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News Items

Telephone

The *Binntal Hut was linked up to the telephone network with a permanent Natel C installation,* for the first time in connection with a Telcastar Payphone.

A special series of the new Tritel Zermatt telephones was distributed in Zermatt with a Matterhorn Logo.

The 3,000,000th subscriber Line for the integrated telecommunications system (IFS) was ordered in March. 50 % of the lines in operation are now IFS connections.

The *first synchronous line equipment SLA-4/16 from Siemens-Albis is in operation.* It replaces the plesiochronous line equipment LA-565-Fs (also from Siemens-Albis). The new equipment is used exclusively on glass fiber installations and has a transmission capacity of 622 Mbit/s or 2.5 Gbit/s, respectively, which corresponds to approximately 7500 or 30,000 telephone connections. It is mainly used on the long distance level to make the necessary transmission infrastructure for the telephone network 2000 available but also as arteries for the planned synchronous digital network Sydinet.

The electronic directory project is approaching its conclusion. The version 3.0 of the information part has worked productively since January 1994. The user training is completed in all Telecom offices. The system specialists are working on the improvement of the response times.

Five Natel C and five Natel D-GSM base stations were put into operation. The base station controller 7 (BSC) Chur—Gäuggeli was put into operation for Natel D GSM.

Teleinformatics

For a short time now *new telex rates have been in force.* The monthly connection rate was increased from Sfr 50.— to Sfr 60.—. The period for which a rate of 10 cents is charged was shortened from 3 to 2.5 s for traffic with the *USA, Canada* and the *Middle East* and from 1.58 to 1.4 s for traffic with other overseas countries. On the other hand for traffic with the Inmarsat mobile stations it was extended from 0.705 to 1 s.

The *Berne telegram traffic is diverted to the telegraph office in Zurich* during the night from 22.00 to 06.30 since 1 March. Thus cost for night duty in Berne can be saved.

32 lease lines were put into operation in January by the leaseline control center (LCC), six of which with overseas as well as two international leaseline bearers. From the TAT-6 and TAT-7 transatlantic cables which will be put out of operation, all analogue leaselines have been transferred to other digital cables.

Radio, Television, Radiocommunications

The following permanent microwave radio links were put into operation in the district network: Iseltwald—Oberried (transmission capacity 34 Mbit/s), Verbier—Vollèges (140 Mbit/s), Grindelwald—Jungfraujoch (1 × STM-1). For the *feeding of Natel base stations* the permanent connections Rietheim—Zurzach/TZ (4 × 2 Mbit/s), Densbüren—Frick/MZA (4 × 2 Mbit/s) were put into operation in the same way as were the following temporary connections which stay in operation until March or the end of 1995, respectively: Chasseral/MZA—Pieterlen (4 × 2 Mbit/s), Chasseral/MZA—Moron—Sonceboz (4 × 2 Mbit/s).

The *following satellite links were set up in the Intelsat network:* one data connection of the SSTDMA type (Satellite Switching Time Division Multiple Access) with India, one data connection of the IDR type (Intermediate Data Rate) with Vietnam and one voice circuit of the FDMA type (Frequency Division Multiple Access) with Jordan.

Four FM transmitters were put into operation at the Zernez station. They supply the Zernez region to Brail as well as the route from Tarasp to Susch and the Ofen Pass route with the DRS 1 (89.7 MHz), DRS 2 (99.4 MHz), DRS 3 (104.8 MHz) as well as DRS R (95.9 MHz) programmes in stereo. The Diavolezza station supplies the route between Morteratsch and the Bernina Pass summit since the 20 January with DRS 1 (88.6 MHz) and RSI 1 (92.6 MHz) in mono.

Miscellaneous

During the Olympic Winter Games a 2 Mbit/s connection was set up between Lillehammer and Zurich for the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation SRG for the provision of all audio lines. The SRG is the only member of the European Broadcasting Union EBU having the need for such a wide audio path because of the three television and four radio studios in the four language regions of Switzerland. These seven studios were served from the SRG Zurich. In addition to the existing satellite channels in Geneva and Lugano, a further one at each location was made available for the video transmission. In order to provide the inland video connections, the capacity of the existing radio relay network had to be increased. Furthermore three temporary coordination audio lines were operated with Lillehammer for the EBU in Geneva.

The CENELEC meeting of the WG3 working group of the TC 110 technical committee took place in Berne. It drew up a standard on the effects of railways and high voltage lines on information technology equipment with regard to personal and property protection. The standards draft has been sent to the national committees for the public enquiry.