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News Items

Telephone

The *Ilanz toll area (086)* was integrated into the *Chur netgroup (081)*. The change went very smoothly.

Optical 2.5 Gbit/s systems between *Lausanne* and *Geneva-Montbrillant* as well as *Montbrillant* and *Palexpo* were set up for the *Telecom 91*. The Synchronous Trunk Module STM-16 connections allow the transmission of 16x140/155 Mbit/s (approximately 30,000 telephone channels). The pilot installations make up the first step from the plesiochronous (PDH) to the synchronous (SDH) network.

In connection with the *decentralization of the telephone enquiry traffic* the requests from the 057 toll area (Wohlen/AG) were switched back from Olten to Baden. The calls of the 045 toll area (Sursee/Willisau) have also since then not been answered from Lucerne but from the Olten telecommunications office information service.

The *Natel D GSM* pilot system was put into operation on 7 October on the occasion of the *Telecom 91*. The *Natel D GSM* is the Swiss network within the framework of the Pan-European Digital Global System for Mobile Communications, GSM. The pilot network supplies at present large parts of the cities of *Geneva* and *Lausanne*. From 1992 on, the network will be expanded step by step. The official commercial opening of the *Natel D GSM* is planned for the spring of 1993 (Automobile Show of Geneva).

Seven further *Natel C* base stations of the phases 3 and 4 were set up.

Teleinformatics

The PTT telefax apparatus assortment will be enlarged to include a *normal paper fax*. The energy-saving NP 350T uses the 'bubble inkjet' method. The apparatus operates quietly and needs no service contract for its maintenance. Only the ink cartridge must be changed.

The transparent 64 kbit/s traffic with *British Telecom (GB)*, *Australia*, *Sweden*, *France*, *Belgium* and *AT&T (USA)* has been opened. Thus, all Swissnet 1 customers have the possibility of carrying out data traffic also with these countries.

Eleven digital *leaselines* (1x56 kbit/s, 5x64 kbit/s, 3x128 kbit/s, 1x256 kbit/s, 1x512 kbit/s) as well as six analogue leaselines (incl. PNS) were put into operation by the leaseline control center (LCC).

Radio, Television, Radiocommunications

The *Intelsat VI F-5 satellite* as third of the series took up telecommunications operations for the user organizations. Like all spacecraft of this type, it can transmit 120,000 telephone conversations and three color television signals. It is positioned at 335° E in the Atlantic Ocean region, where it replaces the *Intelsat VI F-2* satellite which has been shifted to 60° E in the Indian Ocean region. For taking over the traffic from the latter, both satellites were brought close together so that the changeover could take place practically without interruption.

Five further FM broadcasting stations were put into operation on the *Rona* and *Pfäfers* transmitter stations on 7 October. *Rona* supplies the DRS 1 (97.0 MHz), DRS 2 (100.8 MHz), DRS 3 (106.8 MHz) and DRS R (88.8 MHz) programmes for this locality as well as for Savognin, Sur and Tinizong. *Pfäfers* the DRS 3 (105.3 MHz) for the locality itself as well as for Vadura, Valens and Vasön. Two further FM stations were put into operation on the *Pizzo Castello* station on 14 October. They supply DRS 1 (98.5 MHz) and RSR 1 (103.8 MHz) for the *Maggia Valley* and its side valleys.

The *Digit Super Radio* digital radio programmes were transmitted via *La Dôle* to *Geneva/Palexpo* during the *Telecom 91*.

An *audio video switching matrix* was put into operation in *Lausanne-St-François*. It is part of the *Real* national television interstudio and reporting network.

The occasional *exchange of television programmes* via the *Leuk* satellite earth station in the *Intelsat* network has been possible since October. The *Leuk 2* and *Leuk 3* systems are so equipped that they can transmit an analogue television signal in the PAL, NTSC or SECAM standard. Up till now this service was carried out by neighbouring foreign earth stations.

The PTT introduced for the first time the new *Trunking Radio System, 'Speedcom'*, on the *Telecom 91*. This commercial radio system which is mainly for speech transmission operates in the 410-MHz range and supplies the areas of *Geneva-Lausanne*, *Basel-Frick-Sissach* and *Zurich-Baden-Winterthur*. After successful testing, *Speedcom* will be definitely introduced on 1 January 1992. On long term, the new service will replace the radio telephony traffic over the frequency-consuming Simplex relays. A full coverage is planned as soon as the demand is clarified.

Miscellaneous

The PTT will set up a *Fiber-To-The-Curb (FTTC)* pilot network each in *Les Planchettes NE* and *Sagno TI* under the name *OFA 1* and *OFA 2* (optical fiber in the subscriber loop). 50 to 120 participants will be connected who will receive narrow band and cable television services over the network.

The *autumn meeting of the Office of the Technical Commission of the UER* took place in *Larnaca (Cyprus)*. The main themes were the activity reports of the technical work groups and in this connection possible economy measures by the UER. These should primarily be achieved through the setting up of new priorities of the activities, reduction of work teams and meetings, but also by a strict examination of the permanent administration in Geneva. The Chairmen of the work groups R (terrestrial and satellite broadcasting) and V (new services) have handed in their resignation as of end of 1991 due to too much work elsewhere.

The *5th meeting of the CEPT ad hoc Working Group WARC 92* took place in *Antalya (Turkey)* for the preparation of the world administrative radio conference 1992. The most important item on the agenda was the cosigning of the new ECP (European Common Proposals) of the CEPT member countries. In addition, six new ECP's were introduced. These should be adopted at the next meeting.