

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1979)

Heft: 1757

Rubrik: Swiss events

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SOLAR POWER: SWISS PARTICIPATION IN A PILOT PLANT

Within the framework of the "Small Solar Power Systems Project" of the International Power Agency, some ten countries recently decided to build a 500 kW pilot plant for harnessing solar power at Almeria (Spain). Its construction will involve the solution of various problems of a new kind relating not only to the power-capturing device but mainly to the primary system. In view of its leading position in the field of steam generators for nuclear power stations, the Swiss firm of Sulzer Bros. Co. Ltd., has decided to take part in the construction of this essential part of the solar power station. The focusing chamber, that is to say the part receiving the focused solar rays of the sun, which has to stand up to very high temperatures, will also benefit from the same firm's technological knowhow.

MONITORING AND PROTECTION SYSTEM AGAINST LEAKS IN PIPES

A Swiss firm constructing and cleansing fuel-oil tanks has succeeded, in co-operation with the Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, in developing a new system for the detection of leaks in pipes conveying liquid. Here is a short description of this new system: using a low pressure control tank connected to the tubing, a low pressure is maintained throughout the system of pipes. In the event of a leak, air enters the system and increases the pressure inside the control tank. A switching device immediately closes the valves, and optical and visual alarms are set off. The vacuum pump, simultaneously switched on, prevents the liquid from running out. The system is self-monitoring, that is to say that in the event of a power failure or a fault in the apparatus, all valves automatically close. "Ironvac" therefore constitutes not only an inexpensive solution for avoiding material losses but, more generally, will contribute to the protection of the environment by preventing polluting substances from leaking out.

RECYCLING OF GLASS CONTAINERS: SWISS SOLUTION TO SERVE AS AN EXAMPLE

A press release issued by the leading Swiss firm involved in the recycling of glass containers, Vetropack Co. Ltd., reports that the re-use of old glass in Switzerland totalled 72,624 tonnes during the year 1978. This remarkable figure represents 35 per cent of the total consumption of glass containers (including imported glass) or 11.5 kg per head of the population (+13.8 per cent compared with 1977).

As the recovery of glass is at present being studied by OECD, the Swiss solution will serve as an example for other countries. Visits to Switzerland and meetings at the headquarters of OECD in Paris have been organised through the Federal Office for the Protection of the Environment.

PLANT-BASED BALM FOR SPORTS THERAPY

A Swiss product, known under the name of "Thermolis" has been tried out in various famous sports clubs and obtained excellent results. It is a balm composed of essences of medicinal plants which, by its gradual heating, tonic and perspirant effects, improves the circulation of the blood and favours the warming of the muscles, without any danger of congestion. Its use before and after violent physical exercise has made it possible in particular to reduce considerably the proportion of muscular accidents (strain, pulling) and to eliminate, in the event of too closely repeated efforts, most cases of stiffness. It is moreover recommended for the treatment of sprains, twists and other muscular troubles. The Swiss manufacturer is interested in selling his product abroad.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mr. Stefan Kudelski, President of the Swiss firm Kudelski Co. Ltd., has been awarded by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, at a meeting in Hollywood, an *Oscar for his research and development work* and his contribution to sound recording in the motion picture industry. The firm of Kudelski Co. Ltd. makes the Nagra recorder, known throughout the world for many years now.

ASUAG, General Watchmaking Company Ltd. recently acquired an 85 per cent share in the capital of the *Statek Corporation* (California, USA), which develops and produces quartz crystal resonators.

The *Charmilles Engineering Works Co Ltd.* have signed an agreement under the terms of which they acquire a large financial participation in the American company *Energy Sciences Inc.* (State of Massachusetts). The "Cuénod" division of *Charmilles* has moreover signed a technical and commercial co-operation agreement, in the heating equipment sector, with the "Thermotechnical" division of the German company *Klöckner & Co.*

Sulzer Bros (UK) Ltd have received an order from Air Products Ltd for a nitrogen turbo compressor for an extension to the air separation plant of Air Products S.A. (Pty) Ltd at Vanderbijlpark, South Africa.

Delivery is due in December, 1979.

Sulzer Bros (UK) Ltd are pleased to announce that they have received an order from Davy International for two oxygen compressors for the China National Import Corporation for installation at Taching, China.

The compressors are of the well-known Sulzer oil-free labyrinth piston type, type 2D160-2C, and include electric motors, coolers, pulsation dampeners, inter-connecting piping and instrumentation. They will be used for synthesis of gas in an oxo-alcohol plant.

Delivery is due in May, 1980.

SWISS EVENTS

GENEVA – 3rd WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION EXHIBITION

In connection with the 3rd World Telecommunication Exhibition, which will be held in Geneva from 20th to 26th September, 1979, special group packages are available including scheduled return flight from London to Geneva, accommodation with breakfast, and transfers between Geneva Airport and the hotel.

Information and bookings: American Express, Group Sales, United Kingdom & Ireland, Trafalgar House, 11 Waterloo Place, London SW1Y 4AS.

Karin Rommel Travel Ltd, 17 St. George Street, Hanover Square, London W1R 9DE.

LAUSANNE – NATIONAL FAIR, 8th–23rd SEPTEMBER, 1979

The Lausanne National Autumn Fair ("Comptoir Suisse") will again take place at the Palais de Beaulieu from 8th–23rd September, 1979, with the Canton Vaud, whose capital Lausanne is the home of this fair, as the Swiss guest of honour marking the 60th anniversary of this fair. More than 2,500 exhibitors will have the opportunity to display to over one million visitors the original products of the leading branches of the Swiss Economy: industry, agriculture, trade and craftwork. Although a strictly national fair, the Swiss Comptoir has made a practice since 1945 of inviting Switzerland's trade partners to put on official government displays as guests of honour. This year it will have the privilege of welcoming Yugoslavia and Indonesia.

Further information: Comptoir Suisse, Palais de Beaulieu, Case postale 2560, 1002 Lausanne/Switzerland.