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Summaries

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Research and development of telecommunications

P. Leuthold, Zurich

Maintaining the competitiveness of communication engineering firms on the international market demands that appropriate measures be taken for research and development. While development in fact aims at the realization of a product, research essentially fills the preconditions for successful development. The author puts the main emphasis on **research**. First of all the expansion sectors of telecommunications are presented where really new services or systems, respectively are to be expected. This concerns above all the high quality image transmission in the distribution and dialogue services. The outstanding growth in demand for mobile communication compels the discovering of new ways for efficient utilization of the frequency spectrum. In the long run the ever greater performance of computer technique leads to new possibilities in the areas of signal and information processing; already encouraging are the first applications of artificial intelligence in the areas of development and maintenance of complex communication systems. The main points in today's **development** in the area of cable and radio networks as well as satellite connections are briefly outlined. There follows a discussion on particularly innovative research fields in the area of optic data transmission, of wireless transmission and of processing signals and information mentioning briefly the large European projects i.e. RACE and EU-REKA. In conclusion, the question is posed about basically new methods of technology and transmission which could be relevant in the distant future.

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The telephone in trains in Switzerland

A. Rothen, Berne, and A. Zimmermann, Solothurn

The Natel-B network forms the basic infrastructure for the telephone service in trains. To improve the service provisions, the PTT constructed new base stations and the Swiss Federal Railway equipped some tunnels with radiating cables. Special circuits for answering back were developed for the Natel exchanges. A Natel mobile station specially adapted in its

control functions is used as transmitter-receiver. A single slot paystation Telca Star is used for telephoning. It shows a text display for guiding the user in handling the station.

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Telex family Easyline SP 330

R. Diriwächter, Berne

The PTT introduced two sets Easycom and Easycom plus from the sortiment

Easyline primarily as replacements for the mechanical and partly electronical telex terminals (T 100, LO 133, SP 20). Thanks to their simple user control, these stations may be handled by everybody. Attractive novelties recommend the use in small business as well as for demanding prolific use.

News Items

Telephone

The **first IDN exchange** in Geneva/Mont Blanc and the **first IDN System 1240 transit exchange** from Alcatel-STR in Zurich/Herdern have been **put into operation**.

In Basle 30 telephone booths with **pay stations** which, **apart from accepting Swiss francs**, are also capable of **identifying and handling German marks and French francs** are being tested.

In July the **mobile telephone exchanges of the Natel C partial networks of Lausanne, Lucerne and Chur** began operating. This enabled the expansion of the mobile telephone region beyond the large suburbs of Zurich (in operation since the middle of September 1987). The **main traffic routes between the Lake of Geneva and the Lake of Constance as well as between Basle and Chiasso** will be developed (phase II) to begin with.

The **telephone introduced in the SBB and BLS Intercity trains** the end of February is used an average of 35 times per telephone per day – this surpasses expectations at the outset.

The **direct automatic dialing** to Burma and Guinea-Bissau will be in operation 1st August. It will then be **possible** to dial directly to **188 countries** (from 217 which have their own international access code). There are 36 countries in Europe, 51 in America, 50 in Africa and 51 in Asia/Oceania.

Teleinformatics

Since 1st July there are **three new telegamme congratulation motifs**.

The last **telex subscribers in Tessin** have been **switched** from the old Lugano/Cen-

tro exchange and the EDW Zurich/Herdern exchange **to the new EDW Lugano/Cinque vie exchange**.

A **video conference studio** has been set up as an experiment in the telecommunications administration building in **St. Gallen**. This should clarify whether there is a need for video conferences in the Eastern part of Switzerland.

Radio, Television

The experiment to transmit the **classical music VHF/FM programme BR 4 over the collective antenna-feeder network** instead of BR 3 will be extended to the end of the year. The prevailing reactions have not permitted the PTT to take any decision. A systematic customer inquiry should produce conclusive results.

Miscellaneous

At the end of May a **delegation of the French telecommunications general administration** was received by the **administration of the district of Fribourg for informative purposes**. There it particularly investigated the sale of telephone apparatuses, the marketing, the new organization of a district administration, the interference service and the training of personnel.

The telecommunication service are introducing **two new monopoly professions** 1st October in place of telephonists and telegraphists. The **teleoperator** profession requires a one year modular type basic training and opens the way with additional training for numerous opportunities of promotion. The **assistant-teleoperator** profession permits above all the reintegration into professional life.