

Zeitschrift: Technische Mitteilungen / Schweizerische Post-, Telefon- und Telegrafienbetriebe = Bulletin technique / Entreprise des postes, téléphones et télégraphes suisses = Bollettino tecnico / Azienda delle poste, dei telefoni e dei telegrafi svizzeri

Herausgeber: Schweizerische Post-, Telefon- und Telegrafienbetriebe

Band: 69 (1991)

Heft: 3

Rubrik: News Items

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News Items

Telephone

The *Ruschein-Vals 34-Mbit/s district telephone connection* was put into operation.

The following *microwave radio links* were put into operation: for the toll network the *Berne-Ittigen-Zürich* and the *St. Gall-Zürich-Hönggerberg* connections with a transmission capacity of 140 Mbit/s each; for the Natel C the *Strichboden-Stein* (2 Mbit/s) as well as the *Diavolezza-Lagalb* and *Schüpfheim-Wiggen* connections with a transmission capacity of 4×2 Mbit/s each. Furthermore, the following *temporary radio links* were put into operation for supplying the Natel C base stations: *Avenches-Bellerive*, *Ulmizberg-Wiggiswil* and *Disentis-Trun*. They serve to transmit a 2 Mbit/s signal and are to be in operation for three to five years.

In January, 18 *Natel C base stations* of the phase 3 were put into operation.

An additional 120 *digital lines* were connected within four days via the new glass fibre cable EMOS which connects Palermo with Tel Aviv, in order to meet the large increase in demand for telecommunication connections between Switzerland and Israel due to the Gulf War.

Teleinformatics

In January, three data connections were put into operation with the *United Arab Emirates* in the voice band over Intelsat 60° east in the *Intelsat Network* via the *Leuk* satellite earth station.

In December 1990, 19 *digital leased lines* (16×64 kbit/s, 1×128 kbit/s, 1×256 kbit/s, 1×768 kbit/s), 16 analogue leased lines as well as two low speed connections were put into operation by the leased circuit control centre (MLKZ).

The last *TW55 system telex office* of Switzerland, Geneva-Mont Blanc, ceased to operate. The telex network now consists of eight EDW offices.

The *telex traffic* with mobile stations was opened in the *Atlantic region* according to the Inmarsat C system.

Radio, Television, Radiocommunications

A new chain of four *FM transposers* were put into operation on the *Goppisbergalp*, the *Simplonpass*, in *Simplon town* and in *Gondo*. These supply the pass route and the communities on the south side of the pass with the DRS 3 programme.

Expansion tests were carried out in the *Beromünster national broadcast transmitter* with a provisional antenna, in order to improve the medium-wave night broadcasting in the German part of Switzerland which has been unsatisfactory since 1978. The temporary solution is a 252 m long folded dipole which is suspended between a 70 m high needle-shaped tower and the local tower.

The uplink service to the telecommunications satellite ASTRA at 19.2° east was set up via the *Zürich-Herdern 1 satellite earth station* in January for broadcasting the new Swiss satellite radio programme, '*Opus Radio*'. The new programme broadcasts mainly classical music.

Miscellaneous

The Board of Governors of *Intelsat* authorized its General Director to conclude a contract with Space Systems/Loral (formerly Ford Aerospace Co.) to purchase two satellites of the Intelsat VII-A type. These should replace the Intelsat V-A satellites which will be coming to the

end of their operating life span in 1995/1996.

The *second satellite of the Eutelsat II series* was successfully launched from the Kourou space centre in French Guiana together with an Italsat I telecommunications satellite which is to be put into operation in the Italian national network. Eutelsat II-F2 will take over from Eutelsat I-F5 which will replace the first Eutelsat I satellite having been in service for eight years.

A research project on the *disturbance of satellite earth stations by microwave radio links*, which was carried out by the PTT in close cooperation with the Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne (EPFL), was successfully completed. The aim was to examine the constructional possibilities for the protection of earth station antennae for business communication which are inadmissibly disturbed by the radio links working in the same frequency band. As a result, a computer programme for the calculation of screening structures is available.

The third meeting of the *CEPT working group FM* (Frequency Management) took place in Berne. Several questions regarding the European frequency harmonization were dealt with. In particular, four reports of the ERC (European Radiocommunications Committee) were adopted. They deal in detail with the cooperation between the working groups and the radio transmitter industry, with road transportation information systems within the framework of the DRIVE project (Dedicated Road Infrastructure for Vehicle safety in Europe), with 'Radio Local Area Networks' and with 'Windprofilers'. Furthermore, the work regarding harmonization of police frequencies, telephones in aircraft (TFTS) and further European projects was continued.