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Summaries

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Corrosion process of electrical contact materials

Th. Gerber, Ittigen

The author describes the testing concept as well as the results of aging tests with different contact materials. The long-term behaviour resulting from so-called natural atmospheric influences (industry and city environment) is compared with the short-term behaviour under time-accelerated test conditions. The test objects are small bars. The electrical contact resistance between similar pairs of bars is the most important criterion for evaluation of the corrosion process. The paper deals with the experiments conducted by a Swiss working group with the co-operation of the PTT's R & D division.

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Test atmosphere with thioacetamide for corrosion test of electrical contact materials

R. Fischer, Berne

The paper reports on the production of a pollution gas atmosphere consisting of several components, the most important constituent being hydrogen sulphide (H₂S). This suits to corrosion tests of electrical contact materials. The method is simple. The concentration of the pollution gas remains constant. Therefore, there is no need of supervision. It requires few equipment.

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Notico

J.-P. Markwalder, Berne, and
M. Monnard, Châtel-St-Denis

With the Notico project the PTT aims at a uniform processing of invoices from the third party in the area of civil and overhead line construction for all regional telecommunication directorates. Notico is the name given to the computer-aided processing from the catalogue of standard items for civil construction. The authors describe the objective of the catalogue of standard items and outline the process of application of the computer-aided Notico system.

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Television receiver of the 90's

U. Messerschmid, Munich

At present and in future, great economic importance is given to the market of television receivers, and especially to the distribution of shares in this market. The industry is accordingly stressing the development strategy of successful receiver concepts. There is a trend to the universally usable equipment. It will also incorporate a satellite tuner and a D2-MAC de-

coder which will suit 50 Hz as well as 60 Hz signals. Separate satellite receivers will probably be only an intermediate stage. The multiple application of the video storage device will gain special importance at the home receivers. It will reduce flicker, jitter and noise and offer special effects such as electronic collage. The greatest challenge is met in the HDTV large frame projection at home foreseen for the 90's and beyond. However, this requires new technology that is just appearing.

News Items

Telephone

The first simultaneous rate change in all of Switzerland was carried out for around 6.7 million telephone sets and accessories on the first weekend of October. This was conducted by the Bulle Terco operating centre. Thus, the prerequisite of a flexible tariff policy in the terminal area, the truly most important milestone, was reached in the phase 2.1 Terco (telephone rationalization with computer) project.

The telephone service number 142 is now available for local postal courier service «PTT Rapid 142». The new service, so far only operational in Zurich, exists now also in Basle, Berne, Geneva and Lausanne from 2 November onwards.

Permanent satellite circuits were opened via Leuk earth station: new with Netherland Antilles (2) as well as additionally with Singapore (2) and Togo (1).

Teleinformatics

The number of telegrams circulated for good wishes was extraordinarily high in September. Around 13 800 telegrams were handed in on the first weekend on the month at service number 110. It looks as if more and more weddings were taking place in September.

The PTT took over all telex traffic with Panama, Nigeria and Sri Lanka. So far, this was taken care by Radio Suisse Ltd.

The number of telefax subscribers with privately procured facsimile equipment has surpassed the 10 000th limit.

A new overall software (Release 5) was integrated into all 14 telepac (Swiss packet switching) exchanges at the beginning of September. It will provide new

performance to the users, new reliable and economic network control facilities to the network operators.

Three new special satellite leased circuits were connected via Zurich-Herdern over Intelsat to USA (2.048 Mbit/s) as well as over Eutelsat satellite to the United Kingdom (2.048 Mbit/s and 64 Mbit/s).

Radio, Television

A worldwide conference program of the «First Church of Christian Science» was broadcast over 9 Intelsat satellites to 350 locations. The Swiss PTT provided the TV reception equipment at Basle, Berne, Lausanne, Zurich as well as transmission of German and French translations (from London).

A further tunnel radio equipment in the 1.3 km long Arisdorf tunnel (highway N 2, Basel-Chiasso) provides radio service for police and maintenance as well as for the channel 1 of the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation in the German and Romansh languages with car radio information (ARI) and Natel (car phone) A and B.

Miscellaneous

For the 5th World Telecommunication Exhibition «Telecom 87» in Geneva, Switzerland provided an extensive infrastructure specially by the Geneva district telecommunication directorate of the PTT. These were, among others, 3000 telephone and 300 telex lines, 150 pay stations with card reader, over 400 special circuits for teleinformatics of all kinds, 2 Natel C stations and one ISDN compatible digital exchange EWSD in Grand-Saconnex. Further, a new 565 Mbit/s glass fibre cable link was established between Geneva and Lausanne, which was connected to the rest of the long distance network and the Leuk earth station.