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News Items

Telephone

In December, 28 further base stations for Natel C were put into operation.

The new broadcast switching office Basel-Grosspeter was put into operation. The heart of this new installation, over which all national and international tone connections of the region are fed, is a computer-controlled crossbar switch with 15,360 contact points or 128 inputs and 120 outputs, respectively. The necessary PCM tone systems, radio broadcasting amplifiers and further special equipment for this operation are also available. At the same time the switched engineering service channels for the transmission service could also be expanded to include the computer-supported Digimat System for the Basel telecommunications office.

The Digimat Engineering Service Network was put into operation in the transmission service of the St. Gall telecommunications office. This is a PABX from Alcatel with several remote units. They connect all transmission services of Switzerland independent of the public telephone network.

The following microwave radio links were put into operation: in the toll network the Bern/Ulmizberg-Lugano/Cinque Vie, Bern/Ittigen-Lausanne and Albis-Bern/Ulmizberg connections with a transmission capacity of 140 Mbit/s each, in the regional network the Ilanz-Villa, Ilanz-Vals and Brione-Locarno connections with a transmission capacity of 34 Mbit/s each as well as for the Natel C the Reutenen-Salen, Lucerne-Schüpfheim, Grindelwald-Pfingstegg and Le Sépey-La Forclaz connections with a transmission capacity of 8 Mbit/s each.

In the Intelsat Network the following new circuits were connected via the Leuk Satellite earth station: via Intelsat satellite 60° east with the Philippines (1), with South Korea (4) and with Japan (15), via Intelsat 325.5° east with Mexico (5) and via Intelsat 335.5° east with Argentina (8) as well as a TDMA connection (Time Division Multiple Access) each with two African countries, with Canada and with the USA. Furthermore, TDMA connections were switched in the Eutelsat Network via the Leuk earth station and Eutel-

sat 16° east with each of ten European countries.

In the last months at different deep sea cable conferences and on the basis of bilateral discussions, agreements have been made with Swiss PTT's international traffic partners to obtain transmission capacity in intercontinental deep sea glass fibre cables. Subsequently, transmission capacity will be acquired in 14 different cables. The PTT are participating in proportion to its number of lines to the total capacity of the cable and will have a vote in the building and operation. The investment will amount to about 20 million Swiss francs.

Teleinformatics

In the Megacom Network, the direct distance dialing international traffic relation with Sweden was opened, after the one with Denmark, for operating test. In a first phase these connections are to be used between the University Hospitals of Geneva and Lund within the framework of an international telemedicine project.

The automatic telex traffic with Cambodia was put into operation. The subscribers in this country can be reached under the country code 0807. In addition, the telex traffic was automated with the following four countries: the islands of Ascension (0939) and St. Helena (0960) in the Atlantic as well as Nine (0776) and Tuvalu (0774) in the Pacific.

In November, 16 digital leased lines $(11\times64 \text{ kbit/s}, 3\times128 \text{ kbit/s}, 2\times256 \text{ kbit/s})$, two analogue leased lines and four 'low-speed' connections were put into operation by the *leased line control centre* (MLKZ). Three digital leased lines $(3\times64 \text{ kbit/s})$, 13 analogue leased lines and six 'low-speed' connections were cancelled.

Radio, Television, Radiocommunications

On the Safien station two further FM radio transmitters were put to operation. They broadcast the DRS 3 (102.9 MHz) and DRS R (88.0 MHz) programmes for the Safien Valley. Furthermore, the three 10-kW transmitters on the Säntis for the FM programmes DRS 1, 2 and 3 and a

common full solid state reserve transmitter with 5 kW were put into operation. In addition, a new FM transmitter on the *Bruson* location broadcasts the RSR-3 programme into the Val des Bagnes. The *Piz Corvatsch local radio* has been in operation since 1 Decembre. Five FM transmitters on the PTT locations of Celerina, Tarasp, Poschiavo, Ca d'Farett and Sta. Maria supply the Oberengadin, the Unterengadin, the Münstertal, the Puschlav and the Bergell.

The Isla Bella N-13 national motorway tunnel was connected for the Eurosignal radio paging service.

The following locations are now equipped for the local call B with a transmission installation each: Airolo, Chiggiogna, Conthey, Iragna, Personico, Quinto and Saxon.

Due to technical and operational reasons and because of lack of expansion capabilities a new 175 metre high antenna tower is to be built by 1995 at the *Bantiger multipurpose radio station*. Resulting from a competition organized for this purpose, the project of Rolf Mühlethaler architects in Berne and the Biel engineers Mathys + Wysseier were chosen. It is planned to start the on-site work in the autumn of 1992.

Miscellaneous

The CCITT Study Commission XVIII in Matsuyama (J) adopted 13 recommendations concerning wide-band ISDN (B-ISDN) which are still to be confirmed officially by the UIT members in a circulation procedure. For B-ISDN, the 'Asynchronous Transfer Mode' (ATM) is to be used, a particular type of packet transmission which allows a flexible use by the customer as well as a flexible utilization of the network infrastructure by the operator. Based on the 13 recommendations, the necessary network elements and functions are now to be defined which should make the first developments of the systems possible.