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News Items

Telephone

The Olten office of the Telecom PTT will be setting up and operating the *system for the mobilization by telephone* (SMT 750) in the Bernese region of Oberaargau from the spring of 1994 for alerting and mobilizing staff and teams in cases of fire and catastrophe. The alert will be activated by the Cantonal Police, Berne. Apart from alerting the national services, the capacity of the SMT 750 also enables other requirements to be met (operations staff of the municipality, civil defence organizations, etc.).

Recently a *satellite connection* was put into operation with 30 speech circuits, for the present, between Basle and Sarajevo (Bosnia). A mobile ground station of the Swiss Telecom PTT serves as the counter station. The telephone traffic will be handled via the 'Eutelsat II F-4' satellite. The connections contribute towards easing the present communication bottleneck between Switzerland and former Yugoslavia.

Teleinformatics

On the basis of an evaluation process, the Telecom PTT decided to use *Siemens-Albis AG* as the *supplier of equipment for the ATM pilot network*. The installations will be delivered end of February 1994, and the pilot phase will begin end of April 1994. Selected pilot users (research institutes, universities, RACE, arranged network, etc.) will be offered permanent or semipermanent ATM Virtual Path Connections from the middle of 1994 onwards. Connections will also be possible to practically all Western European network operators within the frame of the European ATM pilot networks.

Radio, Television, Radiocommunications

The following permanent radio relay connections were put into operation: The *Choulex-Mont-Salève (F)*, *Hitzkirch-Herlisberg*, *Lucerne-Rigi*, *Moudon-Mont-Pélerin* and *Montmagny-St-Aubin* connections with a transmission capacity of 4x2 Mbit/s each for the feeding of

Natel-C base stations; the *Fribourg/Cordast-Schiffenen* (4x2 Mbit/s) connection for a lease line. Furthermore, the *Rüttenen-Engwilen mobile Natel base station* (2 Mbit/s) temporary radio relay connection will be set up for operation by the end of 1993.

New transmission installations were put into operation for the *Swiss Telegpage* local call service in *Kaiserstuhl (Germany)* and *Brünnen ZH*.

So far the new *diagnosis and control system for radiocom stations (DISTRA)* was installed and put into operation on the following ten locations: *Feschel*, *St. Chrischona*, *Pizzo Matro*, *Höhronen*, *La Dôle*, *San Salvatore*, *Niederhorn*, *Ravoire*, *Geissberg* and *Le Gibloux*. The system is manufactured by *Mandozzi Elettronica SA* (Ponte Capriasca TI) and installed by *Micatel Kommunikations AG* (Berne) under the direction of the Telecom PTT.

40 years ago, on 20 July 1953, the first Swiss television program was transmitted via the *Uetliberg station*. The regular broadcasting service was officially put into operation on 23 November of the same year. The first transmission tower was 55 m high. The present tower measures 187 m.

Miscellaneous

A transit agreement was made with AT&T at the beginning of August for the connection of the *TAT-10 ocean cable* in the Atlantic and the *TPC-4* in the Pacific Ocean across the USA for three 2 Mbit/s systems for a period of 15 years.

The *international Roaming by the Natel D GSM* is enjoying a very large increase in demand. Since April the number of foreign connections made on the Swiss GSM network have tripled. In July/August the new Roaming connections were put into operation with six further foreign GSM operators. At present the Roaming is in operation with 17 operators in ten European countries. Already Roaming negotiations are in progress with countries outside Europe (Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore, United Arab Emirates).

The *line file information system (ISLK)* is ready for introduction after the conclu-

sion of the general tests. The functions of the application have proved good. At present the answer-time reaction of the system is still being improved.

The *TIFA Project* has been completed. With the TIFA system, the Telecom PTT is making available an invoicing and information system in the area of teleinformatics which is adapted to the present requirements of clients and collaborators. The following services will be processed in the system: lease lines, Telegpac, telex, SAM+, arCom 400, the telegram service, transfer media and Megacom/video conference. Furthermore, the directory for telex subscribers will be edited via TIFA, and the system serves as a basis for various evaluations and information. TIFA is a high-capacity system where, over two months, almost 20 million traffic records can be processed and about 35 000 invoices having a total amount of approximately 80 million francs can be drawn up. The total number of subscriber entries included in TIFA amounts to 55 000. The system will be charged with about 500 000 transactions monthly. This means that basically also after termination of the project changes and extensions are possible. Within a month (!) new services can be integrated according to standard, and relatively quick specific developments are possible for the automatic processing of new traffic data within the framework of the existing structure.

In the competition for an international GATT contest, the Telecom PTT received from the Federal Administration in the service area Swiss MAN, 'Metropolitan Area Network, DQDB', the commission for setting up and operating the *future communications network of the Federal Administration, KOMBVKI*. Within the Berne region, the federal offices will be connected together by autumn 1994 with about 30 MAN nodes over 140-Mbit/s broad-band connections. The MAN installations will be supplied and installed by the *Alcatel STR* in Zurich, who will also take care of second- and third-degree maintenance. The Federal Administration will thus have at its disposal one of the largest regional MAN networks within Europe for the connection of telecommunications exchanges (TVA) and local networks (LAN). The MAN network administration will be incorporated into the lease line control center.