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News Items

Telephone

The Chur PTT office switched about 200 lines for the *700-year celebrations of the Swiss Confederation in Engadin*, particularly for the 'Spriet aviert' event and for the press centre in Sils Maria. About 40 young people visited the telecommunications workshop daily, where the media and the Council of Europe were also guests. A mobile TV transmission from Sils in Engadin took place for the Europe Day.

In Geneva-Grand-Saconnex and in the Palexpo building ISDN-qualified switching equipment was made operational for the *Telecom 91*. The EWSD and S12 system installations suitable for Swissnet 2 were integrated in the national telephone network during the *Telecom 91*.

The telephone traffic from Switzerland with the *third Japanese carrier*, the telecommunications firm *ITJ* (International Telecom Japan), was opened.

A *cellular mobile telephone system* was put into operation in *Czechoslovakia* which consists for the present of six radio cells with 4000 subscribers and is to be expanded to 25 radio cells with a capacity of over 11,000 users by the end of 1992. The network is being built and operated by *Eurotel*, a joint venture of the Czech and Slovakian PTT administrations and of *Bell Atlantic* and *US West*. The first cells exist in Prague (2), Brünn (1) and Bratislava (3).

Teleinformatics

20 digital lease-lines (15 x 64 kbit/s, 3 x 128 kbit/s, 1 x 256 kbit/s, 1 x 384 kbit/s) as well as six analogue lease-lines were put into operation.

2-Mbit/s data connections can be directly dialled abroad from Switzerland since November thanks to *Megacom*, the Swiss PTT's broadband service for video conferences and data communications. The participants of the field trial have already been able to dial international connections since last spring. The transmitted 2-Mbit/s data networks from Sweden, Denmark and Finland are accessible. For the *Telecom 91* exhibition, the international direct-dialling capability was extended to Great Britain and The Netherlands. The bit rates of 384, 128 and

64 kbit/s recently introduced in the national network are now available in the direct-dialling traffic with foreign countries as well. The basis of the Pan-European 2-Mbit/s service is a high speed backbone network which interconnects the transit nodes of the service providers. A flexible transit routing allows a fully automatic diversion of the traffic if a connection is once overloaded or fails. There should also be connections made available with the USA and the Far East in 1992.

The PTT have recently equipped the 2000th post office with a public telefax machine, *Publifax*. Thus, more than half of the total of 3830 post offices in Switzerland offer this service. Persons without their own telefax actively make use of this possibility: the number of pages transmitted inland and abroad has exceeded by far the one million limit.

Radio, Television and Radiocommunications

The following microwave radio links for *Natel C* were put into operation with a transmission capacity of 4 x 2 Mbit/s each: *Ulmizberg-Wileroltigen*, *Moretchopf-Güpfichopf*, *Charmey-Charmey base station* and *Albis-Zurich TV studio* for the duration of five months as well as *Weier-Häusernmoos base station* for approximately three years.

The following permanent speech circuits were connected in the *Intelsat Network*: 20 speech circuits with *Japan* via the *Leuk 3A* (60° E) satellite earth station in the Intermediate Data Rate (IDR) technique and twelve with *Argentina* via the *Leuk 2A* (335.5° E) earth station.

The *Wiggen FM broadcasting station* which supplies *Escholzmatt*, *Marbach* and *Kröschchenbrunnen* with the DRS 1, 2 and 3 programmes was definitely put into operation.

Six TV transposers were put into operation on the *Heimersberg* and *Rinderberg* stations as replacement for the *Zweisimmen* transposer. They supply the DRS, TSR and TSI television programmes on channels 11, 39 and 42 or 28, 32 and 35 respectively for parts of *Zweisimmen* and *Blankenburg* as well as for *Garstatt* or the *Oeschseite* respectively.

The following areas were newly made accessible for the *citycall B* radio paging service with one transmitter each: *Basle (CIBA area)*, *Grellingen*, *Hölstein*, *Laufen*, *Liesberg*, *Rheinfelden* and *Wallbach*.

The board of directors of the *UER working group R* (terrestrial and satellite radio) met in Rome. The main themes were the preparations for the WARC 92 World Administrative Radio Conference, the digital, terrestrial and satellite radio broadcasting (DAB/Digital Audio Broadcasting). The priorities of the WARC 92, as far as radio broadcasting is concerned, are the allotment of a broadcasting frequency which enables the economic operation of a future satellite radio broadcast as well as a considerable expansion of the frequency spectrum in the short wave range. In the framework of the continued economic restrictions of the UER, the possible measures for the next meeting of the offices of the board of directors was to be summarized.

Miscellaneous

An *International Standardization Summit*, convened by both IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission) and ISO (International Organization for Standardization), took place in Madrid from 30 September to 12 October. On this occasion, plenary meetings of the executive bodies, 'IEC General Meeting' and 'ISO General Assembly', met for the first time in the same city. In addition, there were meetings of three technical committees of the ISO and nearly 30 technical committees and subcommittees of the IEC. The main attention lay in the development of the world economy such as regional alliances and in the standardization questions such as quality, security and the effects of progress in high technology sectors in the ISO and IEC. There were about 1500 engineers, scientists and industrialists participating from the whole world.

From 1992, the PTT will successively convert its 81 diesel filling stations to *low-sulphur fuel* corresponding to the legal limit which is planned to come into effect by 1994. Thanks to the decreased sulphur content to less than 0.05 percent by weight, the pollution from the approximately 1,600 PTT diesel vehicles can be considerably reduced. The changeover will cause additional expenses.