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Summaries

p. 414...420

Results of the OTS Down-Link Performance Measurements

H. Heierli, Berne

The down-link performance measurements took place with the European Orbiting-Test-Satellite (OTS) during two years at Berne. The influence of precipitations on the propagation of dual polarized signals was studied with linear polarization at 11.6 GHz. At the same time the sky noise temperature was registered with a radiometer at 11.4 GHz. This article presents a few results of these measurements differentiating between rain and snow coverage of the receive antenna.

p. 421...432

Electronic Telex and Data Dialling System for Asynchronous Terminals (EDWA)

O. Studer and W. Schmutz, Berne

Since 1979 the EDWA network has been using the Hasler T202 electronic exchange. This new exchange will gradually replace the electromechanical telex exchange within the next 10 years. The T202 exchange is program-controlled and switches also the data traffic at 300 bit/s besides the telex traffic at 50 bit/s. These exchanges offer to the subscribers and to the PTT a number of additional services and technical innovations such as choice of teletypewriter keyboard, special services, recording of the calling messages on magnetic tape, and low-level subscriber line circuit.

p. 433...440

Telex Private Branch Exchange EMX 1010

J. Werndli, Berne

In modern office communications the telex equipment is installed in decentralized working areas and connected to the private branch exchange. This article describes applications, characteristics and advantages of stored-program exchange EMX 1010. In addition, it shows how to simplify the telex traffic for the user.

p. 441...444

The Euronet Packet Switching Exchange

E. Voegelé, Zurich

Since 24 November 1980 Switzerland has been officially connected to the Euronet European information network. Thus,

the participating subscribers have access to more than 100 data banks. The Euronet uses the packet switching techniques for data communications. The technology and the basis of this network are explained in this article. The Swiss exchange in Zurich constitutes one of the five packet nodes whose objectives and functions are described.

News Items

Telephone

The PTT has decided in principle to introduce the Integrated Telecommunications System (IFS) from October 1985 into the Swiss public telephone network on the basis of technical, operational and economic evaluation. The IFS is an integrated digital switching, signalling and transmission system. It was developed by the PTT in cooperation with three manufacturers Hasler Co, Siemens-Albis Co and Standard Telephone and Radio Co.

Switzerland's outgoing international calls during the months of March to June amounted to 99 pc of chargeable minutes for subscriber dialled calls. So far this is the best result due to traffic automation and it can hardly be surpassed.

The PTT acquired the irrevocable right to use the underseas cable circuits of Italy—Spain (180) and France—Greece (84).

Satellite circuits to the U.S.A. are shared between two satellites (IS-IVA and IS-V) and two antennas at Leuk. The primary satellite IS-V is connected as a cross-strap between Leuk II (6/4 GHz band) and Etam (14/11 GHz band). Satellite circuits via Leuk earth station amounted to 485 at the end of September 1981.

Additional telephone circuits are established in August and September, 36 with European countries, seven and 14 with overseas countries over cable and satellite, respectively.

Teleinformatics

The extended public automatic message switching system (SAM-B) is now under acceptance tests and should be in operation in November.

Radio, Television

The three TV studios of the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation received seven further ENG production units for electronic news gathering. Each unit consists of one lightweight colour camera, one portable video-recorder, time code generator as well as maintenance and sound equipment.

Thanks to the project wireless broadcast of foreign TV programme for the Alpine mountain region (on private initiative) 36 000 (12 pc) inhabitants of the mountain region can select one out of three foreign TV programmes. Within a year it should reach 125 000 (40 pc) inhabitants as 140 transmitters are being planned.

Miscellaneous

In the early morning of 27 September Switzerland along with several other countries in Europe returned to normal local time.

The R & D division of the PTT developed a prototype of an equipment for simple optical evaluation of a cut section of the optical fibre. The quality of alignment and splicing is an important factor for the low-loss joints of the optical waveguide.