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News Items

Telephone

A new *Natel C Exchange,* MTX 4 Olten, was put into operation by the Olten telecommunications administration. It serves the «North Switzerland» partial network and thereby the mobile telephone subscribers in the Basel–Liestal–Sissach–Olten–Fricktal region who up to now have been taken care of from Lucerne. With this exchange, the subscriber capacity of Natel C in the whole of Switzerland increases by 30 000 to 270 000. The Natel C network now consists of nine exchanges of the AXE 10 type.

The *five hundredth Natel C base station* was put into operation in *Eggersriet (SG)* in January.

A *temporary, digital microwave radio link, Albis–Wil,* was put into operation recently with a transmission capacity of 140 Mbit/s.

Teleinformatics

The *Teleinformatics Operations Center (TI-BZ)* in Berne is now operating around the clock. It assumes important tasks in the area of central operation for the *Telepac* data network including the TAP Telematic Access Processors as well as new *PNS Private Network Services.*

Corona is the new *system for telegram routing* that replaces among others the 20 year old Ateco computer in Zurich. Durability and performance tests were carried out as a last step of the acceptance. It successfully showed that for the duration of two hours more that 2000 telegrams per hour can be processed.

In service since the beginning of the eighties, the Pactax Software for the processing of the billing data in the *Telepac Data Network* has been recently replaced by the *new Athos program* (Accounting Telepac Handling Operating System). Because of the flexible hardware and software concept, the large increase in customers and traffic can be easily processed and the operational flexibility can also be significantly improved. Together with the Tifa invoicing program, Athos assures error free billing to the Telepac customers.

Pilot tests have been started with the new services *arCom 400/Radio Pager* and *arCom 400/Telephone Delivery.*

The PTT was assigned *NSAP Address Ranges* (Network Service Access Point) by the SNV (Swiss Standards Organization) according to the ISO DCC (Data Country Code) format. At the request of the SNV, the PTT will temporarily take over the allocation of such address ranges on the national level.

Radio, Television, Radiocommunications

The following permanent *satellite voice circuits* were put into operation in the *Intelsat network* in January: *17* with *Pakistan* via the Leuk-3 (60°E) satellite earth station, *three* with *Liberia* via Leuk-1 (325.5°E) and *12* with the *Dominican Republic* via Leuk-1 (325.5°). The capacity for ten direct speech connections to Romania and for eight direct connections to the Canary Islands was realised in December 1991 with the putting into operation of a new *Burst Time Plan.*

A mobile satellite link via the Panamsat satellites (45° west) each were put into operation for two Japanese television companies to cover the *GATT negotiations* of 20 December and 10 January in *Geneva.*

Six further *FM broadcasting transmitters* were put into operation on the *Airolo* and *Giova* stations. They supply the Bedretto valley and the upper part of the Leventina and the Calanca Valley, respectively, with the RSI 3 (103.4/104.8 MHz), DRS 1 (95.4/94.4 MHz) and RSR 1 (101.4/91.7 MHz) programmes. Furthermore, the St. Gallen telecommunications administration put an additional *transmitter* for the *Rheintal local radio* into operation on the «Steinerne Tisch» in order to supply particularly the Altenrhein, Thal and Rheineck region.

Three new *television transposers* for the radio broadcasting of foreign programmes (DRAVAP) were put into operation in *Melchtal.* They supply this area with the ARD, ZDF and ORF-1 programmes on channels 43, 58 and 61.

Three Simplex radio telephony relays were put into operation on the *St. Chrischona Multipurpose Station* for the Swiss Radio and Television broadcasting corporation (Radio DRS) and the «Basilisk» and «Raurach» local radio stations for coverage of events. They supply greater Basel and are reserved for these three users only.

The *trunking radio system, «SpeedCom»,* was definitely put into operation on 3 January in the three regions Basel-Frick-Sissach, Geneva-Lausanne and Zürich-Baden-Winterthur.

The *first 39 DAQS installations* (Data Acquisition and Quality Supervision) with modem connection were put into operation by the end of 1991. This installation allows the permanent supervision of the parameters of all digital microwave radio links in the toll and regional networks. At present, 30 stations are equipped and the network will be expanded further during 1992.

Miscellaneous

The new *Natel C base station* in *Wald ZH* was put out of action and badly damaged by heavy snow and rain fall which resulted in a massive flooding in the subterranean equipment rooms. All the electronic equipment had to be newly procured and installed during the Christmas holidays. The installation has been in operation again since 20 January.