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Summaries

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A new Exhibition of the ITU – Welcome to ITU-COM 89

Susanne Princess, Berne

The first exhibition for the electronic media, the ITU-COM 89, will take place from 3 to 8 October in Geneva. It was brought into existence by the International Telecommunication Union, ITU, and is to take place every four years each time two years after the TELECOM to complement the latter. With its symposiums and the exhibition it will give the specialist and the public a general idea of the technological development, but also about the social and legal consequences of the rapid development in the area of the modern electronic media.

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Mobile Digital Telephone Exchanges

Eugen KÜMIN and Jean-Pierre PACHE, Berne

In order to meet the increasing demand for telephone installations up to now and for the use by time limited application (renovation in buildings, emergencies, etc.) the Swiss PTT has, among other measures, decided to procure digital container-exchanges with a capacity of about 3300 subscriber connections. The author describes the construction of such exchanges and the possibilities for their application.

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Legal Basis for the Provision of Radio and Television Broadcast Service by the Swiss PTT

Peter FELCHLIN, Berne

The author sheds light upon the connection between the legal basis and the development of the radio and television broadcasting in Switzerland from its infancy to the present day. With this he presents a general historical account from the first public Swiss radio station on the Champ-de-l'Air in Lausanne to the setting up and operation of three television broadcasting chains in each language region. Furthermore the definition of the articles 36 and 55ff of the constitution as well as the federal law concerning the telegraph and telephone traffic including the corresponding decrees and federal resolutions are explained in detail, including the latest resolutions concern-

ing the satellite broadcasting. Finally the author deals briefly with the present bill drawn up by the Federal Council regarding the radio and television law which is at present under discussion in parliament.

News Items

Telephone

An additional **international carrier** has appeared in Japan – The Firm IDC (International Digital Communications, Inc.), the third of its kind after KDD and ITJ, is for the time being offering lease lines and later on will also offer public telephone service. Shareholders of IDC are Japanese Banks but also the firms Cable & Wireless (15 %) and Merrill Lynch.

Teleinformatics

The **specifications for SWISSNET 2** were approved in the middle of 1989. They consist, among others things, of the specifications for the interface of the base connection (2 channels), the primary connection (30 channels), for the protocols between subscriber and exchange as well as the connection of PABXs. On SWISSNET 2, the subscriber will be offered, in addition to the teleservices telephone, teletex and telefax (group 4), a series of additional services. Furthermore the access of SWISSNET 2 to telepac for package orientated data transmission will be made possible. The transmission equipment specific for SWISSNET 2 in the subscriber network will, for the base connection, correspond to the American standard (ANSI: 2B1Q-Code) contained in the CCITT recommendations. All requirements are based on the newest CCITT and ETSI recommendations. They form, together with the expansion stage 5 of the Swiss IFS (Integriertes Fernmelde-system – Integrated Telecommunication System), the preconditions for the development of the necessary hardware and software for a national integrated network. They are to be delivered to interested suppliers and PTT services.

Radio, Television, Radiocommunications

In July the **REAL-System** (Computer assisted TV news gathering and interstudio operation at Albis station) was **put into operation**. The PTT and the SRG (Swiss Radio Company) can enter their line orders over terminals whereupon the computer provides the line data based on the network analysis and availability. If con-

nections are reserved, the system switches on automatically at the ordered time and after use switches off again. The switching locations – IF cross bars – are remote controlled over a separate network from the Albis computer. The system consists of approx. 150 directional beam lines and 20 IF-cross bars with 1,300 coupling points over which the some 50 permanent and half permanent reporting inputs can be connected through to the 4 television studios. On the same date, the new CNCT switching room (technical national coordination center) was put into operation in the Albis station.

From 30th August to 4th September the **International Television, Radio and HiFi Exhibition (FERA)** took place in Zürich. The PTT informed the visitors, above all, about the radio data system (RDS) and the satellite reception. In addition the manifold possibilities of Videotex were demonstrated. Finally the visitor was also introduced to the latest information about NATEL C and it was possible for the visitor to make inland telephone calls over NATEL C stations free of charge.

A **conference on sea, flight and land mobile satellite communications** took place in London from 17th to 19th July at which over 700 representatives from the whole world participated (telecommunication industry, airline companies and telecommunications administrations and companies). Switzerland has been a member of INMARSAT since 17th May of this year. The INMARSAT system components – satellite, permanent and mobile satellite earth stations, terrestrial network – makes it possible for the individual INMARSAT members to offer their customers corresponding radio service. Flight radio service and land mobile radio will be introduced very shortly. The lectures and discussions of the numerous experts showed that the development of the flight radio sector as well as of the land mobile sector is advancing rapidly.

Miscellaneous

In the context of Swiss technical cooperation, an **advanced training course for telecommunications planning and administration** was carried out at the telecommunications offices in Freiburg/Üechtland in August and September. The participants came from various French-speaking African countries. Several employees of the telecommunications administration offered their services as course leader.