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# News Items

## Telephone

The first version of the new *electronic telephone directories* was taken over in the productive system as the *first step towards easing the load of the electronic telephone book, ETB*. Previously, a test was carried out with the operator's desk of the Berne telecommunications office, without any problems arising.

The new *Tritel Montreux comfort telephone* has recently been included in the PTT line. As a novelty it offers seven memory cards to set up with 12 memory spaces each for frequently used numbers. In addition, there is an integrated charge meter for two separate accounts.

In order to be able to ensure the telephone connections between *Macedonia and Switzerland*, the Swiss PTT brought a mobile satellite earth station (TES) to *Skopje* and installed it beside the telecom building. The connection with a capacity of  $2 \times 2$  Mbit/s (60 channels) will be linked via the Eutelsat satellite ECS II F-4 and a second mobile station in Leuk. A fixed earth station will be installed later in *Basel-Grosspeter*.

The *twelfth Natel C centre* has been put into operation in *Olten*.

The *Mobile User Part (MUP)* application has been activated between the Aarau, Chur, Lucerne, Olten, St. Gallen and Zurich *Natel C centres*. Thus, it is possible for *Natel C* subscribers who are only temporarily in the supply area of the mentioned centres to receive the same text when logging on and off, as do the subscribers registered there.

*Five further Natel C base stations* were put into operation.

The *TAT-10 glass fibre transatlantic cable* was put into operation. It runs from Northern Germany to Green Hill, USA, has a capacity of  $3 \times 565$  Mbit/s and is approximately 7000 km long. The laying of the transatlantic part lasted only 21

days. The crossing over of the North Sea was more expensive because of the crossing of oil pipelines and due to environmental protection requirements. On this cable, there are  $9 \times 2$  Mbit/s reserved for leaselines for Switzerland.

## Teleinformatics

The first direct dialing video conference took place with Germany via *Megacom*. The network-to-network connection from Megacom to the DFS Copernicus satellite broad-band network of the DBP Telecom is performed by a gateway which was developed in the European EBIT pilot project. Within Germany, the new traffic link partially uses satellite sections already operational between the new German provinces.

17 digital *leaselines* ( $13 \times 64$  kbit/s,  $1 \times 128$  kbit/s,  $2 \times 512$  kbit/s,  $1 \times 1024$  kbit/s) and five analogue leaselines were put into operation via the leaseline control centre.

Recently, six new *software packages for the operation of videotex via PC* were made available at the telecommunications offices with or without internal and external modems, respectively.

## Radio, Television, Radiocommunications

The *RSI 1 radio programme* was put into operation at the *Valzeina* transmission station. A new *FM transmitter for broadcasting the DRS 3 programme* was set up in Sissach. This can be received in stereo on the 102.9 MHz frequency in Gelterkinden, Liestal and Sissach. The DRS 1 and DRS 2 FM programmes will be transmitted as usual on the 95.1 MHz and 90.1 MHz frequencies. All stations transmit the RDS signals. Furthermore, the *Waldshut FM station* was definitely

put into operation. It supplies the Koblenz, Leibstadt and Zurzach region with the DRS 1 programme on the 102.0 MHz frequency.

Three new television transposers were set up on the *Rüeggisberg* station. They supply Helgisried and Rohrbach on the 37 (SF DRS), 44 (TSR) and 47 (TSI) channels.

On the occasion of the opening of the Fera Exhibition, the *2.5 millionth television permit* was celebrated. About 87 % of all households now possess a television receiver permit in Switzerland.

The following *Intelsat satellite links* were newly put into operation: a speech connection of the SSTDMA type (Satellite Switched Time Division Multiple Access) with *Malaysia* ( $60^\circ$  East), a connection of the IDR type (Intermediate Data Rate, 30 carriers at 64 kbit/s or 120 speech circuits) with the *Dominican Republic* ( $335.5^\circ$  East) and three speech connections of the SPC type (Single Carrier Per Channel) with *Malta* ( $335.5^\circ$  East).

Recently, the *Aldorf-Spiringen and Bickigen-Bickigen/Natel C microwave radio links* were put into operation with a transmission capacity of  $4 \times 2$  Mbit/s each for the supply of *Natel C* base stations. Furthermore, the following temporary *links* were set up: *Mörel-Münster* (34 Mbit/s) as a restoration until end of 1994 during cable reconstruction and *Chasseral - Ostermundigen/Technical Centre* ( $4 \times 2$  Mbit/s) as a test connection. The temporary *Cröt-Avers telephony link* was replaced by a definitive installation with a transmission capacity of 8 Mbit/s. In addition, the *Bantiger-Eggiwil* connection ( $4 \times 2$  Mbit/s) was set up as an *FM modulation feeder*.

The following locations were made accessible with one *Citycall B transmitter* each: *Bösingen, Charmey, Estavayer-le-Lac, Grono, Kerzers, Trubschachen, Valley of Joux* and *Zweisimmen*.