

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:	6
Rubrik:	News Items

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News Items

Telephone

A new *telephone inquiry centre* was commissioned in *Rapperswil SG* in completely refurbished offices. It is based on System 12 equipment from *Alcatel STR*.

A *base station* for the *Natet C mobile telephone system* was set up in *Grimmentz*, which supplies part of the *Val d'Anniviers*.

A fixed *microwave radio link* in the regional network with a transmission capacity of 34 Mbit/s was set up between *Herisau* and *Urnäsch*. In addition, *leaselines* for private customers were established by means of temporary microwave links of 2 Mbit/s each in *Gland* (for about 12 months) and from *San Salvatore* to *Gentilino* (for about 6 months).

For the first time in the history of telecommunications cables a *digital transatlantic cable* (TAT8) was restored by means of another optical cable (TAT9). Before, such cable restorations were only possible by means of satellites.

Teleinformatics

The Swiss PTT, together with PTT Telecom Netherlands (NL), Mercury Communications (GB), Telecom Denmark/Jydsk Telefon (DK), Telecom Finland International (SF), R.T.T. Belgacom (B) and Norwegian Telecom (N) have signed the *Memorandum of Understanding of «Global Bandwidth on Demand Service Providers»* in order to jointly market the *Megacom Services* ($n \times 64$ kbit/s wideband dial-in network). This memorandum with a commercial background allows the signatories to appear on the worldwide market as a single service provider. Aspects of a standardized offer, the quality of service, the marketing as well as all operational aspects and planning are stipulated in it.

The national *leaseline control center* (LCC) has newly switched on 14 *digital leaselines* (9×64 kbit/s, 1×128 kbit/s, 2×256 kbit/s, 1×384 kbit/s, 1×768 kbit/s) as well as six analog leaselines (incl. PNS).

Radio, Television, Radiocommunications

Swiss Radio International (SRI) has set up a *new programme structure*, together with changing to the summer transmitting schedule. Some frequencies, time and duration of transmission as well as the scheduling of languages have changed. With the new concept called «Prospective 2000», SRI offers two different programmes in the national languages: one is addressed to an international audience, the other to the Swiss abroad. An SRI programme is also distributed by the Astra 1A communications satellite (19.2° E; 11.332 GHz).

The following seven communities have been equipped with a radio paging transmitter for the *Citycall B* system: *Bivio*, *Läufelfingen*, *Muri AG*, *Oensingen*, *Stafelbach*, *Stein am Rhein* and *Teufenthal*.

In the *Sonnenberg* and *Reussport* tunnels of the N 2 national highway near *Lucerne*, a tunnel radio system has been installed. Both tunnels have been equipped for several radiotelephone services as well as for «*Eurosignal*». In addition, the FM radio programme DRS 1 is broadcast by the equipment.

A digital satellite link with a capacity of 2048 kbit/s was established between Switzerland and *Hong Kong*, using the *Leuk 3* earth station and the 60° E satellite in the *Intelsat* network. It provides at least 20 and up to 120 additional voice circuits. In the *Eutelsat* network, the following links over the *Leuk 4* earth station

and the 21.5° E satellite were established: 120 voice circuits to *Spain (Sevilla)* and four digital links to *Turkey*.

Miscellaneous

A *Swiss PTT International Meeting North America 1992* took place in New York on 30 and 31 march. It was the first customers event of its kind in the USA. About 30 representatives of customers participated as well as 20 delegates from local and international traffic partners. The meeting was organized by *Swiss Telecom North America (STNA)*.

The *European Telecommunications Satellite Organization Eutelsat* has now 33 member countries. Following the approval of Lithuania by the end of 1991, the requests of the *Republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan*, the *Czech and Slovak Federative Republic* and the *Republic of Hungary* were approved. Azerbaijan became member of *Intelsat*, too. The latter organization counts now 122 member and 180 user countries.

The profits of *Eutelsat* rose by 55 % in 1991 to attain 21.7 million ECU, following a rise in income by 46 % to 183 million ECU. This is due to the growth of all Eutelsat services and the full use of all transponders on the two new Eutelsat II satellites.

The member countries of the International Telecommunications Union ITU are celebrating the *World Telecommunications Day* every year on the 17th of may, this year with the theme «*Telecommunications and Space: new Horizons*». This is to point out the importance of space communications to the development and efficient operation of telecommunications in general. In addition, it underlines the efforts of the United Nations who declared 1992 the Space Year.