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News Items

Telephone

The introduction of the *IFS extension level 5*, which consists of the ISDN network Swissnet 2 and the signaling system CCITT No. 7, has begun. By the end of January the transit exchanges *Bern-Ittigen*, *Zürich-Herdern EWSD*, *Lucerne-Floraweg* and *Lausanne-Savoie* were switched over. The conversion of the first local exchange was planned for March.

The following *microwave radio links for telephony* were put into operation: *Albis-Lucerne* and *Albis-Leuk* with a transmission capacity each of 140 Mbit/s in the toll network; *Wolfsberg-Mannebach* with a transmission capacity of 4 x 2 Mbit/s for a leaseline as well as *Ulmizberg-Wiggiswil*, *San Salvatore-Monte Mondini* and *St Gallen/Langgasse-Eggersriet* with a transmission capacity each of 4 x 2 Mbit/s for the supply of Natel C base stations.

Teleinformatics

By the end of January the new software for the *Videotex Gateway* to France was tested and accepted. The software supports all 16 ports with the 1200/75, 1200/1200 and 2400/2400 bit/s speeds. At the same time access to the French «Service 3617» was also set up.

In January 21 digital leaselines (1 x 9.6 kbit/s, 10 x 64 kbit/s, 4 x 128 kbit/s, 2 x 256 kbit/s, 1 x 384 kbit/s, 2 x 512 kbit/s, 1 x 1024 kbit/s) were put into operation by the *leaseline control centre* (MLKZ) as well as one analogue leaseline (including «Private Network Services»).

The Research and Development Department of the PTT general directorate put a *message handling system* according to CCITT X.400-1988 into operation for experimental purposes. Apart from X.400-1988, the system also supports the X.400-1984 and SMTP protocols and is able to convert messages from one format into another. The software, currently working under the Unix Operation System, can serve as turntable between present and future X.400 and Unix mail systems.

Radio, Television, Radiocommunications

Due to the replacement of the VA F-15 Intelsat satellite at 60° E by the VI F-2 Intelsat satellite the whole traffic from the *satellite earth station Leuk-3* had to be transferred to the new satellite. At the same time a new Burst Time Plan was introduced on this earth station. This allows the traffic via 332 bearers with 14 countries. In the TDMA method (Time Division Multiple Access), the traffic can thus be increased by 65 bearers and connections with two additional countries ensured. The new satellite has a fast microwave switching matrix on board which enables the diversion of TDMA bursts from one earth station in several service areas of the satellites according to demand. Thus it will be possible without additional equipment to reach a greater number of partner stations with TDMA equipped earth stations.

On the *Bivio-skilift broadcasting station*, FM transmitters for the DRS 1, 2, 3, R and I1 programmes were provisionally put into operation.

A temporary TV *microwave link* was put into operation between the *Trun* and *Disentis* multipurpose stations to improve the reception signal in Disentis. The links *Pizzo Matro-Airolo*, *Pizzo Matro-Dalpe 1* and *Monte Tamaro-Crana* were set up as a FM modulation feeder, with a transmission capacity of 8 Mbit/s each.

Two new *base stations for citycall B* were put into operation in *Roggwil* and *Huttwil*. The installation in Roggwil supplies the region from Melchnau-Altbüren-St. Urban-Riken right into the Solothurner Aaregäu. A further station on the Hofuhren in Huttwil supplies the Langgeten Valley to Rohrbach and the region over Gondiswil-Hüswil to Ufhusen. Together with the existing installations in Langenthal and Herzogenbuchsee, a full supply with the citycall B in the Olten-Zofingen-Aaregäu-Langenthal-Huttwil region has been realised. In addition the following ten towns were newly equipped in February: *Chavornay*, *Cossonay*, *Echallens*, *Lungern*, *Mesocco*, *San Bernardino*, *Schüpfheim*, *Sörenberg*, *Wiggen* and *Yvonand*.

Miscellaneous

The development of a *telephone system with an integrated electronic simultaneous translation* is the aim of a development project in which the Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh (USA), the Karlsruhe University (D), the Advanced Telecommunications Research Institute International in Kyoto (J) and the Siemens Research Centre in Munich (D) are participating. At first, the system will only have a limited vocabulary of twelve short phrases but will understand the natural speech flow, not only individual words. It will work independently from the speaker and need no training phase. Each of the three languages, English, Japanese and German should be able to be translated into the other languages.

The *World Administrative Radio Conference 1992* (WARC 92) opened in *Malaga-Torremolinos* (Spain) on 3 February and lasted about five weeks. It was organized by the International Telecommunications Union ITU and united 1300 delegates from 100 countries. Rearrangements of existing frequency assignments and the assignment of newly developed frequency ranges were dealt with. The main themes were, among others, low earth orbit satellite systems for world wide mobile communications, future terrestrial mobile networks, the telephone traffic with airplanes, digital sound broadcasting and high definition television (HDTV) via satellites, short wave radio as well as assignments in the frequency range of 14.5 to 14.8 GHz.

The *European telecommunication satellite organization Eutelsat* has agreed that the Satellite *Eutelsat II-F4* which is to be brought into orbit in June should be modified so that central and eastern Europe can be supplied considerably better. Thus the increasing demand for satellite capacity from eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) can be better satisfied. In addition, the European Broadcasting Union (EBU), which will use four transponders on this satellite from the end of 1992 on, can thus reach the majority of its members to which also eastern European countries will belong after the merger with the sister organisation OIRT.