

Summaries and notices

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Optical Connectors

R. Novák, Berne

Since some time glass fibre has received increasing interest as transmission medium for optical communications due to its wide bandwidth, small space requirement, flexibility and some other advantages. Optical connectors are the most important parts for transmission. The requirements and specifications are stated in this paper as well as the principle of construction. Loss mechanisms are explained through formulas and diagrams and measurement methods are also outlined. The experience gained at the PTT is reported at the end.

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Training of the PTT Technical Personnel in the Design and Use of Microcomputers

A. Gachet and F. Moser, Berne

Systematic training of the PTT personnel is required to accomplish the present and future tasks. The Swiss PTT encourages continuing education of its personnel by supporting well-directed individual study programmes and offering appropriate training courses for various operational requirements. At present the main effort lies in the application of microcomputers in teleinformatics. This report discusses specially the hardware and software aspects of microcomputer training.

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Possibilities and Limitations of the AM and FM Optical Fibre Transmission of TV Programmes

R. Welter, Hp. Berger, G. Guekos, A. Dill, A. Sollberger, H. Melchior, Zurich, and W. Steffen, Berne

The previous article stated the basis of analogue transmission. This article provides detailed experimental results and factors which are limiting the system behaviour. It shows the measurement of distances over which analogue modulation of TV and sound signals can be transmitted at stringent quality criteria. Due to linear transmitter (laser diode) characteristic, sensitive receiver and an almost perfect splicing technique it is possible to transmit 4 TV and 6 FM sound

programmes simultaneously on one optical fibre over 1 km or 1 TV programme over 4 km. With a fibre attenuation of

3.5 dB/km a video signal of a 40 dB signal-to-noise ratio and less than -67 dB distortion can be realized.

News Items

Telephone

Compared to the previous year the number of subscribers on the **3-month-plus waiting list** increased by 985 to 5496 in 1981.

The **Swiss national telephone network** maintained 103 976 (+5881) inter-office circuits, 74 052 (+1227) junction circuits and 44 875 (+1463) trunk circuits at the end of last year.

Switzerland's **outgoing international calls** amounted to 99 pc of chargeable minutes for subscriber dialled calls. 99.9 pc subscriber lines had access to ISD facilities during 1981.

In the **European telephone network** 12 additional circuits with R2 signalling system have been included between Berne and Dusseldorf. In February, **overseas telephone traffic** increased by 41 cable and satellite circuits. 29 overseas countries are reached over Leuk earth station.

Teleinformatics

The **Intelpost** (International Electronic Post) trial service which started at the beginning of last year between Switzerland and Canada will be terminated at the latest by the end of this year due to lack of demand. In this service texts, sketches and drawings are transmitted between post offices.

On 3 February the Swiss Federal government gave permission to conduct **videotex** operational trials. The final deci-

sion is expected in 1985 for the regular introduction of this PTT service.

Radio, Television

The Swiss Federal government consented to the request of the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation for a **3rd VHF/FM programme** in the **French speaking region**. This time-limited trial will last till the end of February 1985 and shall not prejudice the final version of the constitutional law.

The Radio-Suisse Ltd has introduced **«Vip-Line»**, an **European radio-paging** service. The signal can be received over a 1000-2000 km distance.

The PTT inspected 755 (1980: 1070) **outdoor antennas** which were erected by the certified installers. 119 (222) or 16 pc (21 pc) of them were recalled.

At the end of 1981, 900 000 subscribers were connected to the **licensed CATV** systems.

Miscellaneous

The volume of **PTT business** last year increased by 4.1 pc (3 pc in the postal service and 5 pc in telecommunications). Due to increased demand of the services the **PTT's 1981 accounts** closed with a profit of 333 million francs, of which 200 million francs will be turned over to the Federal treasury and the rest will be kept in reserve.

135 (57.4 pc) out of 235 candidates have passed the **certified examination for proficiency in electrical installation** in 1981.