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News Items

Telephone

For a short time now it has been possible to *pay for telephone calls with credit cards* in the *Zürich-Kloten Airport.* The *Visa, Mastercard/Eurocard, Diners Club* and *American Express* cards can be used in 15 public telephones.

Recently the first *ribbon fibre cable installation* in Switzerland was put into operation in *Basel.* Regardless of initial difficulties in installing the 100-fibre ribbon cables, this pilot installation will supply valuable technical and economic information for a possible future application of this type of cable. For the moment, large customers and the network department of the Basel telecommunications office are connected with ribbon fibre cables to the Wallstrasse Central.

The *Jaun/Central–Jaun/Natel* and *Monte Mondini–Novaggio* 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. Furthermore, six *temporary radio links* with a capacity of 4 × 2 Mbit/s each were set up.

The following voice circuits were put into operation via an *Intelsat Satellite* at 60° east and the *Leuk 3A* earth station: twelve of the FDMA (Frequency Division Multiple Access) type with *Sri Lanka;* five of the SSTDMA (Satellite Switching Time Division Multiple Access) type with *India,* four with *Singapore.* In addition, 12 speech circuits (FDMA) with *Iraq* and three with *Paraguay* were put into operation via a satellite at 335.5° east and the *Leuk 2A* ground station.

Twelve new Natel C base stations were put into operation.

Recently the *Roaming Agreements for the GSM mobile communications system* were signed between the telecommunications services of the Scandinavian countries, the Telekom Germany (D1) and the Swiss PTT Telecom. A further Roaming contract was signed between Mannesmann Germany, operator of the D2 private network, and the PTT Telecom. With these agreements, the mobile communications traffic via the GSM system between Switzerland, Germany and the Scandinavian countries has been open since 1 November.

The *GSM standard* (Global System for Mobile Communications) gains more and more importance *outside Europe.* At present, 64 GSM networks are in the planning stage worldwide, 35 of which in Europe. In the near future, the digital mobile radio standard of the Europeans will also be mandatory in Eastern Europe, Australia and South East Asia, in the Near East and India. Experts estimate that by the end of the nineties up to 15 million subscribers on the old continent alone will be able to telephone in the GSM system.

The PTT has recently sold the *10 millionth Tax Card.* Approximately three quarters of the public telephones are equipped with card readers. The first field test was carried out in 1986.

Teleinformatics

The purchase of the third and last stage of the *Corona Telegramme System* has been completed. It replaces the old system based on the Ateco computer and has been in operation since last year. With stage 3 it is now possible to send telegrammes over fax, whereby the Post Offices which are important for the telegramme service have been equipped with fax terminals.

The telex traffic with the *Comore Islands* has become automatic. This was the last country that was not yet reachable by direct dialling from Switzerland.

There were 32 digital *leaselines* (17 × 64 kbit/s, 8 × 128 kbit/s, 3 × 256 kbit/s, 2 × 512 kbit/s, 1 × 1024 kbit/s, 1 × 1984 kbit/s) and three analogue leaselines put in operation by the leaseline control centre (LCC).

X.400 connections were opened up with *South Africa* (Telekom SA) and *Portugal* (Marconi SVA and Sevatel SA). Thus 75 X.400 services in 33 countries worldwide can be reached via arCom 400, the PTT message transfer service.

Radio, Television and Radiocommunications

In the *Ravaisch* (Samnaun) PTT station transmitters for two further *FM programmes (DRS 3, DRS R)* were put into operation. All four national FM programmes will now be broadcasted there with RDS and in stereophony. The Suen and Chandolin FM stations were equipped with RDS, and on behalf of Tele-Rätia AG, additional stations for *Radio Grischa* were put into operation in *Avers, Morissen, Vals, Lohn, Mon, Bergün* and *Curaglia.* Two further FM stations now supply the F1 and F3 programmes from the *Toules* station.

The new *multipurpose station of Heimenschwand* was set up. The *television transposer* supplies Wachseldorn and the region from Fahrni to Oberlangenegg with the DRS (Channel 24), TSR (28) and TSI (35) TV programmes. Furthermore, a transposer for the broadcasting of foreign programmes was put into operation in *Safiental* with four television programmes. It supplies Safien and Tenna on the Channels 33 (ARD), 47 (ZDF), 55 (ORF 1) and 65 (ORF 2).

On the *Ravoire* and *Haute-Nendaz* stations new microwave radio link equipment was put into operation for the national television radio link network.

The following places were newly made accessible for the *Citycall B: Bière, Malvaglia, Ofenpass, Poschiavo, St-Cergue, Susch (Chantsura)* and *Vicosoprano (Ca d'Farett).*

Miscellaneous

The *14th meeting of the RES 2 ETSI working group* (equipment specifications for land mobile radio service) took place in Stockholm. At the meeting the RES 02-03 ETS (European Telecommunication Standard) regarding technical specifications for land mobile radio equipment with selective call and integrated antenna was reviewed for presentation to the Technical Committee. Furthermore, technical specifications concern measuring uncertainties were cleared up and edited for the various short-form ETS in English, German and French.

The *first international symposium on Interworking* was carried out at the head office of the World Postal Union in Berne under the auspices of the EC research programme RACE. The main topic was the interworking between the different new and old analogue and digital telecommunications networks, which has become a special field of its own within the communications technologies due to the fast development and change of technology.