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# News Items

## Telephone

The last 7A exchange was put out of action in Basel-St. Johann. With it a superior technology from the pioneer days of the automatic telephone has disappeared from the PTT Telecom network. The automation of the Swiss telephone network began in Zurich in the year 1922 with this system. It was modernized in the late 70's and equipped with computer control. Because of this the system will take a special place in the history of telephony.

Three Natel C as well as 19 Natel D GSM base stations were put into operation.

The software stage 60 was introduced in the Zurich-Herdern Natel C exchange (MTX 5).

## Teleinformatics

24 leaselines were set up by the leaseline control center (LCC), three of which with overseas.

Recently the connection speeds of 128 or 256 kbit/s, respectively, have been made available in the congested areas for Uniplus arCom 400. The customer is being offered a choice of either V.35 or G.703 as interface. These transmission speeds are not only available for the X.25 but also for the SNA/SDLC protocol.

## Radio, Television, Radiocommunications

The following permanent microwave radio links were set up: one SDH toll network connection (Synchronous Digital Hierarchy) Bern-Mattenhof-Lucerne-Sonnematt STM-1/4-6.8 Ghz (4+2) for the transmission of a choice of 4xSTM-1 (155 Mbit/s) or PDH 4x140 Mbit/s, furthermore the link Bönigen-Interlaken for the feeding of Natel base stations with a transmission capacity of 4x2 Mbit/s.

The following satellite links were put into operation in the Intelsat network: 19 connections of the SSTDMA type (Satellite Switching Time Division Multiple Access) with Hong Kong and South Korea as well as six speech circuits of the FDMA type (Frequency Division Multiple Access) with Uruguay. In addition one satellite connection of 64 kbit/s was set up with French Guyana (Montsinéry). It supplies the short wave station recently put into operation in Montsinéry which transmits the Swiss Radio International (SRI) programme.

Small microwave radio links for television signals were put into operation from Feldis to Lohn and Ruschein as well as from Ruschein to Morissen, Disentis and Sedrun for the S Plus programme.

The town of Koppigen was made accessible with a transmitter for Telepage Swiss.

## Miscellaneous

A Tape Roboter was installed in the Villars-sur-Glâne operations center. All tapes for the Terco 2.1 production system were provided with bar codes for the inclusion in the mechanical process and the completely automated administration. The control programme was set up, tested and put into operation step-by-step. Over 3500 tapes of various types, that is a data capacity of about 8000 Gbytes, are at present automatically managed with the roboter. Thus not only a real operating cost saving has been achieved but also the speed and reliability of the access to the data supply can be increased.

The agreement on the European Radio Message System, *Ermes*, has been signed by 31 operators in 19 countries to date and more will follow. Some of which, among them also the Swiss Telecom PTT, are occupied with the evaluation of test systems. The first commercial operation is expected to be set up towards the end of this year by three signatories in France. Various practical tests in Finland, Sweden and Great Britain show that disturbances of other services will not occur even in the most unfavourable case.