

Zeitschrift: Technische Mitteilungen / Schweizerische Post-, Telefon- und Telegrafienbetriebe = Bulletin technique / Entreprise des postes, téléphones et télégraphes suisses = Bollettino tecnico / Azienda delle poste, dei telefoni e dei telegrafi svizzeri

Herausgeber: Schweizerische Post-, Telefon- und Telegrafienbetriebe

Band: 57 (1979)

Heft: 10

Rubrik: Summaries and notices

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Summaries

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Main Development Trends in Television Engineering

K. W. Bernath, Berne

The technical development of television in the post-war era has to a great extent been determined by the advances in electronic technology. One can even speak of a continuous reciprocal effect, which today is obvious above all in the area of picture recording. At the same time, new applications such as broadcast videotex and interactive videotex are being developed for the TV set. In the field of transmission, satellites, digital long-distance links and optical cable are gaining in importance. Improved picture resolution standards, on the other hand, are likely to be achieved only in the longer term.

p. 376...378

New Operating Concept for Basle's Pneumatic Post System

E. Reidy, Berne

The origins of Basle's pneumatic post system reach back to the year 1913. Steady expansion and modernisation ended in 1963 with the automation of the present 65 mm facility. Requirements for the accommodation of a wider range of items will be met by a new, 100 mm system now under construction. The article outlines the planning, structure and ultimate size of this facility.

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Solar Cells for Space and Terrestrial Applications

H. Fischer, Heilbronn

Solar cells have been successfully used in space operations, but they need much further development. The objective is to produce more efficient yet cheaper components. The author sketches the development programme and describes the structure of solar cells for space and especially for terrestrial applications. Development trends are pointed out.

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Railway Radio Telephone and Data System

K. Fischer, Ulm

The author describes the radio system used by German Federal Railways for voice communication with the drivers of

5000 traction units along its 10,000 km network and for data exchange between vehicles and operating centres. The data transmission system is designed for man-machine dialogue and is used, for example, to direct marshalling and enter car numbers. Finally, a system for remote-controlled operation of switching engines is described.

News Items

Telephone

At the end of June, 4953 telephone customers (as against 4823 in mid-1978) were on the **3 month-plus waiting list**, the majority (52.2 pc) due to lack of cable or exchange facilities, and the remainder because either their overhead lines (17.1 pc) or the house-wiring (30.8 pc) was not yet ready.

In August, a **7.5 GHz PCM microwave link** for 30 voice channels came into operation between **St Moritz and Piz Corvatsch**, and the capacity of the **Albis—Arbedo microwave link** was increased by 2700 to 5400 channels.

Telegraph, Telex

The PTT will tentatively start supplying **facsimile machines** on a rental basis in early 1980.

Automatic telex service to 15 more overseas countries will be opened on

26 October: Bahamas, Benin, Cameroon, Central African Empire, Congo People's Republic, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mali, Mauritania, Netherlands Antilles (Dutch West Indies), Nicaragua and Togo.

Miscellaneous

Following a test period, actual traffic is now routed over the PTT's first **optical cable link**, which was set up between two Berne local exchanges last December. The potentials of optical communication were outlined to the press at a conference in Berne on 14 August.

In 1978, PTT Telecommunications handled **37 complaints** for every 1000 telephone customers, 18 for every 1000 telex subscribers, and 4 for every 10,000 telegrams. Nearly 90 pc proved unfounded, however.

The **volume of PTT business** continued to increase in the first half of 1979. Compared with the same period of last year, growth was 2.3 pc for posts and 4.2 pc for telecommunications.