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News Items

Telephone

The *inquiry service* (No. 111) in *Lausanne-Préville* with 63 working places is now fully equipped with the new 12 SO system.

A glass fibre cable with 80 fibers was submerged by the Firm *Cortailod Cables* in the Lake of Zurich from *Au* to *Obermeilen*. It serves the common utilization by the *Rediffusion AG* (cable TV operator) and the PTT (telecommunications requirements).

A glass fibre cable was installed as *aerial cable* between *Isérables* and *Mayens de Riddes*. In order to do this, the La Fara River gorge had to be crossed at a height of 80 meters.

The *microwave radio link* *St. Chrischona-Stuttgart* with a transmission capacity of 140 Mbit/s, the *Versam-Safien* and *Chur-Safien district network connections* for 34 Mbit/s and the *Strichboden-Wattwil, Flüeli-Melchtal* and *Schüpfheim-Sörenberg radio links for Natel C* with a transmission capacity of 4 x 2 Mbit/s each were put into operation.

In the *INTELSAT network*, 12 further voice circuits were put into operation between Switzerland (Zurich) and *Mexico* via the *Leuk 1A* and *Tulancingo* earth stations as well as the satellite on 325.5° east. In addition circuits of the 'Voice Data Circuit Band' type were put into operation between Switzerland and the *USA* (1 circuit *Geneva-Memphis*) and *South Africa* (45 circuits *Zurich-Johannesburg*) via the *Leuk 2A* and *Roaring Creek* (USA) and *Pretoria* earth stations respectively as well as the satellite on 335.5° east.

Traffic of the *EUTELSAT I F5* satellite on 10° east was transferred to the new *EUTELSAT II F2* which takes over the same position. For this reason the frequencies had to be changed at the *Zurich 2* earth station.

Twelve further *Natel C base stations* of the phase 3 were put into operation.

Teleinformatics

The *telex traffic* in the *Pacific region* with mobile sea and land terminals equipped

with the new *INMARSAT C* system is now in operation.

The experimental operation with the *gateway from arCom 400 to Telefax* has been successfully completed. The gateway is now commercially in service.

The *leased line control centre* (LCC) put 12 digital leased lines (7 x 64 kbit/s, 1 x 128 kbit/s, 1 x 256 kbit/s, 2 x 384 kbit/s, 1 x 2 Mbit/s) into operation as well as 10 analogue leased lines.

Two *private digital networks* were put into operation between *Geneva, Zurich* and *London* within the framework of the PTT 'Private Network Service' (PNS), one of which on 2 Mbit/s.

Radio, Television and Radiocommunications

The DRS television is now broadcasting in the German-speaking part of Switzerland from all stations with a *dual sound channel*. In the French-speaking part of Switzerland, the TSR programme can already be received by 80 % of the viewers in this way (100 % by end of 1991) as long as the required television apparatus is at hand. The transition of the Tessin television is in process and the necessary feeders are being installed. This change over is to be completed in Tessin by the middle of 1992.

Two stations for the *public trunking radio system* (*SPEEDCOM*) were made available in *Signal-de-Bougy* and *St Gingolph* for experimental operation at the *Geneva International Automobile Salon*. Public trunking radio is a standardized, frequency economizing, two-way communication system for private user groups which allows the user to contact his partner by pressing a single button. The PTT has decided to set up three networks in the regions of *Basle-Frick-Sissach, Geneva-Lausanne* and *Zurich-Baden-Winterthur* for the time being which are expected to be in operation by the end of July 1991.

The number of *commercial radio concessions* increased in the past year by 3211 to 34,374 or by 10.3 %. There were 184,184 communications apparatuses in use at the end of the year as compared to 178,255 at the end of the previous year.

The *amateur radio licences* also increased by 1.7 % from 4464 to 4542. On the other hand the citizensband decreased by 10 % from 66,637 to 59,996.

Miscellaneous

OSILAB, the Swiss PTT test service for OSI protocols (X.400 84, X.400 88, X.500, Teletext) provides important test services for the connection of new systems (Administration Management Domain, ADMD, and Private Management Domain, PRMD) for the arCom 400 message service. Furthermore, OSILAB is used for trouble-shooting on the systems connected to arCom 400. 15 ADMD and 38 PRMD connections were configured and tested for arCom 400 in 1990.

The delegates of the future operators of the *pan-European digital mobile communications system GSM* met recently in Berne (MoU GSM Plenary Meeting). This group set up the common initial strategy as well as important technical and administrative guide lines. The introduction of GSM (in Switzerland called *Natel D GSM*) is to begin the middle of 1991 in most European countries. The pan-European roaming will be possible during 1992.

The *European Radio Communication Committee* (ERC) of the CEPT met in *Lisbon*. The committee accepted recommendations for the border crossing traffic of mobile stations within the framework of the terrestrial European public radio telephone system (GSM) and the satellite system 'Euteltracs', for a European road traffic control system as well as for the future admission and examining procedure for concessioned communications installations. In addition, it was decided to accelerate the work on the prerequisites for a European communications system for the International Union of Railways (UIC).