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News Items

Miscellaneous

Access to the worldwide Internet network is now being offered as an extension of the Unisource portfolio. Like all other Unisource services, Uniplus Internet is marketed in Switzerland exclusively via Swiss Telecom PTT.

The use of *new line amplifiers with remote power supply in cable networks* no longer requires a special permit from Telecom PTT. Installations must be registered with and approved by the appropriate electricity board, which functions as the controlling agent. The procedure is based on the regulations for low voltage installations (the NIV). Controlling agent is the Federal Heavy Current Inspectorate (the ESTI). However, a separate manufacturer's certificate or test report guaranteeing the appropriate performance is required for all parts used (feeder multiplexers, cable plugs, coaxial cables, etc.). Personal safety and material protection must be guaranteed during installation work. Regulations contained in the Electricity Law and the corresponding stipulations regarding high current, low current, and low-voltage installations must be complied with. It is still necessary to register with Telecom PTT before starting up or making any changes in transmission equipment, as required by the Radio and Television Regulations (Art. 66 and Art. 67 RTVV).

For more than four years now *the Telecom Informatics Service Centre has been operating the Infnet computer network for requirements within the PTT itself.* Infnet is very widely used and around 30,000 computer installations coming from diverse manufacturers are connected to it (workstations, server units, computing centres). They can communicate with one another using various communication protocols. The computer operations centres in Villars-sur-Glâne (FR), Meggen (LU), Ostermundigen (BE) and the large Telecom Directorate in Zurich are becoming more and more important as the site of platforms and domestic regional servers. The topology of the Infnet WAN network, which up to now was focused on Berne, has been converted. With the new topology, these four important centres have been grouped together into one new intermeshed, efficient WAN-backbone-square, to which the regional postal and telecom directorates are redundantly connected.

The *RES (Radio Equipment and Systems) Technical Committee* of ETSI (European Telecommunications Standards Institute) met in Istanbul. The meeting was attended by more than 65 delegates representing administrations, operators and users. Amongst other things the committee approved 15 drafts for cordless communication standards for public opinion-polling by ETSI. The BIIS 1200 (European Binary System for mobile radio communication in rural areas) was changed into an ETS (European Technical Standard) and guidelines for future EMC (electromagnetic compatibility) policy were determined. This has a particular bearing on the spectrum utilization parameters of radio communication installations which are to be integrated into future EMC standards.

The first meeting of the ETSI STC TM4 Working Group on Conformance Testing took place in London. The working group, which consists of 19 members, devised a new conformance test with regard to technology and formalities in the spheres of fixed radio communication links, radio relay systems, etc. All future ETS (European Technical Standards) in these spheres will be based on this test. Various parameters and measuring methods were redefined.

Radio, Television, Radiocommunications

An IDR (Intermediate Data Rate) connection with Cuba was set up via the *Intelsat satellite at 325.5° East* (Atlantic Ocean). Via the *satellite at 335.5° East* nine more SSTDMA (Satellite Switching Time Division Multiple Access) speech circuits were set up with South Africa.

The following fixed microwave radio links recently went into operation *in regional networks*: Interlaken–Beatenberg with a transmission capacity of 34 Mbit/s; Saas Plattjen–Visp with a transmission capacity of 140 Mbit/s; Ayer–Granges with a transmission capacity of 140 Mbit/s. These 140 Mbit/s connections can be configured either for STM-1 or PDH 140 mBit/s as desired.

The following new transmitters and transposers for broadcasting Switzerland 4 television programmes went into operation: On the Säntis a new transmitter supplies North-East Switzerland on channel 69 (Zurich–Schaffhausen–St. Gallen–Appenzell); the new Wyssachen transposer on channel 47 supplies the area of Dürrenbüel, Wyssachen, Schwarzenbach and Dürrenroth, and the new Feschel transmitter on channel 41 supplies the area of Granges, Montana, Siders, Turtmann, Visp and Brigue.

Within the framework of regional cooperation in the Geneva area a fixed microwave radio link between the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation studio in Geneva and Mt-Rond went into operation for the *exchange of TSR and FR3 television programmes.*

In March *Radio Paging Network II* (security services) went into operation in the following regions: Winterthur–Zurich with nine base stations; Zurich–Linthebene with seven base stations; Vaud with one base station.

Telephone

In the Geneva area the *code 059 went into operation for border traffic with France.* Until April 1996 it will be valid together with the previous number 023, which it will then replace. As part of the plans for Network 2000, the code 023 will later be required for a different area.

An *operating trial with the new TeleBox (voice mailbox) service* has started up in the 042 area network.

The Mobilcom-Center East in Chur was recently officially opened. It now deals with all Natel-D-GSM subscribers in the Eastern Switzerland region.