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News Items

Telephone

Old toll and regional cables will be pulled out along a length of about 22 km on the Zurich/Selnau–Enge–Horgen route up to the network boundary (Au-Wädenswil). Three teams have to pull out about 150 km of old cable with a total weight of more than 1500 t. Each week about 50 t are pulled out and taken back to the Urdorf regional storeroom and from there sold as salvage. On the Zurich/Binz–Horgen part a regional cable (glass fibre) will be pulled into the freed piping.

Teleinformatics

Five analogue and the following digital *lease lines* were put into operation by the *lease line control center (MLKZ):* 13 × 64/56 kbit/s, 6 × 128 kbit/s, 3 × 512 kbit/s, 2 × 768 kbit/s, 1 × 1024 kbit/s, 1 × 1536 kbit/s, 1 × 1984 kbit/s.

Radio, Television, Radiocommunications

The following permanent *microwave radio links* were put into operation: the *Arisdorf–St. Chrischona* and the *Schaffhausen/Kohlfirst–Thalheim/Altikon* links for the feeding of the Natel C base stations with a transmission capacity of 4 × 2 Mbit/s each, the *Lugano–Monte Lema* (4 × 2 Mbit/s) and *Wallisellen–Zurich/Hardturmstrasse* (34 Mbit/s) connections for lease lines and the *Chasseral–Ulmizberg* (feeder for Geneva) and *Jungfraujoch–Bantiger* links for the new S Plus television program. Also the following *temporary microwave radio links* were put into operation with a capacity of 4 × 2 Mbit/s each: *Glattbrugg central exchange–Glattbrugg/Feldeggstrasse* (until January 1994), *Zurich/Herdern–Zurich/Baslerstrasse* (until June 1994) and *Dornegg–Luterbach* (until December 1995).

The following *satellite links* via the *Leuk earth station* and Intelsat satellites were put into operation: one voice circuit of the SCPC type (Single Channel per Carrier) with the *Maldive Islands,* two voice circuits (SCPC) with *Ethiopia,* four voice circuits of the SSTDMA type (Satellite Switching Time Division Multiple Access) with *Indonesia,* twelve voice circuits (SSTDMA) with *Thailand,* 34 voice circuits (SSTDMA) with *India,* three voice circuits (SSTDMA) with *Hong Kong* and one link of the IDR type (Intermediate Data Rate, 2,048 Mbit/s) with *Mexico.*

Nine additional Natel C and *eleven Natel D GSM base stations* were put into operation.

The villages of *Herlisberg (LU), Jaun (FR), La Sagne (NE), Oberstammheim (SH)* and *Plaffeien (FR)* with one transmitter each were made accessible in July for the radio paging service *Telepage Swiss.*

Miscellaneous

The second *Swiss Telecom International Meeting* took place in *New York.* More than 40 telecommunicatios managers from present and potential customers in North America participated in this year's meeting, the theme of which was the fast progressive changes on the worldwide Telecom market.

Two *Intelsat employees from Haiti and the Ivory Coast* completed a practical training of ten weeks in the Leuk satellite earth station to perfect their technical knowledge.

The *Technical Committee RES* (Radio Equipment and Systems) of the ETSI (European Telecommunications Standards Institute) met in Jersey (UK). The committee passed for the ETSI outlines of standards for sea and land mobile radio stations as well as for Tetra (Trans European Trunked Radio). In addition, it dealt with current questions from the following areas of standardization: TFTS (Terrestrial Flight Telephone System), Hiperlan (High Performance European Radio Local Area Networks), various small radio systems and cordless telephones. The Technical Committee PS (Paging) was dissolved and its remaining duties placed in the hands of the technical subcommittee RES 04.

The *Council of the International Telecommunications Union* (ITU) met in Geneva. It set up the three committees finance, staff and pensions, as well as development. An important item on the agenda was also the adoption of the budget for 1994. In view of the *rapidly evolving telecommunications environment* and the urgent need for the Union to adapt, the Council also dealt with a document on strategic policies and planning. One basic question contained in this document was: How can an intergovernmental organization, which is based on national sovereignty, adapt to the new requirements of the global information society in which telecommunications are becoming the most important business activity? The board then dealt with *development policies* and issued an appeal to show more consideration for the special needs of Africa and the least developed countries. As a result of a proposal by the Councillors from Africa, a special information session will be held in April 1994 on strategic development planning for the whole region. A major decision of the Council was to approve the agenda for the World Telecommunication Development Conference to be held in 1994 in Buenos Aires. Furthermore, the conference calendar for 1994 was adopted.

Armenia is the 126th member of the international telecommunications satellite organization *Intelsat* with an initial participation of 0.05%. After Azerbaijan and Russia, this is the third republic of the former Soviet Union that has joined the organization.

A *colloquium* was organized by the Telecom PTT department of research and development in cooperation with *Ascom Tech* on the theme *«Connection of local networks (LAN) via satellite links».* The participants were able to convince themselves that the time delay via satellite results in no essential loss of convenience, also with usual protocols, in applications such as file transfer. In a theoretical part of the colloquium the influence of the *Fat Pipe Effect* was presented: the product of transmission rate and signal time (transmitter–receiver–transmitter) can not be increased at will with most protocols with automatic request (ARQ). This effect will become apparent also on intercontinental glass fibre links with digital multiplex installations. Laboratory test results with a delay line over a 2-Mbit/s channel were shown. Comparisons of transmission rates, time and protocol parameters (block length, window size, mainly with TCT/IP protocols) are set down in a report of a COST program study (European Cooperation in the Field of Scientific and Technical Research). For demonstration, data was exchanged between two workstations via a satellite link with 2-Mbit/s channels.