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Summaries and Notices

Summaries

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Model 80 Charge Indicator without Battery

B. Mühlethaler, Berne

Replacing the 1977 version without battery of the model 73 charge indicator, model 80 will be introduced in 1980. It is of simpler construction and has a new, energy-saving drive. Besides some general aspects, the design, functioning, circuit diagrams and installation of this low-cost, modern device are dealt with.

p. 444...452

Divisibility Conditions for Metering Pulses to Minimize Pulse Coincidences

H. Zobrist, Berne

Divisibility conditions for metering pulses are investigated with a view to reducing to a minimum the frequency and number of simultaneous pulses generated by a new timer under development at the PTT. Interestingly, the results are based on the Theory of Residue Classes — a branch of algebra seemingly of purely mathematical significance. The article points out what should be observed when changing pulse rates if the number of simultaneous impulses is to be kept small.

p. 453...464

Videotex Pilot Facility

J. Padrutt, Zurich

The article is an introduction to the Videotex concept and describes the pilot facility installed in Berne, the subscriber's equipment, the hardware and software of the exchange as well as the composition of the Videotex data bank. In line with the aim to test a future public service open to everyone, the operation of the system by the users is extensively illustrated and the possibilities open to information suppliers are sketched.

News Items

Telephone

Work on the electronic equipment of the new, **second aerial at Leuk satellite earth station** has been completed. The installation is now being tested and will become operational by the end of 1979.

During the 1st half of 1979, the circuits routed over **Leuk satellite earth station** were interrupted for only 47 seconds on average, thus achieving an availability ratio of 99.9997 pc.

Since the end of October the new, **three-digit information and emergency service numbers** have also been available throughout Chur telephone region (network groups 081-086).

Telegraph, Telex

A new **telegraph and telephone office** was opened at **Baden** on 15 October. Its customer facilities include 16 telephone booths — one large enough to accommodate wheelchairs — and one telex booth.

International public facsimile service was extended to **Singapore** on 20 October.

Telegram traffic increased by 6 percent during the May—August publicity campaign, as against 3.8 percent in the January—August period. Greetings telegrams showed rises of 10.3 and 7.1 percent respectively.

Radio, Television

The PTT, in cooperation with the Swiss Traffic Commission and the automobile associations ACS and TCS, will introduce a **car radio information system (ARI)** in the next two years, provided that agreement with the users is reached by the end of 1979. The PTT's investment is estimated at about 700 000 francs; the annual operating costs of 160 000 francs are to be borne by the users.

Southern Switzerland's new **medium-wave transmitter** at **Monte Ceneri-Cima** (558 kHz) came into operation on 24 October.

In October the Swiss television network was enlarged by **13 transposers.**

Miscellaneous

The agreement on the construction of the **TAT-7 cable between the USA and Europe** was signed on 5 September. The new system with a capacity of 4200 3 kHz channels is expected to be operational by 1 July 1983.

At the **Intelsat meeting in Bermuda,** 10—17 October, the representatives of the companies operating earth stations in the Atlantic region agreed on a plan for the transition from Intelsat IV-A to Intelsat V in the summer/autumn of 1980.

Switzerland's **videotex pilot trial** started in mid-November, after acceptance testing of the central installation in Berne.

Switzerland's first **140 Mbit/s link** has been completed between the Rapperswil (SG) and Wattwil repeater stations. More links of this kind are to be put into service together with the IFS integrated telecommunication system.

The capacity of the **small coaxial cable link Lausanne/Préville—Yverdon—Neuchâtel** has been increased by about a third by means of 18 MHz equipment (2 operational and 1 standby system).