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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 *Reutten-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 *Niue* (0776) and *Tuvalu* (0774) in the Pacific.

In November, 16 digital leased lines (11 × 64 kbit/s, 3 × 128 kbit/s, 2 × 256 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 × 64 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 December. 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 + Wyssier 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.