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The First Swiss PCM Systems in Operation

M. Grimm, Lucerne

Since July 1970, 4 PCM systems with 30 channels each have been in operation between Lucerne and Sarnen. Supplied by Hasler Ltd, they are the first complete units manufactured in Switzerland. The author describes the terminal and line equipment, outlines the structure of the Lucerne-Sarnen cable section and reports on acceptance tests, operating experience and supplementary work to be performed on the plant.

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The 50/12 Line Concentrator in the Swiss Telex System

R. Schenk, Berne

The new-generation telex line concentrator 50/12, which concentrates 50 subscribers on 12 telegraph channels, is equipped with fast switching ESK relays, a central electronic control and a time-division multiplex system, all combined into a space-saving unit. The author outlines its principal functions, the establishment of a connection, and the working of the time-division multiplex system, which allows the 12 telegraph channels to be transmitted over a single 4-wire telephone line.

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Heating, Ventilating and Air-Conditioning Facilities in the Telecommunication Centre of St. Gall-Lachen

R. Tresch, Berne

When planning telecommunication centres, basic construction problems as well as heating, ventilation and air-conditioning questions have to be solved. This article shows that, in order to ensure that the whole set-up functions satisfactorily, different aspects have to be taken into consideration in planning and installing the heating and air-conditioning plant. In accordance with the importance of the telecommunication centre of St. Gall-Lachen, the most advanced techniques have been employed, such as full air-conditioning of the automatic equipment rooms, explosion-proof air-conditioning plant on the basement floors, air cleaning by means of large-surface filters, progressive air humidification, insulation of refrigerating pipes and control by means of a mimic diagram.

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Planning and Management of the Land Mobile Radio Services at the National Level

H. A. Kieffer, Berne

This article covers the principal management questions of the land mobile service in the 26 to 470 MHz frequency range. The conclusions drawn mainly apply to a small

country with a comparatively high frequency spectrum occupancy and a varied, often difficult topography, as a result of which technical and administrative considerations are closely bound up with each other.

News Items

Postal service

A vending machine for books of postage stamps has been developed jointly by the PTT and the Sodeco company, Geneva. This machine is primarily intended for use at post offices in tourist centres and at unattended post offices. Moreover, a prototype of a new vending machine for single stamps of small denominations providing eight different combinations has been developed. Trials are now being made to find out where it can be used to best advantage.

The Mesolcina railway (Bellinzona-Mesocco) will discontinue its service in spring 1972. Starting 28 May 1972, the PTT passenger service (postal bus service) will take care of passenger, luggage and mail transport on this route.

Telephone service

At the end of 1971 the number of circuits of the Europe-Japan pool was increased to a total of 27 (12 cable and 15 satellite circuits) by the provision of three additional satellite circuits. As the circuits are allocated to the pool members on the basis of traffic volume, the three new links can be brought in by Switzerland, France and the community of the Scandinavian countries.

On 1 January 1972 new rates for calls to Germany, Italy and Austria entered into force, which, on an average, resulted in reductions on calls dialled by the subscribers direct and on long-distance calls via the operator to Italy. For other operator-handled calls partly heavy charge increases have arisen.

The cable traversing the tunnel of the Great St. Bernard shortens the links between subscribers of the network group of Martigny (canton Valais) and those of the telephone district of Aosta (Italy). Therefore, telephone calls between Martigny and Aosta can now be charged for at the rates applying for frontier-district traffic.

At the beginning of 1972 an experimental operation with the first 1000 model 1970 desk telephones will commence in the telephone regions of Basel, Biel and St. Gallen.

The simplified Sodeco coin-box station TE 404 Phonotaxi is being introduced throughout Switzerland.

Telegraph and telex services

The teleprinter networks of the PTT and of the Swiss Federal Railways were united on 15 December 1971. Telex subscribers are thus offered the possibility to dial calls to 100 telex stations of Federal Railway offices throughout Switzerland direct. Calls can be dialled from these telex stations to telex stations inland and abroad.

Radio and television services

In December 1971, 21 new television transposers were placed in service. With the 25 private transposers, the Swiss television network at the end of 1971 comprised 262 stations with 383 transmitters and transposers, of which 262 broadcast the first programme, 98 the second, and 23 the third programme.

In December 1971, 57 applicants attended the examination for operators of the aeronautical radio service, while 11 candidates attended the examination for amateur operators. 42 aeronautical radio operators and 6 amateurs obtained their certificates of proficiency.

Early in December last year a delegation of Swiss PTT officers went to Algiers to discuss the problem of the disturbances of the national transmitter of Bero-münster by the Algerian high-power transmitter Ain Beida. It was agreed that technical experiments should be conducted jointly in January and February 1972 to eliminate the mutual interference.

A meeting of the work group A of UER was held in Brussels. The work group discussed basic problems of future long-wave and medium-wave broadcasting, such as synchronized transmitter networks, use of directional antennas, polarization, day-time and night working, small transmitters and international common frequencies, new modulation systems and planning principles.

A further coordination discussion was held in Berne between representatives of the telecommunication administrations of the Federal Republic of Germany, Austria and Switzerland. It was concerned with the tuning of frequencies and other technical characteristics of FM and television transmitters to be erected in the frontier districts of the three countries.

Miscellaneous

Uniform European measuring methods and standard values for mobile radiotelephone equipment were laid down at the last CEPT meeting in Lisbon. Once they have been approved by the superior authorities of CEPT, this important step towards mutual recognition of type approval tests will simplify the homologation of the equipment in the different CEPT countries.