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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 *Sy-dinet*.

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-Jungfraujoeh* (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.