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News Items

Telephone

A new team alarm system SMT-750 was officially put into operation in Lucerne and handed over to the customer (House Insurance of the canton of Lucerne). At present there are 3800 SMT subscribers connected to this system. The installation can be expanded to up to 10 000 SMT subscriber lines.

Siemens-Albis AG have delivered their ATM network nodes for the *ATM pilot network to the PTT Telecom*. First tests within the framework of the European ATM pilot operation were carried out with the German Bundespost Telekom. The network nodes in Zurich and Cologne will be linked via SDH-155-Mbit/s lines.

Teleinformatics

50 leaselines were put into operation by the leaseline control center (MLKZ), four of which with overseas, four with international and three with national leaseline bearers. In addition, an international 8-Mbit/s block Amsterdam—Zurich was set up for UBN (Unisource Business Networks).

The Federal Office for Communications (Bakom) has recently taken charge of the registration of X.400 addresses. Up till a short time ago this task was looked after by Telecom PTT.

CompuServe was connected to the Uniplus arCom 400 in May as a further important X.400 E-Mail service supplier (Administrative Management Domain, ADMD). This American supplier is the world's largest E-Mail and bulletin board service with 1.7 million users. Uniplus arCom 400 and CompuServe users can exchange messages on the basis of X.400. At present 107 ADMDs are connected to Uniplus arCom 400.

Telex traffic was opened up between Switzerland and the Inmarsat-B stations in the Indian Ocean and Pacific regions. Connections in the new Inmarsat-B System are direct and allow a dialogue. The traffic will shortly be opened up in the Atlantic regions (east and west), too.

Radio, Television, Radiocommunications

The Däniken—Lostorf fixed microwave radio link with a transmission capacity of 140 Mbit/s was put into operation. Furthermore, the first SDH (Synchronous Digital Hierarchy) telecommunications link Bern-Ittigen—Lucerne-Weinbergli was put into operation. The microwave radio link from Siemens, which is intended for a final extension to $(6+2) \times 155$ Mbit/s, runs via the relay stations of Ulmizberg, Froburg and Rigi. The new generation of equipment allows mainly a doubling of the transmission channels in the corresponding frequency band. This equipment has a monitoring system which allows the operation personnel a remote polling of the quality data and, if necessary, an error diagnosis. The installations are already prepared for the connection to a future network management system.

The Engwilen—Reuteren (42 Mbit/s), Sils i. D.—Thusis (42 Mbit/s), L'Auberson—Ste-Croix (162 Mbit/s) and Osterfingen—Schaffhausen (162 Mbit/s) links have been put into operation for the feeding of Natel base stations.

The Jungfraujoch—Eggishorn, Eggishorn—Gebidem and Gebidem—Feschel microwave radio links for the feeding of the television transmitters in the region of Oberwallis (Valais) were put into operation for the SPplus television programme.

The following satellite links were put into operation in the Intelsat Network: one connection of the SSTDMA (Satellite Switching Time Division Multiple Access) type with Singapore, three voice circuits of the SCPC (Single Carrier Per Channel) type with Ethiopia, as well as one voice circuit of the FDMA (Frequency Division Multiple Access) type with Gabon.

The new television transposer in Schärlig was put into operation. It supplies the Schärliggraben with the SF DRS (Channel 28), TSR (Channel 48) and TSI (Channel 58) programmes.

The Swiss Radio and Television Broadcasting Company (SRG) will begin broadcasting television programmes in PALplus on the 1994 Fera exhibition. PALplus initiates the transition to the

wide-screen format 16:9. In order to take advantage of PALplus, the viewer needs a suitable receiver. Conventional receivers with a screen format of 4:3 show the PALplus programmes with black bars at the top and the bottom of the screen. In order to examine the suitability of the transmission equipment of Telecom PTT, test broadcasts were transmitted in April during the programme-free night hours. First evaluations of the measurements carried out in the Bern area as well as in Valais confirm tests made abroad, whereby broadcasting stations, transposers, radio links and cable installations are suitable also for PALplus without further modifications.

The towns of L'Auberson, St. Niklaus, Birsfelden as well as Basel Airport were recently set up with one transmitter each for Telepage Swiss.

The construction of the new multipurpose radio station was begun at Appenzell.

The Melide-Grancia tunnel radio equipment with three radio channels for radio service of the canton of Ticino for Natel B and the RSI 1 FM programme 'Rete 1' was put into operation.

The St-Maurice tunnel and the gallery of Arzilier are now supplied with FM broadcasting at 94 MHz.

Miscellaneous

The ITU-R Study Commission 4 for permanent satellite service met in Geneva. Participating at the meeting were 75 delegates from 48 administrations and admitted organizations. A 1½-day meeting took place before the conference began to set up a new working group, 'Task Group 4/5', and a joint meeting of the commissions 4 and 9 was held. The main task of the commission 4 was to present modified and new recommendations for approval. In addition, the work programmes until the next ITU radio conference at the end of 1995 were discussed.