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News Items

Telephone

New Natel-C base stations were put into operation in Bellinzona, Croy, Giubiasco, Pratteln, Schleitheim, St-Ursanne, Vira and Zwingen. New base stations for *Natel D GSM* became operative at the following locations: Aesch, Affoltern am Albis, Beromünster, Birmensdorf, Bivio, Bonstetten, Bremgarten, Broc, Chat-Sura, Diemtigen, Giubiasco, Göschenen, Grancia Tunnel, Grandson, Grellingen, Gubrist Tunnel East, Hinterkappelen, Intschi Tunnel, Küblis, Le Day, Malix, Malters, Mettmenstetten, Mon, Monte Ceneri Tunnel, Ofen Pass, Ova Spin, Piottino Tunnel, Piumogna Tunnel, Pfungen, Ramsen, Reussport Tunnel, Rotkreuz, Ruschein, San Bernardino Tunnel, Schin, Seelisberg Hattig, Seelisberg Hutteg, Sierre, Sonnenberg Tunnel, Stein am Rhein, Thalheim Altikon, Unterägeri, Vira, Zernez, Zurich Milchbuck and Zwingen.

Teleinformatics

An AXE-10 exchange from Ascom/Ericsson was installed at the telecommunications building in Zurich-Binz for *Swiss Telecom PTT's FlexNet service.* This service switching point (SSP) is the first application of the Intelligent Network (IN) in Swiss Telecom PTT's network. After a project period of only six months, on 1 April the service could be made available to the first customers for virtual private networks (VPN).

Radio, Television, Radiocommunications

In the Intelsat network an intermediate data rate (IDR) link with Argentina was set up via the satellite at 325.5° East (Atlantic Ocean). A link of the same type was set up with Indonesia via the satellite at 60° East (Indian Ocean).

The following microwave links became operative: in the regional network Homberg–Schwarzenegg with a transmission capacity of 34 Mbit/s, Buchs–Chur (140 Mbit/s) and St. Moritz–Stampa (140 Mbit/s). The two 140 Mbit/s links can be configured STM-1 or PDH 140 Mbit/s as desired; for the feeding of the Natel base stations Roggwil Silo-Melchnau (4×2 Mbit/s) and St. Chrischona–Hemmiken (4×2 Mbit/s); as secondary route links Bülach/Schützenmattstrasse–Lägeren-Hochwacht (16×2 Mbit/s) and Zurich-Binz–Lägeren-Hochwacht (16×2 Mbit/s) as well as the two DSH trunk network links Basle/Wallgasse–Geneva/Monthoux, STM-1/4 GHz (1+1), and Basle/Grosspeter–Geneva/Montbrillant, STM-1/4-6,8 GHz (1+1). The latter can be configured STM-1 or PDH 140 Mbit/s as desired.

The *TSR television programme* is now being broadcast on channel 23 by the La Forclaz/VD converter. The converter supplies the Ormont-Dessous area.

For the distribution of programmes via community antenna feeders (GAZ) AM-distributors at the Froburg multi-purpose station were replaced by a new, modern microwave radio distribution system, which ensures increased security of operation and availability. This AM-distributor supplies 16 head stations with the GAZ range via microwave radio.

The Berne–Fribourg–North-West Switzerland trunking radio network recently went into operation.

The new base station at Hemmiken in the Basle telecom directorate area has improved Network I and II coverage between Rheinfelden and Gelterkinden for the *Telepage Swiss radio communication service.*

For Network II (security services) eight base stations in the Zurich telecom directorate area were also put into operation.

Miscellaneous

Representatives from telecom administrations in Germany, France and Switzerland met in Berne to discuss the coordination of GSM-frequencies (Natel D). Based on the agreement reached in 1994, a special agreement was to be worked out for the regulation of direct frequency-planning arrangements amongst the operators of public cellular mobile radio networks. Planning arrangements allow operators to make optimum use of their assigned frequencies in the border areas of the countries concerned. The agreement signed at the last conference in Berne enters into force on 1 November 1995 and regulates the 890–915 MHz and 935–960 MHz GSM frequency ranges.

The 13th Meeting of the European Radio Committee (ERC) of CEPT took place in Bonn. One decision and four recommendations were approved. In addition, the ERC's procedure for drawing up and altering decisions was revised. Plans for the T-DAB Conference to be held in July 1995 were further discussed and advanced. The results of the detailed spectrum investigation (DSI) Phases I and II (3400 MHz–105 GHz and 19.7–906 MHz respectively) were announced. Phase III (960–3400 MHz) is to be newly initialed towards the end of the decade. The ERC was given the opportunity to put forward a proposal for the planned expansion of the scope of the EU Telecommunications Terminal Directive. Endeavours were begun to settle the differences between the ERC and ETSI/Cenelec regarding the application of spectrum management and EMC parameters for EMC standards. Principles for increasing the efficiency of the ERC were approved. As far as possible, the tasks of the CEPT Liaison Office in Berne pertaining to the ERC are to be transfered to the European Radio Communications Office (ERO).

A special exhibition 'Telephone Communication – All Ears' is being held at the PTT Museum in Berne; the exhibition lasts until 3 September. It shows the possibilities, problems and limitations of voice communication across great distances. Historical, social and current aspects of telephone communicaton are covered in a playful manner. The inclusion of state-of-the-art applications of voice transmission gives visitors an idea of future developments and offers them many audio experiences.

The first digital exchanges were recently adapted to the new ABS 7 soft-

ware – a process which required extensive preparatory work. With this new software, customers (either conventionally connected or via Swissnet) can be offered new functions such as indication of a waiting call during a current conversation or automatic callback if the called subscriber is occupied. Other functions available are «Intelligent Network» and Centrex (functions from subscriber switching equipment at the PTT exchange).

A working group has completely revised the *specifications for the supply of optical connectors* for Telecom PTT networks. The new edition (PTT 840.58.01 dt 01.95) has been prepared on the basis of the I-ETS draft and is entitled «Design specifications for optical fibre connectors FC/PC». At the same time the corresponding PTT drawings were also revised. Testing procedures have thus been adapted to international standards. The compatibility of standard connectors was also defined and documented.

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