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Summaries and Notices

Summaries

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Sack trolley conveyor at Basle's mail sorting centre

F. Mägli, Berne

Since decades the familiar trolly conveyor systems have been fulfilling various operational tasks at mail offices as well as in factories. In the mail sorting centre No. 2 at Basle, the transportation and distribution of mail sacks have been taken over by a totally modern trolley conveyor system since spring 1982. Experience shows that the new installation meets the necessary requirements better than the conventional equipment regarding economy, operational security, expeditious delivery, noiseless operation as well as ease of maintenance. The characteristic feature of this new development lies in the contactless drive of the track-bound trolley on the horizontal span with linear motors.

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Use of computer for decentralized data acquisition and processing

F. Zemp, W. Dey, H. Heymann, A. Prim, F. Küffer and C. Beguin, Berne

The computer-controlled measurement system acquires the important characteristics of the opto-electronic components of the wideband communications network at Marsens, Canton of Fribourg. The measurement data are transmitted for computer evaluation to the PTT R & D laboratories in Berne. The principle of decentralized data acquisition allows for efficient remote monitoring and control.

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Evolution of the automatic message switching service (SAM)

R. Eggler, Berne

SAM is the designation of the PTT's automatic switching service. In March 1979, it was inaugurated as a subscribed public service. Today, SAM transmits worldwide more than 11 million messages per year and forms the starting point for the modern message service. The article describes the service and its evolution.

News Items

Telephone

At the beginning of this year, a trial operation started with **mobile customer services** in telecommunications districts of Berne, Lucerne and Sion.

Call diversion will be known in future as **service 21** and **call forwarding** as **Omnitel** in Switzerland.

The PTT ordered **5000 Radiotel** (cordless telephone sets) for the 2nd series.

The **cinema programmes** are listed on the **service numbers 122 and 123** in almost all regions of Switzerland and the principality of Liechtenstein from mid-January onwards.

Since January 1985, **11 additional permanent satellite circuits** have been available over Leuk earth station: Gabon (2), Iran (2), Colombia (6) and Zimbabwe (1).

There were 491 (1983: 478) **subscriber lines** and 813 (1983: 790) **telephone stations** per 1000 inhabitants (Swiss population: 6.482 million) at the end of 1984.

The number of subscribers on the **3-month-plus waiting list** amounted to 3938 at the end of last year. This was 37 more than the year before.

The **local subscriber lines** and the **junction lines** were extended by 357,973 wire-pair km and 26,923 wire-pair km in 1984. The **coaxial and lightwave cables** went up to a conduit run of 2068 km and 602 fibre-km. More than 17,835 telephone circuits were available from Switzerland to **foreign countries,** of which 1689 to overseas.

Last year, **satellite circuits** via Leuk earth station increased by 223 to 903, connected to 54 extra-European countries. Further, 17 fixed circuits are leased from foreign European earth stations.

Teleinformatics

The **telephotographic service of Radio Suisse Ltd** was discontinued at the beginning of the year.

The **Euronet exchange in Zurich** was disconnected after 5 years operation on 3 January 1985. The subscribers are connected to the **telepac** (national packet switching network) data network.

Bureaufax service was extended from 33 to 52 countries and 99,000 A-4 pages were transmitted last year. **Telefax service** has been available to 851 subscribers and 210 service lines.

Telex terminals went up to 577 (1983: 556) per 100,000 inhabitants. About 50 pc of the lines were connected to the new **electronic exchanges** and 57 pc of the subscribers were equipped with the **electronic telex set SP 300** in 1984.

In 1984, **automatic message switching system (SAM)** connected 46 customer networks with 4906 terminals. The system processed over 11.3 million messages.

In 1984, the number of **data lines** in the **switched telephone network** increased by 23.8 pc and the **leased circuits** by 22 pc. The total number of lines reached 36,251. 65 pc of the **modems** were connected to the leased circuits.

At the end of last year, 992 terminals were in operation with **telepac data network.** At the same time, 1126 subscribers were participating in the operational trial of **Videotex.**

Radio, Television

Radio receiver licenses rose to 373 (1983: 368) and **television receiver licenses** to 330 (1983: 324) per 1000 inhabitants in 1984.

There were 8096 subscribers in the **Natel** (national car telephone system) and 9625 subscribers in **Autoruf** (car radio paging system) which is one-way selective call service enabling drivers to be reached via the public telephone service. **Local paging** service which was opened in Zurich and in Berne on 15 January 1982 had 1744 subscriber lines at the end of 1984.

Miscellaneous

In 1984, the PTT ordered **telecommunication equipment** worth around 1687 million francs, which is about 300 million francs more than in 1983.