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News Items

Telephone

The *transmission network*, the mainstay of the PTT network, is undergoing a very great change. On the one hand the transmission capacity and the number of transmission centers are continually increasing, and on the other hand the new equipment offers a diversity of new management functions. Without the central service bases, BERU, with the necessary management systems, a supervision of the transmission network is impossible. With the successful acceptance tests of the prototype installation of the central alarm processing equipment, ZEVA, in Zurich, the development of the most important system up to now is finished.

The *Telekiosk 156* service was introduced on a trial basis on 1 October. Thus private customers and firms will have the possibility of offering information or advice over the telephone. To these offering this service will be assigned a seven-digit number beginning with 156. They can give their information either on a tape or in direct conversation and are refunded from the PTT a part of the charges which will be charged to the caller.

A further twelve *Natel C* base stations of the phase 3 and 4 were put into operation.

Teleinformatics

Ten digital leased lines (8×64 kbit/s, 1×128 kbit/s, 1×1536 kbit/s) were put into operation (including PNS) by the *leased line control centre* (ICC). A new 8 Mbit/s bearer and a 2 Mbit/s bearer are also ready for operation.

Under the name *Private Network Services* (PNS), the PTT has been offering a service for some time now which is an alternative to the firms' own private networks. With this new solutions private firms can advantageously set up specific network configurations with the use of the basis infrastructure of the PTT *Telepac* data network (CCITT X.25). The service will no longer be charged according to individual tariff positions but will be calculated as a total package. At present there are two projects in the operational phase, and offers are being worked out for a large number of further projects.

Radio, Television, Radiocommunications

The various festivities within the framework of the *700 year celebration of the confederacy* were transmitted from the central part of Switzerland right into the homes of the radio listeners and television viewers. In the local network alone approximately 170 audio lines had to be made available between the locations of *Rütti, Brunnen, Schwyz, Rubiswil and Morschach*.

The following temporary microwave radio links were put into operation: *Zurich-Mythenquai-Zurich/Selnau* (2×2 Mbit/s; leased line), a link in *Splügen* to the *multipurpose radio station* (2 Mbit/s; modulation supply), a link in *Baden* for *Megacom* (2 Mbit/s), a leased line in *Basle* (4×2 Mbit/s) and another link in *Baden* (140 Mbit/s) for bridging the time during cable restoration. Furthermore, the *Les Ordons-La Malcôte microwave link* for *Natel C* with a transmission capacity of 4×2 Mbit/s was put into operation.

The following voice circuits were put into operation in the *Intelsat Network*: one with the *United Arab Emirates* via the *Leuk 3A* satellite earth station and three with *Japan* for the track-and field world championships; one with *Iran* and two with *Burkina Faso* via the *Leuk 2A* earth station. A SCPC (Single Channel Per Carrier) connection with a transmission capacity of 1544 kbit/s was put into operation via the *Geneva/Vernier* earth station for IBS video conferences with the USA. In addition, a FDMA (Frequency Division Multiple Access) connection was set up with *Bolivia* via the *Leuk 2A* earth station.

The *Wasserfluh FM broadcasting station* was definitely put into operation. It supplies the DRS 1 programme as well as the Aargau-Solothurn regional journal for *Brugg, Lenzburg, Mellingen* and *Wohlen* on the 96.3 MHz frequency.

Recently, extensive upgrading work for the improvement of the environmental compatibility of the *Schwarzenburg short wave station* was concluded. A communal antennae installation for the Mamishaus region with the latest UHF technique was set up to supply 171 households with 22 radio and 19 television programmes in an area of approximately 2.5 km in diameter around the short wave station.

The following ten towns were newly made accessible for the '*Ortsruf B*' radio paging system with one transmitter each: *Courtepin, Frick, Gruyère, Hornussen, La Neuveville, Laufenburg, Payerne, Prez-vers-Noréaz, Romont and Wileroltigen*.

Miscellaneous

The *fourth satellite of the Intelsat VI series* was successfully launched into orbit on board an Ariane 44L rocket. This type is one of the largest commercial telecommunications satellites. It measures 5.4 m folded for the start and 11.8 m in orbit with deployed antennas and solar cells. Its weight in orbit is 2542 kg. Its transponders can either be switched depending on traffic with a static switching matrix on board or set up as part of a satellite switched time division multiple access system (SS-TDMA).

RACE (Research and Development in Advanced Communications Technologies in Europe) is one of the research programmes supported by the EC for the introduction of the integrated broadband communication – taking into account the ISDN networks in the process of development and their national introductory strategies – with the aim of offering corresponding telecommunication services in the whole of Europe by 1995. Switzerland is participating in ten of the 90 projects. The Association of the Swiss Machinery Industry (VSM), as coordinator for the project, held an information seminar in Berne on 13 September together with the PTT, which offered an outline of the experiences and results of the RACE programme and a preview of future developments in the third programme frame.

The *PTT automobile repair shop in Berne* has been in existence for 50 years. It is the technical base of the Swiss Post-bus Service and at the same time service garage for the Berne postal service. At this base large repairs and periodic servicing on post buses are made, and from here the approximately 60 PTT garages in Switzerland are supplied with replacement parts. There are over 160 persons employed, and at present 26 apprentices are being trained in the workshop.