

Zeitschrift: Technische Mitteilungen / Schweizerische Post-, Telefon- und Telegrafienbetriebe = Bulletin technique / Entreprise des postes, téléphones et télégraphes suisses = Bollettino tecnico / Azienda delle poste, dei telefoni e dei telegrafi svizzeri

Herausgeber: Schweizerische Post-, Telefon- und Telegrafienbetriebe

Band: 65 (1987)

Heft: 4

Rubrik: Summaries and notices

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Summaries

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Improvement of transmission characteristics of 2-TV multiplex system in the CATV network

J. Furrer, Berne

The transmission of 2-TV signals used in the CATV network requires strict adherence to specified linearity in the radio-relay links. Otherwise, cross-talk appears in frequency-division multiplexing between the transmitted TV signals. The proposed carrier reduction technique optimizes the 2-TV signals in their envelope such that a gain in cross-talk as well as in signal-to-noise ratio occurs in the discriminated channel in spite of the reduced dynamic range.

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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, the Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN). This article offers an outline of the EWSD system.

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New conveying and sorting plant for sack dispatching in post office building

H. Keller, Berne

The article describes the adaptation of the sack handling process to the latest know-how in the Berne Main Post Office building. Additional demand is steadily growing in the area of transportation and handling performances of the conveying and sorting plant. It treats in detail the first time introduction of a novel tilt tray sorting device in the Swiss postal service and the complete sequence of operation and transportation in the new sack dispatching system. It concludes with some remarks on the realization and putting into service of the plant furnished by private firms.

News Items

Telephone

The number of telephone customers on the 3-month-plus waiting list decreased by 131 to 4446 at the end of the second half-year of 1986.

Two-third of all the public coin-operated telephone booths will be operating with coins as well as with charge-cards till the end of 1988. The first order was placed for 5000 charge-card readers.

The emergency telephone system 'Tele-alarm' will be available in the PTT's assortment of sets from the end of 1987 onwards. It is made up of a portable mini-transmitter and a radio-receiver for telephone connections. For calling for help it can transmit up to four programmable telephone numbers. A passive alarm is also available as an option. It is triggered when a certain activity is not exercised during the last 24 hours, for example.

Further 5000 cordless telephone sets 'Radiotel' (operating in 900 MHz) were ordered as the delivery situation for the 'Portatel' remains yet insufficient. The new generation of 'Radiotel' shows again several improvements.

Swiss PTT will participate as joint-owner with an investment of around 12.2 million Swiss francs in the lightwave transatlantic telephone cable (TAT-9). In addition, the acquisition of the extension cables from Switzerland to France and to Great Britain will amount to 5 million Swiss francs.

Teleinformatics

In February, three 'good wishes' telegram letters were replaced by new themes, among others the music telegram 'cuckoo waltz' by the melody 'congratulations'. This shall help to maintain further the achieved number of around 800 000 'good wishes' telegrams of 1986.

The electronic telex set SP 300 constitutes about three-quarter of the total employed teleprinters in Switzerland and Liechtenstein. 86 pc of SP 300 are equipped with message storage capability and 28.3 pc supplemented with paper tape units.

Two 64 kbit/s circuits for data communications were connected to the Netherlands via Eutelsat and SMS-station at Zurich-Herdern.

Radio, Television

Several radio transmitters located in the Italian speaking region of Southern Switzerland were modified according to the Geneva plan (for VHF/FM radio broadcasting 1984).

20 pc of the 293 transmit-receive outdoor antennas erected last year were recalled due to faulty operation.

Miscellaneous

The PTT's 1986 accounts closed with a profit of 554 million Swiss francs, with a total income of 8876 million Swiss francs and a total expenditure of 8322 million Swiss francs. 170 million Swiss francs will be turned over to the federal treasury and 384 million Swiss francs will be kept in the PTT's reserve.

At the end of 1986, Switzerland was connected with 19 573 telephone circuits to foreign countries, 932 more than in the previous year. 2048 of them were connected to overseas, of which 935 via cable and 1053 via satellites.

The traffic with Australia, India, Indonesia, Japan and South Korea was switched from analogue to all digital TDMA in the Intelsat network.

In 1986, the PTT paid more than 30 million Swiss francs to foreign countries for the use of transit circuits and satellite capacity. The PTT received from foreign countries around 5 million Swiss francs for the use of Swiss transit circuits.