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# News Items

## Telephone

The four millionth subscriber line in Switzerland was celebrated in *Sutz* in the Biel telecommunications area. On the four million lines, 6.2 million subscribed telephones are available.

A digital announcing system *ATLAS* was put into operation in *Geneva*. All exchanges of the IFS and PC-88 type in Switzerland are now equipped with such a system.

The first digital glass fibre cable connection for telephone and leased circuits was put into operation between Switzerland and Japan. The connection is via England, the ocean cable PTAT, through the USA and the NPC cable (North Pacific Cable) to Japan.

A new microwave radio link was put into operation between *Brig* and *Savièse* with a transmission capacity of 140 Mbit/s. In addition the *Piz Corvatsch* – *Bivio*, *Safien* – *Versam* and *Flühl* – *Schüpfheim* trunk network links were put into operation with a transmission capacity of 34 Mbit/s each as well as the *Natel C* radio links *Kronberg* – *Urnäsch*, *Piz Corvatsch* – *Cassacia*, *Celerina* – *Lagalb*, *Geneva/Studio* – *Geneva La Praille* and *Gstaad* – *Gstaad/Eggli* each with a transmission capacity of  $4 \times 2$  Mbit/s.

Tests were performed between *Geneva* and *Lyon* with the CCITT signalling system No. 7. This is the first connection between France and Switzerland with this system.

Eighteen further permanent voice circuits were put into operation in the *Intelsat Network*: two each with the *Arab Emirates*, with *Thailand* (TDMA) and with *India* (TDMA) via the *Leuk 3A* satellite earth station and *Intelsat* satellite (60° East), and 12 with *Chile* via the *Leuk 2A* ground station and *Intelsat* Satellite (335.5° East).

Four further *Natel C* base stations of the Phase 3 were put into operation.

## Teleinformatics

Nineteen digital leased lines (1 × 56 kbit/s, 15 × 64 kbit/s, 1 × 256 kbit/s, 1 × 1563 kbit/s, 1 × 2 Mbit/s) were put into operation by the leased line control centre (LCC), as well as eleven analogue leased lines.

## Radio, Television and Radiocommunications

In both *Geneva* and *Lugano* a receiving satellite earth station was set up for the EBU (European Broadcasting Union). They serve for the reception of radio and television programmes, among others for the Eurovision which are transmitted over the *Eutelsat* (21.5° East) satellite. The antennas have a diameter of 7.6 meters. The installations can receive four television programmes (PAL/SECAM) with tone simultaneously.

Three FM transmitters were put into operation on the new *Eggerberg* station for the DRS 1, DRS 2 and DRS 3 programmes. They supply the *Visp* region and the lower part of the *Saas* and *Zermatt* valleys.

The *Grindelwald-Pfingstegg* television transposer was put into operation. It supplies part of *Grindelwald* on the 45 (SRG), 47 (SSR) and 54 (TSI) channels.

A further *Electronic News Gathering Location* was put into operation in *Brig* for the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation (SRG). It allows the feed in of one video signal and two tone signals into the interstudio television microwave link network.

Three PTT radio trunking networks were recently put into operation. The three networks, for the present operating autonomously, cover the following areas: *Geneva* – *Lausanne*, *Basle* – *Sissach* – *Frick* and *Zurich* – *Baden* – *Winterthur*. The operational testing will last from 1 May to 31 December 1991.

The following towns were connected for the *Ortsruf B* radio paging network: *Gerlafingen*, *Koppigen*, *Langnau*, *Lützelflüh*, *Mühletturnen*, *Walkringen*, *Wiggiswil* and *Zäziwil*.

## Miscellaneous

The 7th ETSI RES 2 meeting (Sub Technical Committee/specifications for mobile land radio service) took place in *Malta*. At the meeting among others technical reports on measuring methods and a greater part of the EBSS 1200 (European Binary Signalling System) for radio telephone installations were adopted.

A landslide between *Herbriggen* and *Randa* cut off, except for the telecommu-

nications, all connection to *Zermatt*. The cable *Brig-Zermatt* was partly damaged during the first slide but continued to function under the mass of rock. During the second slide this cable was put out of operation, but the traffic could be diverted to the *Brig-Zermatt* 34 Mbit/s microwave link, whose number of channels was doubled to 960. The damage to the new tubing installations for a future glass fibre cable was negligible.

The European Radio Communication Office (ERO) in *Copenhagen* officially began operating. Six experts there are working on fundamental radio topics of European importance. Their work serves the national telecommunications administrations as a decisive basis. Switzerland participates in the ERO.