

Summaries and notices

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Summaries

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Determination of Electrical Characteristics of the Subscriber Loop in view of Digitization

A. Gillabert and D. Buffat, Berne

In order to determine the electrical characteristics of the subscriber loop a new method was developed. This allows to measure fast and efficiently the symmetrical cable pair sections. This article provides a survey of the Swiss local subscriber network and possible transmission systems. The testing methods and their applications are also described.

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Model Atlanta: One-Piece Electronic Telephone Set

E. Kalbermatter, Berne

The compact one-piece telephone, model Atlanta, is one of the first all-electronic sets of the world. This is a pioneering innovation of the Gfeller Ltd. A very fruitful development phase lead to many new insights. The article states the history, the technical data, the circuits and the test measurement concept of this new one-piece electronic telephone set.

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The Role of Research in Electronics

A. P. Speiser, Baden

In this paper the invention of transistor stands as an example for the close connection between scientific research and technical development. In electronics the technical progress is especially fast. However, the progress is much slower, for example, in the energy and in the transport technology because we are still further from the limits imposed by the laws of nature. But also slower progress is foreseen in electronics for the future. The expenditures and costs are enormously increasing in the development of systems technique and software. We need to search new ways and means in this area.

News Items

Telephone

The **IDD service** to all Swiss telephone subscribers is complete with the cutover of new exchanges in Kloten and Rueyres. The first equipment was installed on the occasion of the national exhibition, Expo 1964.

The **first pay stations «Telemat»** have been installed for cashless telephone calls with prepaid debit card-operated sets as operational trials in Basle, Geneva, Zurich and Liestal.

At present five different **universal telephone sets** are available to the Swiss subscribers. The different additional functions serve mainly to simplify the business calls. These sets fill the gap in performance between the ordinary tabletop set and the new chief-secretary set.

The PTT acquires the irrevocable right of **12 undersea cable circuits** to Syria, but the small distance between Greece and Crete will be still leased.

Three satellite circuits to Egypt are taken over by the Leuk from the French earth station at Berceney-en-Othe.

The two exchanges in Berne and Zurich for the **videotex operational trial** were ordered at the end of July 1982 and will be put in operation in August 1983 and in April 1984, respectively.

Teleinformatics

Telegram and automatic telex and telephone services to Lebanon were never completely shut down, not even during war actions. However, telegrams are forwarded at the risk of the sender.

The **telex directory 1982/83** presents for the first time the individual teleinformatics services on the red pages.

In future, Swiss **telex subscribers** can correspond with **ships on high seas** directly over the coast stations of Belgium, Greece, Norway, Sweden, Finland and

the USA (RCA), due to the agreement among them. On the other side, foreign telex subscribers can directly order this service over «Berne Radio».

Radio Suisse Ltd has taken over from the PTT the **intercontinental leased telex circuits** with Canada, Hongkong and Australia under the new cartel since 1 July 1982.

Radio, Television

A **car radio information (ARI)** service was opened along the routes of the north-south axis (Basle-Chiasso) and on some parts of the east-west axis (Geneva-Romanshorn) at the end of June and it will be completed in the middle of next year when it will still cover most of the other important alpine valleys. The broadcast service is available on the 1st VHF-FM radio channel with an ARI decoder.

The federal government has increased **licence fees** by 26.5 pc for radio and television receiving sets from 1 October 1982. The earnings will be shared as before between the PTT (30 pc for technical infrastructure) and the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation (70 pc for programmes).

The **new ordinance for experimental local broadcasting** came into force on 1 July 1982. It is valid till the end of 1987. In future, local private radio stations can broadcast within a service area of 20 km maximum radius and broadcast some limited amount of advertising. Local cable TV stations can broadcast programmes, however, without any advertising.

In the regional **community TV antenna Altdorf**, a 4-fibre optical cable has been established for analogue transmission of two TV programmes per fibre between local networks of Altdorf and Erstfeld.

The **45th VHF simplex relay** for radio-telephone service between fixed and mobile stations came into operation at the border area (Canton Schaffhausen). About 4200 subscribers are connected through simplex relay stations all over Switzerland.