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Summaries and Notices

Summaries

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The new generation of PTT postal coaches

U. Bretscher, Berne

From time to time consideration must be given to the motor coach concept due to the technical progress in motor vehicle design and to the required adaptation to operation as well as to the financial situation of the suppliers. It is appropriate to review the procurement of postal coaches every ten years. In this article the author describes the development of the new generation of postal coaches.

p. 512

The digital exchange EWSD

P. Schärer, Berne

The digital exchange EWSD from Siemens-Albis is an all digital stored program control (SPC) system for all sizes of national and international exchanges. An operating concept well suited to the different requirements is available for operation and maintenance. It is easy to include further extensions and new performance characteristics due to the modular design. Moreover, the EWSD provides a solid base for tomorrow's telecommunication, for example, for the Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN). This article offers an outline of the EWSD system.

p. 533

Fibre cable station 85 for optical transmission of speech and data

F. Küffer, Berne

The glass fibre station 85 is designed and built for the simultaneous transmission of speech and measured data over a single glass fibre. The transmission in both directions is realized through wavelength division multiplexing (WDM) in the 2nd optical window (1200 nm and 1300 nm). The digital pulse code modulation (PCM) is used for the transmission of information. The station can be equipped as terminal or as intermediate station, alternatively. The station will be employed during construction, acceptance tests and maintenance of glass fibre cable.

p. 539

Measuring set to determine the optical transmission characteristics of single-mode glass fibre

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

Due to the introduction of single-mode glass fibres in the trunk network Promogap Co. in Geneva built a measuring set at the PTT to determine the optical and transmission characteristics of the single-mode glass fibres. The set allows

the measurement of the spectral attenuation, the limit of cutoff wavelengths, the mode field diameter as function of the wavelength. The measurement methods meet the CCITT standards. The process of measurement is extensively automated. Therefore, the measuring set is very well suited to the supervision of the production quality of the single-mode fibre and the cable during fabrication. To the users, the set offers the best condition for quality control.

p. 555

Challenging tasks of management in the PTT's new teleinformatic services

J.-J. Jaquier, Berne

The author describes the ways the PTT's R & D and other divisions chose to meet

the challenging technical tasks of introducing the new teleinformatic services. He points out that the methods used had to be adapted to the special situation of these services which are within the borderline of the PTT's monopoly. He mentions the examples of type and acceptance tests as well as the certification tests which the PTT undertakes for its infrastructure and for private equipment. After some general remarks he proceeds to the new approach to cooperation between the PTT and the information industry. He explains the principle of the 'Interest Group' (GI) based on the activities of the Group GITX (Teletex) and GIMHS (Message Handling Service X.400, Comtex). The author concludes with the necessity for efficient testing processes for certification of private equipment and for installation and fault clearance services.

News Items

Posts

The PTT introduced its new data processing centre for the postal giro service on 28 August 1986 in Berne. It is one of the largest record transaction centres of Europe. The inpayment and outpayment vouchers, loose vouchers for multiaddress orders, cash and postomat withdrawals, etc. are processed at this centre.

The Schanzenpost office in Berne has employed the first mechanical sorting machine with automatic address reader. The busiest time the installation can process up to 60 000 letters in an hour.

The international Express Mail Service (EMS) was opened with Austria, Morocco and the Bahamas in the month of September. At present, the EMS delivery can already be forwarded to 47 countries.

Telephone

The PTT's management board decided to lower the tariff for the international telecommunication traffic by an amount of 157 million Swiss francs. At the same time, it approved the 1987 financial plan with an estimated business profit of 456 million Swiss francs.

In Lucerne, the delivery of the first Swiss digital local exchange (AXE-10) to the PTT took place on 29 August.

A digital telephone exchange of the EWSD type was installed at the Lausanne-Savoie telecommunication centre.

The introduction of card readers as supplement to the payphone station AZ 44 will take place in Basle, Geneva and Zurich from November and gradually in all Switzerland from December onwards.

11 573 new lines for telephone subscribers were provided by new equipment and extension in the third quarter of 1986.

The International Direct Dialling (IDD) service was extended to China and Guam from 1 October.

The PTT fixed the beginning of 1990 as the target date for the introduction of Natel C (Cellular Radio, NMT at 900 MHz) for the first four phases (100 000 subscribers). It is estimated that around 220 to 300 thousand subscribers will finally join this service in all Switzerland.

Teleinformatics

At the end of August, 40 000 telex subscribers were counted in Switzerland.

An operational trial was conducted with the remote switching equipment Tip-telepex at the Rapperswil and Zurich regional telecommunications directorates. Together with a typewriter this equipment replaces partly a telex machine. Subscribers who have to handle only low traffic volumes can such participate in the normal telex service.

The PTT took over the automatic telex service with Botswana, Lesotho and Venezuela from the Radio-Suisse Ltd.

The PTT opened an informatics school for the training of its own staff in Freiburg at the beginning of September.

An new overall software (Release 4) was integrated to all 12 Swiss Telepac (packet switching) exchanges. It will permit the telepac user to take advantage of the new performance such as preferred, closed user group, user identifications in X.25 as well as higher availability. The extension of the network will be possible with the cost advantageous access technique of the newly designed concentrators.