minutes conversation time.

A new recorded information service, **Snow Reports and Tourist Information**, available over No 120, has been provided in conjunction with the Swiss National Tourist Office since 9 May.

At the **public call offices** of Biel/Bienne and Solothurn, 7 out of 24 telephone booths have been set aside for use by **non-smokers** — a measure welcomed by the majority of customers.

The **Terco computer centre** in Lucerne, which at present handles directory enquiries and production, achieved a 100pc availability ratio in the first 7 months of operation as not one total failure occurred during that period.

Switzerland's first **computer-produced telephone directory**, No 12, Ticino, came out on 17 April.

The last few exchanges in network groups **Lucerne** (041) and **Geneva** (022) have been equipped for **international subscriber dialling**.

A **4GHz, 1800-channel microwave link** has been opened between **Albis-Zurich** and **St Moritz** over the relay stations of Sântis and Piz Corvatsch.

The PTT has acquired the indefeasible right of user in 36 circuits in the new, 2580-channel **submarine cable** between **Marseilles** and **Tetouan** (Morocco).

International calls from Switzerland 11-41 pc cheaper. On 1 June the charges were reduced for telephone calls to some

European and the North African countries as well as for telex and telephone calls to Canada, the USA and the Middle East.

Six circuits routed over the new **Senegal—Ivory Coast submarine cable** have been opened between Switzerland and the Ivory Coast in addition to 4 existing satellite circuits.

Four satellite circuits to Nigeria were opened via Leuk on 10 April. They replace two circuits connected permanently via Leuk's SPADE terminal.

Work on the base structure for the **second antenna at Leuk earth station** has been completed, and the installation is expected to become operational by the end of 1979.

Telegraph, Telex

In mid-1980 the PTT will introduce a new, **multiprocessor-controlled teleprinter**, the Hasler SP 300.

Automatic **telex service to Iraq, Syria and Jordan** has been available since 5 June.

In April the PTT connected its **10,000th modem**.

Radio, Television

The PTT has been commissioned to provide **radio supply facilities in the St Gotthard and Seelisberg road tunnels**. The installations will carry police radio, carphone and maintenance service signals as well as vhf broadcasting signals.