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News Items

Telephone

17 permanent base stations and a temporary one were put into operation for *Natel C*, as well as 25 base stations for *Natel D GSM*. A further national highway tunnel was equipped for *Natel C*.

Teleinformatics

47 leaselines were set up by the leaseline control center (LCC), three of which with overseas, as well as two international leaseline bearers.

The PC communications software for arCom 400/mailbox subscribers, *PCPost*, has been updated. The new version is called Y1.16E and mainly comprises changes in the data transfer (new is the Zmodem protocol). New subscribers of arCom 400/mailbox get the new version as of now. Present subscribers can order the update by writing for Sfr. 110.—.

Radio, Television, Radiocommunications

The following permanent microwave radio links were put into operation: Balsthal–Herzogenbuchsee in the district network (transmission capacity $3 \times \text{STM-1}$) and for the feeding of *Natel* base stations Magden base station–Magden transit center ($4 \times 2 \text{ Mbit/s}$) and Gempenach–Stockern ($4 \times 2 \text{ Mbit/s}$).

The following satellite links were set up in the *Intelsat* network: two voice circuits of the FDMA (Frequency Division Multiple Access) type with *Oman*, four voice circuits of the SSTDMA (Satellite Switching Time Division Multiple Access) type with *South Africa* and one SSTDMA voice circuit with the *United Arab Emirates*, three data links of the IDR (Intermediate Data Rate) type with *Hong Kong* and one IBS (Intelsat Business Services) data link with *Argentina*. In the *Eutelsat* network 30 SSTDMA

voice circuits were connected with *Poland*.

A new FM transposer was put into operation in *Wyssachen* for the DRS 1, DRS 2 and DRS 3 programs. Furthermore three new FM broadcasting transmitters were provisionally set up on the *Charmey* station. They supply the region from *Charmey* to *La Valsainte* on the 92.8-MHz (RSR 1), 98.1-MHz (RSR 2) and 103.8-MHz (RSR 3) frequencies. In addition, the FM filler stations *Zernez* (DRS 1, DRS 2, DRS 3, DRS R in stereo with radio data system RDS) and *Diavolezza* (RSI 1, DRS 1 on Mono with RDS) were recently put into operation.

A new long-wave radio station for the transmission of frequency and time signals as well as for the radio paging service *VIP-line* was put into operation in *Prangins*. The new fully transistorized 40-kW station replaces the two old installations which were set up in 1966 for the then newly created radio communications service branch.

Further Data Acquisition and Quality Supervision (DAQS) installations and RSM-B (microprocessor controlled monitoring interfaces) were installed for the quality monitoring of microwave radio links. Thus 23 DAQS installations with remote polling possibilities of the registered data as well as 48 RSM-B installations for the reporting of quality troubles via the operation and management system BFS-RA were set up. There is now a total of 80 DAQS on 67 stations — and 48 RSM-B installations on a further 39 stations in operation.

The town of *Martina* was equipped with a transmitter station for *Telepage Swiss*.

Recently the *Geissberg* multipurpose installation was reopened. The expansion of the existing installations dating from 1964 was already planned in 1988. The permit procedure took some time. The 145 meter high tower belongs to the *Geissberg* community of interest which

was founded in 1964 with the erection of the first station. Participating in the group are the Aargau Cantonal Police, the Consolidated Power Companies of Northeastern Switzerland (NOK), the Aargau Power Station (AEW) and, since 1988, the PTT.

Miscellaneous

A Swiss PTT Telecom public payphone booth (Publifon) on the German soil of the *Thayngen* customs office is attracting attention. For three months now Yugoslavian citizens have not been able to telephone to their former home any more from Germany. Since then the refugees and asylum applicants have been queuing in front of the Swiss telephone booth. Even the «*Südwestfunk*» radio station devoted time to this situation and reported waiting times of up to 10 hours. An application for further telephone booths there is presently being examined by the responsible customs authorities.

Since many people do not find jobs after finishing their training, the department for industry, commerce and employment of the *Grison* Canton have organized various trainings in cooperation with the *Grison* commerce. In view of the unemployment of youth, the Telecom office in *Chur* took on four trainees who will be employed during the six-month training mainly in the area of informatics.

Recently the telecommunications laboratory of the *Freiburg* school of engineering was opened. It was set up with financial and technical help from the PTT Telecom as was that of *Chur*. It serves on the one hand for the training of engineers in the field of telecommunications and on the other hand it is at the disposal of PTT Telecom within the framework of the technical school for telecommunications, the post graduate course for informatics and telecommunication as well as for further training projects.