News Items

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News Items

Telephone

The following permanent voice circuits were put into operation in the *Intelsat network:* three with the *Arab Emirates* via the Leuk-3 (60° E), three with *Uruguay* via Leuk-2 (325.5° E) and four with the *Ivory Coast* via Leuk-2 (335.5° E) earth station.

21 base stations of the phase 3 were put into operation for *Natel C.*

Teleinformatics

The *international traffic* has been opened on the *Swissnet 1.* The traffic between the customer on foreign networks and Swissnet is thereby not submitted to restrictions anymore. The offer includes circuit-switched digital transmission service on 64 kbit/s.

Radio, Television, Radiocommunications

The *St. Moritz–Scuol trunk network microwave radio link* with a transmission capacity of 140 Mbit/s and the *Albis–Zürich/Selnau link* with a capacity of 4 × 140 Mbit/s were put into operation. The latter serves as second connection of the area 01 on the trunk network until the Binz switching centre is operational in 1995. In the *district network,* the *Brig–Zermatt* link was put into operation with a transmission capacity of 140 Mbit/s. It serves to bridge the capacity bottleneck caused by the rock slide near Randa and replaces the district network connection planned for 1992. In the *connecting system,* the following connections were put into operation: *Lugano/Cinque-Vie–San Salvatore* (34 Mbit/s) for feeding the radio station, *Andeer–Lohn* (4 × 2 Mbit/s) as Natel C supply and in Zurich a *leaseline* in the city region (4 × 2 Mbit/s). In addition, in order to increase the number of lines, the *temporary radio link Kronberg–Hundwil* with a transmission capacity of 8 Mbit/s was put into operation. It will remain operational presumably for three years. Between the *Sissach* and *Liestal* and the *Wettingen* and *Neuenhof* telephone exchanges as well as between *Neftenbach* and the *Winterthur multipurpose station* temporary links were put into operation with a capacity of 34 Mbit/s each for operational durations from one to six years.

The *Eggberg* and *Waldshut FM transmitters* were provisionally put into operation. Both of them – regulated by contract in 1990 – were set up on 'Südwestfunk' Broadcasting Stations in Germany. They are to improve the supply for the regions along the Rhine River from Kaiseraugst/Rheinfelden to Zurzach on the 100.5- and 102.0-MHz frequencies with the DRS 1 programme and, above all, with the Aargau/Solothurn regional news. Both stations transmit the programme in mono, as they are disturbed considerably by stations of neighbouring frequencies.

The *FM radio station* in the new multipurpose station *Bergli in Glarus* was provisionally put into operation with the DRS 1 programme for a test phase.

On the *Frauenfeld* station three new *television transposers* were put into operation. They supply Eschikofen, Felben, Frauenfeld, Hüttlingen, Mettendorf and Wellhausen on the channels 42 (SF DRS), 45 (TSR) and 51 (TSI). In addition, three new *television transposers* were set up on the *Entschwil* station. They serve Entschwil, Grossmattli, Horboden and Riedern with the DRS, TSR and TSI programmes on the channels 33, 36 and 38.

Additional *36 towns* were newly opened up for the *citycall B paging system.*

Miscellaneous

The *third satellite of the Eutelsat II series* was successfully launched into a transfer orbit with an Atlas II vehicle. In the meantime it has been drifted to its definite position in the geostationary orbit and at the same time has undergone a series of tests. It began operating in the second week of January. It will be used mainly for the transmission of television signals. Thus, seven satellites are now available for the Pan-European communication between 28 member and non-member countries of Eutelsat – three Eutelsat II and four Eutelsat I. In 1992 two further Eutelsat II are to be put into operation.

Two action groups and seven working groups of the *CCIR study commission 11,* who have been dealing with radio and television, met in *Geneva.* In the work meeting, taking place for the first time according to the new organization, the more than 200 contributions received from the administrations were studied, and drafts of new recommendations, questions and reports intended for the study commission 11 were adopted.

The *RES committee* (Radio Equipment and Systems) of the *ETSI* (European Telecommunications Standards Institute) met in *Taastrup (DK).* It adopted both ETSs (European Telecommunication Standards) for portable VHF maritime transmitters and paging equipment as well as an I-ETS (Interim-ETS) for a binary selective call system. Furthermore, the committee dealt with current problems from the following areas: digital cordless transmission system (DECT), terrestrial airplane telephone system (TFTS), mobile digital trunking radio systems (MDTRS), small radio systems, universal mobile telecommunication system (UMTS) as well as electromagnetic compatibility (EMC). Corresponding standards are to be submitted in the years 1992 to 1994.

The 9th meeting of the *ETSI working group RES 2* (equipment specifications for mobile land radio service) took place in *Prague.* Drafts regarding future standards for equipment with integrated antenna were reassessed. Furthermore, the working group had the task of working out measuring methods for RLAN (Radio Local Area Network).

The *6th meeting of the ETSI working group TM 4 (Digital Radio Relay)* took place in *Athens.* The activity programme recommended by Switzerland concerning the *Network Management Interface* was adopted. Swiss PTT's proposals for specifications of specific antenna parameters were agreed upon, too. The SDH report (Synchronous Digital Hierarchy) was supplemented with the management functions. The problems with the CCITT recommendation 682x (availability of microwave radio link transmission) were not able to be solved, as the CCITT were meeting at the same time in Australia in order to review the specifications. With the 18-GHz systems, the 4 PSK (Phase Shift Keying) modulation or the 16 QAM (Quadrature Amplitude Modulation) methods are to be discussed. The report for systems with 30-MHz channel interval was revised. A first draft of standards should be available after the next meeting.