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News Items

Telephone

A 21 km long cable was laid in Lake of Geneva between *Geneva* and *Nyon* with 40 monomode glass fibers.

The network area 039 is now also connected to the *Geneva-Monbrillant international exchange*. Thus, all telecommunication districts of the French-speaking part of Switzerland are able to reach the international network via this exchange, which has already over 10,000 lines since becoming operational 2 1/2 years ago.

The *Brienz-Zaun microwave radio link* with a transmission capacity of 8 Mbit/s was put into operation for *Natel C*. Furthermore, the temporary microwave radio links *Kronberg-Herisau* and *Kronberg-Appenzell* with a transmission capacity of 8 Mbit/s have been put into operation for the feeding of *Natel C* base stations.

A further nine base stations of the phase 3 were put into operation in April for the *Natel C* network.

The following speech circuits were connected via the *Leuk-1A* satellite earth station and the *INTELSAT* satellites 325.5° east: 24 with *Brazil*, five with *El Salvador* and six with *Columbia*. Furthermore, 17 speech circuits were connected with *Iran* over the *Leuk-2A* earth station and the *INTELSAT* satellite 335.5° east.

Teleinformatics

Because of the declining number of *Telex* customers and traffic, over 10,000 subscribers have been switched from the *Zurich-Herdern* *Telex* office to that of the *Zurich-Fraumünster* in the past months. The *Telex/Teletex* converter was also newly installed in the *Zurich-Fraumünster* office. The equipment which became surplus in *Zurich-Herdern* (*Telex* exchange of the type *T203*) was dismantled and put at the disposal of interested parties from abroad.

13 digital leased lines (1 × 56 kbit/s, 7 × 64 kbit/s, 3 × 128 kbit/s, 1 × 256 kbit/s, 1 × 2 Mbit/s) and an analogue leased line have been put into operation through the *leased line control centre* (MLKZ).

Radio, Television, Radiocommunications

The *east tower reserve antenna* of the *Beromünster national broadcasting station* (125 m) is being overhauled. The extensive renovation work will last six to eight weeks and will include renewing of the anticorrosive protection, the beacons and the matching circuits among other things.

The *digital radio*, called 'Digit Super Radio', is being broadcasted via the community antenna feeder network (GAZ) and private cable networks. At present, there are six SRG programmes available: 'classic', 'light', 'international', DRS 1, RSR 1 ('La première') and RSI 1 ('Rete uno'). A further ten domestic and foreign programmes will be added during 1991/92.

The *Golzern* television transposers have been recently put into operation. It supplies *Golzern* on channels 36 (SRG), 39 (SSR) and 46 (TSI).

In the German-speaking part of Switzerland, the *two channel-tone-television* was definitely introduced. All television stations of the first chain have been transmitting the DRS television programmes for a short time now according to the two-channel-tone method. This has existed for the second chain stations (TSR programme) since 25 April. The two-channel-tone television will be introduced by the end of 1991 in Western Switzerland and in the *Tessin* by the middle of 1992.

A *receive-only satellite earth station* had been set up in *Zurich* on the property of the SRG (Swiss Radio and Television Broadcasting Company) for the *European Broadcasting Union, EBU*. The installation serves for the reception of radio and television programmes for the Eurovision programmes, among others, which are transmitted over the *EUTELSAT* satellite 21.5° east. The antenna has a diameter of 7.6 meters. Four television programmes (PAL/SECAM) with tone can be received at the same time.

The *San Bernardino national highway tunnel* (6.6 km) has been made accessible with *Eurosignal*.

A further 26 agglomerations in the German-speaking part and 12 in the western part of Switzerland were newly supplied

during last year for the *local call B* radio paging system. All the residential areas with a population of 10,000 or more are now served in a first development phase. In a second phase, above all the main traffic axes north-south and west-east will be connected up this year, and technical improvements will be introduced. By the end of 1992, approximately 90 % of the populated areas of Switzerland are to be supplied. Recently, new stations for the towns of *Attikon*, *Gachnang*, *Schüpfen*, *Steg* and *Susten* were put into operation.

Miscellaneous

At the *Global Traffic Meeting* of the international organization for satellite communication, *INTELSAT*, more than 700 delegates from telecommunications companies and administrations participated this year. According to the traffic forecast worked out at the meeting, the use of digital carrier systems for public dialing traffic will double in the next five years. In general the transition from analogue to digital services will be carried out faster than has been assumed a year ago. The Indian Ocean region, which stretches from Europe to Australia, will show the biggest increase of the three *INTELSAT* regions with 23 % in the next five years.

For two years, the 'ETSI STC NA2' group has been working on a standard for introducing the *packet switched data transmission in the ISDN*, in which the interface between *ISDN* and the packet network is described. This has been recently finished, so that now a solid basis for the introduction of packet switched data transmission in the *SwissNet 3* is available.

The *Estonian* Post and Telecommunications Ministry has founded the joint venture *Estonian Mobile Telephone Company* together with *Swedish Telecom International AB* and *Telecom Finland International*. The company is to build and operate a nationwide mobile *Estonian* telephone network according to the *NMT450* system which is to be connected up to the existing networks in Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Iceland. A similar agreement was recently made with the *Latvian* Telecommunications Ministry.