

Summaries and notices

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Summaries

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Verification of the distribution concept of telecommunication parts

K. Birrer, Berne

The verification of the distribution concept of telecommunication parts revealed that the direct delivery to the regional warehouses ought to be introduced by the manufacturers for rapidly required articles. The increase in delivery interval for the rest of the articles will also lead to further savings without reducing the readiness of deliveries.

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Possible benefits of electronic message services

H. Steinger, Berne

The messages can be exchanged among computers and terminals of different suppliers. Also access to existing telecommunication and postal services can be provided with the offer of the PTT's message service based on the CCITT X.400 Recommendations. After a brief introduction on a few basic features of message exchange, the main point of the article stresses the application in order to facilitate understanding of the characteristics and the benefits of message services especially for the less informed reader.

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New series of telephone sets LW 700

R. Burkhard, Solothurn

The article describes two new sets, the LW 700 Commerce and the LW 700 Comfort. They will constitute the new series of sets LW 700 together with the type Compact introduced in 1986. The sets described offer more convenience in spite of the small size. Technical solutions and performance characteristics are outlined.

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Measurement of the impedance uniformity of radio frequency cables by complex and scalar methods

Ch. Staeger, Berne

The inhomogeneity of the characteristic impedance (structural return loss) of RF cables can be expressed by the input reflection factor of the cable as function of frequency. Randomly distributed inhomogeneities of the cable geometry result in

irregularly distributed reflection factors of statistical nature without any significant peaks. Regularly spaced arrays of small identical inhomogeneities produce resonant like sharp peak reflections at discrete frequencies. Conventional bridge or coupler measurement circuits do not allow to distinguish between set-up (bridge and connector) reflection errors and

cable reflections. A modification of a scalar or complex set-up by introducing an additional phase variable offset reflection enables to separate the inherent reflection errors of the bridge, connections and cable end load from the cable reflections, even for the measurement of low loss or short length cables.

News Items

Telephone

On 29 February, the **telephone in the train** service was introduced via Natel B mobile telephone network in the **intercity trains** of Geneva-Zurich airport – St.Gall and Interlaken – Berne – Olten – Basle routes. Several filling stations (also in tunnels) were added to this purpose.

Due to the **liberalized market**, the **PTT's offer of telephone sets at the post offices** was clarified at the **PTT regional conferences**.

At the end of February, **20 055 Natel mobile telephone lines** were in operation, of which **8061 were Natel C lines**. These are 1499 lines more than a month before. The Natel C base stations were erected for demonstration at the Geneva 'Automobile Salon' and at the Basle 'Mustermesse'.

In March, **21 additional satellite circuits** were connected to the USA (12) and Canada (9) via Leuk earth station. Also, a further 64 kbit/s data channel was taken into operation with Great Britain.

The **International Direct Dialling (IDD)** was extended to **Chad and Samoa**.

Teleinformatics

In Lugano, the first of the **new equipment** was put into operation for **registration and transmission of telegrams** received via **telephone No 110**. Soon, further main post offices will be equipped with this in Basle, Berne, Geneva, Lausanne, St. Gall.

In February, the number of the **PTT telefax sets** increased beyond average expectations by **590 new subscriptions**, and the private sets by 868. The total number of sets amounted to 21 385, of which 3.2 pc of group 2 and 96.8 pc of group 3.

More than 5000 subscribers are connected to Telepac (packet switching network) **service**, which corresponds to a 52 pc increase within one year. The tele-

pac has now been also extended to **Greenland**.

Radio, Television

The **conference of the defense ministers of the Soviet Union and the United States** required the provision of several **additional TV links** for the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation and the foreign TV agencies in Berne during mid-March.

A **further local radio, Radio GRISCHA**, received a licence on trial basis from the Federal Government. It will cover part of the Canton of Graubünden and be the **first Swiss local radio station** broadcasting in **three languages** (German, Rhaeto-Romansh, Italian).

The French police **seized three French private stations** broadcasting to **Switzerland** on illegal frequency bands from **Mont Salève** near Geneva.

The PTT and France Cables and Radio conducted a **joint trial run with the new television standard B-MAC**, whereby the required transmission quality was met by transmission over the satellite 'Telecom 1A'.

Miscellaneous

Prof. Pierre-Gérard Fontolliet of the Federal Institute of Technology at Lausanne prepared an **expertise on the PTT's procedures for approval of telephone sets** after the liberalization of the telephone market. The procedures were not basically put in question. However, the report recommended clear separation between procurement and approval entities as well as better transparency in the specifications that are neither stricter nor more liberal in comparison to foreign countries. According to the PTT directives, the approval entity shall be a separate organization from the procurement and operation of the PTT sets.

After the **pilot trial with an extended and integrated chip card for cashless transactions** in a shopping centre near Berne, the PTT plans a **large scale trial run at Bienne in 1990/91**.