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Summaries and Notices

Summaries

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Measuring set for determination of glass fibre's refractive index profile

A. Witschi, Berne and J.-P. Pellaux, Geneva

A steadily increasing demand has developed for equipment measuring optical transmission characteristics of glass fibre since the introduction of optical transmission technique in telecommunications. This article describes one such equipment measuring the refractive index profile of multimode and monomode glass fibres. The measuring set determines the core and cladding diameters as well as the imperfections in dopant concentrations and the theoretical numerical aperture from the refractive index profile. This equipment was developed by Promogap Co in Geneva under contract of Swiss PTT.

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Repair and maintenance concept for the centralized service workshop (ZBW)

T. Stadelmann, Berne

The maintenance organization of the PTT has to adjust to the new electronic equipment and the increased integration which follows the replacement of the electromechanical equipment. Some of the repair work on electronic equipment will have to be done at the workshop instead of field work. The repair concept ZBW contains the basic requirements of the repair organization and the choice of test set-up for already installed electronic exchanges and subscriber equipment in the telephone area. The basic considerations also apply to the repair service of future telecommunication equipment (e.g. IFS, digital PABX). There will probably be adaptations needed mostly in the testing strategy and the test set-up.

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Telephone traffic forecast for the planning of groups of junction lines

H. Zobrist, Berne

The paper explains the mathematical basis of the forecasting methods for planning of groups of junction lines. It also illustrates the most important APL programs soon available to all telecommunication district offices.

News Items

Telephone

The **quality of service of the international traffic** further improved in 1984. This was revealed by automatic registration and evaluation of telephone traffic of more than 266 million calls. 42.13 pc of calls were successfully established in 1984, whereas only 37.24 pc in 1982.

In 1984, the **transatlantic submarine cable TAT-6** was put out of service as it must be repaired due to corrosion and failure of 40 pc of all amplifiers and equalizers (in coastal waters). The cost will run up to 46 5 million dollars, of which around 55 pc will be carried by the constructor. About 3250 circuits must be connected via back-up cables and satellites during the 8 months of repair work.

Teleinformatics

The new exchanges of **Telex (EDW) System** will employ stored-program control processor of new model T203 instead of T202. The new processor has three times more computing capacity with one fourth of the space and energy requirements.

At the end of 1984, 56.7 pc of the subscribers using Swiss telex network employed **electronic telex terminal SP 300**, of which 84 pc had message storage and 35 pc had perforated tape capabilities.

Radio, Television

Uniform standard search equipment for persons covered by avalanche will be used in Switzerland and Austria. The Austrian Alpine Association had decided to adopt within 5 years the Swiss standard system proposed in the CEPT as it has the widest range.

Miscellaneous

The **PTT's 1984 accounts** closed with a profit of 311 million francs, of which 150 million francs will be turned over to the federal treasury and 161 million francs will be kept in the PTT's reserve. The investment increased by 112 to 1942 million francs compared to 1983. The total expenditure rose by 547 million francs or 7.9 pc, the total income by 737 million francs or 10.5 pc.

The PTT R & D division investigated the **safety aspect of the eyesight** in connection with **glass fibre lightwave communications**. Under normal operation the enclosed cable equipment is completely safe. When working on an open glass fibre transmission equipment, a safety distance of 25 cm has to be kept between the eye and the frontal section of the glass fibre. Glass fibre ends may only be viewed with magnifying glass or microscope when the transmitter is switched off. All equipment has to be provided with warnings.