Zeitschrift: Technische Mitteilungen / Schweizerische Post-, Telefon- und Telegrafenbetriebe = Bulletin technique / Entreprise des postes, téléphones et télégraphes suisses = Bollettino tecnico / Azienda delle poste, dei telefoni e dei telegrafi svizzeri

Herausgeber: Schweizerische Post-, Telefon- und Telegrafenbetriebe

Band: 70 (1992)

Heft: 5

Rubrik: News Items

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News Items

Telephone

The new *Geroldswil local exchange,* the first series installation of the system 12 in the extension stage 5 which is equipped with primary and basic connections, was handed over to the Zurich telecommunications office. The Swissnet 2 basic connections are already operated with the line code 2B/1Q. Furthermore, the *Burgdorf transit exchange* was switched over to the extension stage 5.

The *transatlantic cable TAT-9* was put into operation recently. There are three landing points on the European side, Spain, France as well as Great Britain, and two on the North American side, USA and Canada.

Four *further base stations* were put into operation for *Natel C,* and five *tunnels of the national highway system* were provided with the appropriate equipment.

The Zurich telecommunications office is carrying out a free testing project in the Herdern Telecommunication Center in order to optimize the quality of the *Natel C system.* The equipment and the installation in cars are being tested. The tests, including evaluation and recording, last 30 minutes.

Teleinformatics

28 digital lease lines (incl. PNS) were set up by the *lease line control centre (LCC)* (18×64 kbit/s, 4×128 kbit/s, 2×256 kbit/s, 1×512 kbit/s, 1×768 kbit/s, 1×1024 kbit/s, 1×1984 kbit/s).

The *first lease line on $n \times 64$ kbit/s* with Italy was measured end to end and handed over to the customer (512 kbit/s). The following new 2-Mbit/s bearer for lease lines were put into operation: Geneva—Milan, Milan—Zurich, Barcelona—Geneva, Geneva—Innsbruck.

First technical tests were carried out from studio to studio in cooperation with US Sprint for the setting up of a *direct video conference connection Switzerland—USA* via transatlantic cable PTAT. The use of latest equipment for data reduction allows the transmission of video conferences with the same quality as has been up to now but with a transmission rate one to five times smaller (384 kbit/s).

The *Gateways to the German 'Bildschirmtext'* were extended so that now also the chargeable 'electronic telephone book (ETB)' of the German post can be queried. The following listings can be called over the telephone number 1560349: the Btx subscriber directory, the 'ETB alphabetical' and 'ETB yellow pages' as well as the telefax directory.

Radio, Television and Radiocommunications

Twelve permanent voice circuits were newly put into operation in the *Intelsat network* with *Brazil* via the satellite 325.5° E and the Leuk satellite earth station; eight were put into operation in the *Eutelsat network* with *Cyprus* and seven with the *Canary Islands* (21.5° E).

The fourth satellite of the *Intelsat VI* series with the number 601 became operational in the Atlantic region. Like the other satellites of this series, it can transmit up to 120,000 telephone conversations with digital circuit multiplication techniques as well as three colour television channels. It replaces the satellite 604 at the 332.5° E position, which is being transferred to the Indian Ocean region and is being put into operation there on 60° E.

The following *microwave radio links* were put into operation: *Albis—Geneva* in the long-distance network with a transmission capacity of 140 Mbit/s; *Siebnen—Vorderthal, Degersheim—Necker* and *Chur—Arosa* in the regional network with a capacity of 34 Mbit/s each; *Monte Tamaro—Giova* (feeding the multipurpose station) and *Boniswil—Seengen* (feeding the Natel C base station) in the connection network with a capacity of 4×2 Mbit/s each. Furthermore the following *temporary links* were set up: an 8 Mbit/s connection for the duration of about six months for the feeding of the *Muri (AG) Natel C base station;* for private customers the lease line or Megacom connections *Zurich-Falenstrasse—Zurich-Mühlebachstrasse* (2 Mbit/s for approx. 20 months), *Besserstein—Vogelsang* (2 Mbit/s for approx. 12 months), *Zurich-Herdern—Zurich-Kalkbreitestrasse* (4×2 Mbit/s for approx. 20 months) and *Zurich-Museumsstrasse—Zurich-Hardturmstrasse* (4×2 Mbit/s for approx. 17 months).

The *St-Sulpice, Roches-Blanches* (Val-de-Travers), *La Chaux-de-Fonds* and *Les Hauts-Geneveys* FM broadcasting stations were equipped with RDS (Radio Data System) coders. By the end of this year all FM stations broadcasting the Swiss Radio and Television Company (SRG) programmes will be equipped with RDS.

The Swiss PTT is installing *Small Satellite Receive-Only Stations* for private customers. These will be operated and serviced by the local PTT offices. In order to train the personnel operating such equipment, a remote-controlled rotatable satellite receiving station with an antenna diameter of 2.2 metres will be installed for the *Bellinzona, Biel, Freiburg* and *Lucerne* telecommunications offices.

A base station for the *Citycall B* radio paging system was put into operation on the *Bivio Skilift* station.

A *tunnel radio installation* was put into operation in the *Ligerz national highway tunnel* (N 5). It broadcasts among others both FM programmes DRS 1 (88.2 MHz) and RSR 1 (95.1 MHz).

The first *diagnosis and control system for radio and television broadcasting stations RA (Distra)* was put into operation on the *Feschel multipurpose station.* Distra was developed within the framework of the management system RA and is to be built into all large PTT broadcasting stations. In order to carry out economically the necessary functions for an autonomous and remote-controlled operation, e.g. recording, processing, redirecting and signalizing of data, the most modern technology was set up.

Miscellaneous

The *10th meeting of the ETSI subcommittee RES 2* (equipment specifications for the land mobile radio service) took place in *Copenhagen.* The delegates adopted drafts for future standards regarding sensitivity measurement methods for radio transmitters with integrated antennas. In addition, they drew up new outlines regarding measuring methods for *RLAN (Radio Local Area Networks)* and on the subject of *quality and stability of transmission.*