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Summaries and Notices

Summaries

p. 352...357

PTT tests new payment methods — the chip card a secret success?

J. Bucher, Berne

The Swiss PTT are backing plastic money and testing new payment methods with the chip card. Why does just this service enterprise want to take the offensive by using the new chip technology. An international standardisation of chips is considerably lacking; the cards and the necessary infrastructure are expensive. Nevertheless a lot speaks for the future introduction of the modern chip card by the PTT.

p. 358...362

PTT electric road vehicles

U. Bretscher, Berne

The degree of motorisation of the PTT Enterprise is distinctly high. 13 pc of the total vehicles on hand are electric vehicles whose operational area is nevertheless not comparable to that of the normal vehicle. The PTT has the possibility of using electric vehicles but a hindrance exists at the moment in the characteristics of the drive battery. This article gives information and describes the efforts undertaken up to now.

p. 363...376

Receiving radio programmes by communications satellite on the 11 GHz band

Chr. Bärffuss, Berne

Individual and communal reception of radio programmes by communications satellite has become a reality in Switzerland. This particular use of communications satellites changes the traditional media scene and raises numerous questions of the most varied nature. The author of this article limits himself to the technical aspects. He briefly comments on the specific characteristics of the fixed radio and communications services by satellite and examines in detail a satellite link on the 11 GHz band. This facilitates the comprehension of planning, setting up and operating the ground receiving station. The Swiss PTT Enterprise sanctions no satellite receiving installations although they do give recommendations based on equipment available on the market. It lies

completely within the operator's discretion to take any necessary measures to reduce or eliminate disturbances through

satellite service or terrestrial radio service which could impair the quality of reception.

News Items

Telephone

In July and August the PTT have gradually put the project for the **information system for technical service** (Tedis) into effect in the telecommunications administration in Zurich. This replaces the data bank of the interference service which has existed since 1971 in the automatic telegramme communication computer (Ateco) and offers this office and the main operation centre further possibilities for recording and processing interferences and establishing circuits.

The transferring location in Zurich/Selnau is the first to have a **new alarm registration and evaluation system** which give statistics about detailed information and quality of the transmission network. Thus it is also possible to track interferences subsequently. The installation evaluates interferences outside the normal working hours according to their importance so that interference operations are only necessary in an emergency.

New satellite circuits are operating over the Leuk ground station via Intelsat with **Ethiopia** (4), **USA** (24) and **South Africa** (8) and via Eutelsat with **Turkey** (21) and with **Spain and Portugal** (2 each). Switzerland is in direct connection with 59 countries overseas over Intelsat and with European countries over Eutelsat.

Teleinformatics

The summer edition of the Swiss **facsimile service directory with 28 000 names** has about 13 000 more addresses than the edition from the beginning of this year.

The **packet switching service** now also includes **Chile**.

In **Geneva a new international packet switching Gateway exchange** for direct and transit foreign traffic has replaced two old ones.

Packet switching offers its subscribers **results, biographical and information service** during the **Summer Olympics** in Seoul.

New connections have been put into operation for **business communication** via satellite, a 64-kbit/s and a 256-kbit/s with USA and a 64-kbit/s with the Federal Republic of Germany.

Radio, Television

The '**Swiss Radio International**' (SRI) is making trial transmissions of its **Central American programme over a Brazilian station** of the Radiobra. According to the results, the radio station 'Brasilia' will possibly transmit the 3rd relay used by SRI overseas.

The **2nd alp crossing for the national television has been put into operation** from Albis (Zurich) to Tamaro (Tessin). The new directional line consists of three sections with three channels each in each direction.

Miscellaneous

At the **end of June** there were 3 567 624 telephone lines, 26 168 mobile telephone connections, 22 256 vehicle/eurosignal connections and 10 376 subscribers on the local call in Switzerland. The videotex has reached 9682 subscribers. There exists 40 759 data connections on rental lines and 24 001 on the telephone network.