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News Items

Telephone

The Swiss PTT have signed an agreement with the German and Scandinavian telecommunications services that makes possible the *over-the-border telephone traffic with the digital Pan-European Natel D GSM Mobile Communications System* without administrative and technical obstacles. Further countries will follow suit. The GSM user can telephone in all signatory countries of this agreement with his personal number. He can use his apparatus in these countries or also only his identification card. He is reachable on his personal Natel number without country code or trunk code. The PTT is at present testing the Natel D GSM in the large congested areas of Switzerland. The commercial introduction of this system is planned for March 1993 at the Automobile Salon in Geneva.

Seven voice channels of the SSTDMA (Satellite Switching Time Division Multiple Access) type were set up in the Intelsat network with *India* (60° east).

The *Andermatt-Mätteli* and *Bickigen-Wynigen* microwave radio links were put into operation with a transmission capacity of 4×2 Mbit/s each for the feeding of Natel C base stations.

Eight new base stations were put into operation for *Natel C*, and a further tunnel of the National Highway System was connected.

Teleinformatics

The *X.31 Case A Packet Handler Interface Project* was recently successfully completed. The Packet Handler enables a transition between both networks, Swissnet 2 and Telepac; therefore, the Swissnet customer is able to utilize the traffic relations to over 10 000 Telepac connections in Switzerland as well as the access to about 200 data networks abroad. The Telepac Packet Handler enables, in addition, the data transmission in the packet modus between the Swissnet subscribers via all three Swissnet systems.

19 digital *leaselines* (10×64 kbit/s, 1×128 kbit/s, 4×256 kbit/s, 1×384 kbit/s, 2×512 kbit/s, 1×784 kbit/s) and four analogue *leaselines* were put into operation by the *leaseline control centre (LCC)*.

Radio, Television, Radiocommunications

The following FM radio stations were officially put into operation (the programmes, frequencies and supply locations are in brackets): *Binn* (DRS 3, 102.6 MHz, Binntal), *Engelberg* (DRS 3, 105.4 MHz, Engelberg and surroundings), *Lungern* (DRS 1, DRS 2, DRS 3, 88.4 MHz, 100.5 MHz, 106.5 MHz, Brünigstrasse, Bürglen OW, Lungern, Kaisertuhl), *Sissach* (DRS 3, 102.9 MHz, Gelterkinden, Liestal, Sissach), *Stalden OW* (DRS 1, DRS 2, DRS 3, 89.9 MHz, 91.7 MHz, 96.0 MHz, Sarner-Aa-Tal from Alpnachstad to Giswil), *L'Auberson* (RSR 3, 101.2 MHz, L'Auberson, St-Croix), *Moudon* (RSR 3, 95.9 MHz, Granges, Henniez, Lucens, Moudon), *Bivio* (DRS 1, DRS 2, DRS 3, DRS R, RSI 1, 95.2 MHz, 97.8 MHz, 102.9 MHz, 89.4 MHz, 99.6 MHz, Bivio, Marmorera, the western side of the Julier Pass road), *Dischma* (DRS 1, DRS 2, DRS 3, DRS R, 94.4 MHz, 96.5 MHz, 106.7 MHz, 104.1 MHz, Dischmatal, Flüelatal) as well as *Boncourt* (RSR 1, RSR 2, RSR 3, 92.2 MHz, 98.8 MHz, 101.2 MHz, Boncourt). The *Champex* and *Bruson* FM stations were provided with RDS (Radio Data System) equipment. In addition, the newly constructed *Bergli-Glarus multipurpose station* was officially put into operation. It serves the whole Canton of Glarus with radio in cases of emergency and catastrophes. Furthermore, it accomplishes the DRS, TSR and TSI television broadcasting as well as the FM radio broadcasting with the DRS 1 programme (91.4 MHz) and serves as a base station for Natel C and Citycall B.

The *FM local radio station* for Radio Piz Corvatsch was set up in the Ravaisch multipurpose station (94.4 MHz) and in Bondo (104.7 MHz). The Bondo station will be served with relay reception.

The towns of *Ferden, Filisur, Küblis, Leukerbad, Tarasp, Trun* and the *Joux Valley* were set up with a *Citycall B transmitter station* each.

The construction work for the *replacement of the antenna tower on the Bantiger* has begun.

The *problem of mutual interference between FM radio broadcasting and air radio* has occupied the minds of experts

for a long time. At a meeting of the 12-1 work group of the CCIR at the headquarters of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Montreal, Canada, a draft recommendation was drawn up which guarantees the compatibility between radio broadcasting and air radio service in the 108-MHz range.

Miscellaneous

The Swiss PTT became a joint owner of the *Unisource Satellite Services (USS)* venture which is specialized in the *data communication via satellite with the VSAT (Very Small Aperture Terminals) service* and has its main office in the Netherlands. The firm was founded by *Swedish Telecom International (STI)* and the *Netherlands PTT (PTT/NL)*. The VSAT system mainly serves businesses with regular communications needs to their branches or to other firms. The communication takes place via satellite between one central station and a multiple of small earth stations (VSAT) set up directly at the subscriber's location with parabolic antennas. An advantage is the independence from public networks. The PTT plans the construction of a central station in Switzerland as an uplink to the satellite. The PTT have the exclusive rights in Switzerland for the sale of the USS.

The *technical committee 'Equipment Engineering' of ETSI* had its annual meeting in *The Hague*. The main themes were the adoption of standardization drafts prepared by the subcommittee, the revising of the work programme for the technical assembly, the confirmation of the election of the new chairmen of the technical subcommittees as well as the provision of various coordination tasks with other international standardization committees such as IEC, CENELEC, etc.