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News Items

Telephone

Atlas-Systems (Automatic Trunk Line Announcement System) for the automatic communication of number changes were put into operation in *Sion* and *St. Gall*.

A temporary digital 8-Mbit/s telephone radio link was put into operation between *Cröt* (Aversertal) and *Avers*. Furthermore the *Interlaken-Habkern* rural network radio link with a transmission capacity of 34 Mbit/s and the temporary radio link *La Chaux-de-Fonds-Villeret* *Natel C* base station with a capacity of 8 Mbit/s were put into operation. The latter will presumably remain connected until the end of 1991.

Two SCPC speech circuits (Single Channel Per Carrier) via the *Leuk 2* satellite ground station and an INTELSAT satellite at 335.5° E were connected in the *INTELSAT* network with *Libya*. Furthermore a connection (TDMA) via the *Leuk 4* ground station and the EUTELSAT I F-2 satellite in the *EUTELSAT* network with *Sweden* was also set up.

A total of eleven further base stations of the phase 3 for *Natel C* were put into operation in November.

Teleinformatics

Corona is the name of the new system for the automatic telegramme switching service, which is to replace the present *Ateco* system. In the middle of November, the acceptance tests at the suppliers began.

The automatic telex traffic from Switzerland has been put into operation with two further countries: *Kiribati* (code no. 0761) and *Wallis and Futuna* (code no. 0707).

The *arCom 400* mailbox service is now in operation. It replaces the present operational test with the Dutch PTT. The service comprises X.400 electronic mail,

bulletin boards, access to internal and external data banks, electronic forms, access to telex, access to telefax (from 1st quarter of 1991). Thanks to the X.400 conformity the mailbox subscribers can exchange electronic messages with all subscribers of the *arCom 400* message transfer service (53 customers with approximately 7000 subscribers) and with all X.400 services abroad (20 countries).

Radio, Television, Radiocommunications

After new short and medium wave transmitters and a new antenna tower for medium waves were put into operation in *Sottens*, the new installation was officially inaugurated.

New FM broadcast transmitters were put into operation at the stations of *La Forclaz* for the upper part of *Val d'Hérens*, *Appenzell North* for the *Appenzell/Gonten* region and *Splügen* for the *Rheinwald*.

Two new television transmitters (1 kW UHF) from *Rohde & Schwarz* were put into operation on the *Cardada* station. They replace two 100 W stations. Two 1 kW transmitters (UHF) from the same firm were also put into operation on the *La Chaux-de-Fonds* station replacing two 2 kW transmitters.

The following agglomerations with a transmitting station each were newly connected in November for the *Ortsruf B* radio paging system: *Biel II*, *Buchs ZH*, *Flamatt*, *Jegenstorf*, *Studen*, *Utzenstorf*, *Wangen a. d. A.* and *Wohlen AG*.

In the *Engi GL* multipurpose station a new antenna carrier with new receiving and transmitting equipment was put into operation. The existing TV and FM radio programmes were switched to the new installation. Thanks to the new infrastructure, it was possible to introduce the *DRS 3* FM radio programme on

105.9 MHz as well as the mobile telephony coverage with *Natel C*.

Miscellaneous

At the 8th *COST project 218* meeting the technology and the reliability of glass fibers and glass fiber cables in the telecommunication network were dealt with. Over 20 delegates and experts from eight European countries discussed the characteristics of the protective plastic coating of glass fibers and the development of suitable testing methods for their characterization. This is of general interest because the durability of the glass fibers is substantially influenced by the protective coating. The project was started in 1987 with a planned duration of four years and has recently been prolonged until 1993. In the future, glass fibers with hermetic coating, fibers with titanium doping as well as band/tape fibers and mass splice techniques will be studied within the framework of *COST 218*.

The first meeting of the *Joint Ad Hoc CCIR/CCITT Expert Group for ISDN Satellite Questions* (JAHG ISDN/SAT) took place in Geneva. In analyses of a *CEPT/CCTS* study fears were expressed from *Intelsat* as well as from *Eutelsat* that several ISDN recommendations for satellite communications could cause difficulties. Because of this the expert group was convened by the 17th *CCIR* plenary assembly. The analysis showed that 20 recommendations should be reviewed by the corresponding *CCITT* study commissions as high priority.

The *Swiss PTT International meeting 1990* took place in *Villars-sur-Ollon*. Approximately 90 participants, among them representatives from the largest customers and the international traffic partners, exchanged experiences and were informed about intentions and strategies of the PTT for the 90's (FMG, EG 92) and the present and future offer of services.