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News Items

Telephone

The tenth Natel C central exchange was put into operation in Lucerne. Thereby the switch over of 27 radio cells from the Zurich MTX centre to that in Lucerne was necessary. At the same time the numbers and data of 15,000 Natel C subscriber lines were changed over from Zurich to Lucerne. The putting into operation and the switch over took place without any significant difficulties and disturbances.

Nine further Natel C base stations were put into operation as well as three national highway tunnels made accessible for Natel C.

After the first pilot experiment with the synchronous digital hierarchy (SDH) at the Telecom 91 exhibition, there are now two new pilot tests planned: in Lausanne the Syanet (synchronous connection network) and the Sybnet (synchronous base network) will be set up in the access and regional network levels of the transport network in the form of two connected rings. They serve the connection of the Lausanne University and the Lausanne Federal Institute of Technology via glass fiber links and allow routes with different transmission capacities for narrow band and broad band services to be controlled by computer according to necessity.

Teleinformatics

The telex traffic with Lao (Democratic People's Republic, formerly Laos) has been automated. The country code is 0804.

17 digital (10×64 kbit/s, 2×128 kbit/s, 2×384 kbit/s, 2×512 kbit/s, 1×1984 kbit/s) and 5 analogue lease lines were connected by the lease line control centre (MLKZ).

Radio, Television, Radiocommunications

The following fixed microwave radio links were put into operation: Fischenthal — Hörnli for the connecting network with a transmission capacity of 34 mbit/s and the San Salvatore — Serpiano link with a capacity of 4×2 mbit/s for the feeding of the transmitting station.

The rescue mission for the Intelsat 603 satellite (formerly called Intelsat VI[F-3])

which was stranded in a lower orbit because of a non functioning perigee motor has been successfully carried out after initial difficulties. The astronauts of the space shuttle Endeavour were able to capture the satellite on their maiden flight and provide it with a new motor in the loading bay of the space ship.

A digital connection (2048 kbit/s) was set up for six permanent speech circuits with Mauritius via the Leuk satellite earth station and an Intelsat satellite (60 °E). Furthermore a digital circuit (64 kbit/s) with Argentina was set up via the Geneva/Vernier earth station and the Satellite 307 °E.

For the television programme «Schweiz aktuell», the filming of the maiden voyage of the renovated paddle steamer «Blümlisalp» was fed via microwave radio link from the ship's deck to the Niesen and from there via the Jungfrauoch station to the fixed television microwave link network.

A radio telephone network was put into operation for the Mendrisio group of the automobile service. The Simplex radio equipment which is not connected to the public telephone network consists of three base stations, six operating apparatuses and 33 mobile stations.

The towns of Firshalden, Melchtal and Moutier have been newly made accessible with one Citycall B transmitter each.

Miscellaneous

A two year on-the-job postgraduate training in informatics and telecommunication (NDIT) for engineers is to offer a practice orientated but theoretically based training in the area of informatics, telecommunications and later media technology. It is based on contributions from industry, universities and public institutions. Target persons are engineers in informatics and telecommunications, respectively. The training will be prepared for the fields of telecommunication engineer, software engineer and informatics engineer. It lasts four half years terms and comprises approximately 1000 hours of courses. The first course will be offered in the Autumn of 1992.

Recently the 1000th European standard in electrical engineering was completed. It was drawn up by the European Commit-

tee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC). It concerns the area of electromagnetic compatibility and serves to avoid disturbances of electric and electronic equipment between each other. Like every European standard, it will soon be taken over unchanged as national standard in the 18 EC and EFTA member countries. Thus the Pan-European standardization work in the area of electrical engineering has increased to almost 30,000 pages.

The 11th meeting of the ETSI working group RES 2 (equipment specifications for mobile land radio) took place in Cascais (Portugal). Outlines regarding testing methods for RLAN (Radio Local Area Networks) were compiled as well as drafts regarding the sensitivity measuring methods for transmitters with integrated antenna for future ETS (European Telecommunications Standards) were adopted.

Swiss researchers in the area of mobile communication from the PTT, ETH Lausanne and Zurich, Ascom, Huber & Suhner and TU Vienna showed their latest findings on the Vehicular Technology Conference of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) in Denver, Colorado (USA) as follows: 1) a receiver for cordless digital transmission in buildings which, thanks to the utilized band technology with adaptive delay switching (Rake Principle), the effect of the multi path propagation is not only compensated but transmission and synchronization improved compared to older methods; 2) results of the propagation studies on locations which are critical for Natel D GSM base stations; 3) measurements of the propagation distortions in buildings in the 1800 MHz frequency band; 4) a new type of access procedure for small cellular networks in buildings as a combination of the time multiplex (TDMA) and code multiplex (CDMA) access technology.

The international telecommunications satellite organization Intelsat concluded the first contract with the China Great Wall Industry Corporation for the launch of an Intelsat VII-A satellite (or its successor type) into orbit. The time frame has been provisionally set for between 1 December, 1995 and 29 February, 1996. The satellite should be launched with the first commercial flight of the Long March 2E/HO rocket type.