

Summaries and notices

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Standardized Buildings for Telephone Exchanges

A. Scherer, Berne

In the 1960s Swiss PTT was faced with the problem of erecting or enlarging hundreds of rural and district exchanges to cope with the rapidly increasing demand for telephone service and the need to modernize the system. It was then decided to introduce standardized buildings of conventional design capable of being adapted to various surroundings. This method of construction has proved successful. It is both efficient and economical, without neglecting the aspects of local architecture.

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New Generation of Mobile Transmitters for Swiss Television

K. Meyer, Berne

The article describes the new generation of mobile equipment for video transmissions from Swiss TV's outside broadcast units to the PTT microwave system. Photographs illustrate the design and construction of both vehicles and transmitters.

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Performance of SDM Telephone Exchanges - New Concept for Processor Control (2nd part)

R. P. Lorétan, Colchester

See summary in last issue, p. 420

News Items

Posts

In October a new permanent exhibition on Posts was inaugurated at the Swiss

Transport and Communications Museum in Lucerne. The redesigned Telecommunications section will open in 1976.

Since its foundation in 1906 the **Swiss Postbus Service** has been used by 1000 million passengers. The first 100 million was arrived at after 37 years, the latest 100 million within only two years.

Telephone

The two **mechanized information service centres** of Berne and Lugano have been supplemented by a third one at Lausanne, so that a separate studio is now available for each of Switzerland's major language regions. In 1973 the average number of information calls per subscriber and service was: Speaking Clock, 21.02; Weather Report, 3.21; Road Bulletin, 0.54; Sports News, 6.11; News, 1.67; Local Events, 0.51.

A second ESK switching system has been installed at **Zurich II international exchange**. It is Switzerland's first system using R 2 signalling.

The **Berne-Bandung radiotelephone link** has been replaced by a satellite circuit via Amsterdam. Switzerland now operates 18 radio channels, 126 satellite circuits and 112 cable links with overseas countries.

A new **fault-report office** with 12 operator positions and 4 test positions has come into operation at St. Gall.

Telegraph, Telex

Switzerland has opened **semi-automatic telex service with Indonesia** (direct satellite link) and **Syria** (transit dialling via Rome). **IXSD** has been made available to the **Ryukyu Islands** (2-digit numbers) and **Singapore**.

Since 1 October **telegrams between Switzerland and Morocco** have been exchanged over the **Gentex** system. Two lines are available in each direction.

Radio, Television

The **Swiss VHF radio broadcasting network** now comprises 196 transmitters and translators (102 on chain I, 94 on chain II) in 94 stations. Two programmes at least are available over VHF to 99.6% of the population.

The 21st simplex relay for Switzerland's **mobile radiophone service**, which is operated independent of the public system, has come into operation in the canton of Zurich. It will serve large parts of the country's eastern and northeastern regions.

During October and November Swiss PTT conducted a series of nightly **ssb sound broadcasting tests** using the frequencies 1475 kHz (ssb) and 1562 kHz (dsb).

At its first meeting in Geneva from 7 to 25 October, the **Regional Administrative LS-MS Broadcasting Conference** discussed the technical principles of new frequency planning for Europe, Africa, Asia and Oceania. A joint proposal by the West European Administrations for a basic reorganization of the medium-wave and long-wave bands failed to win support.

Miscellaneous

The PTT board of directors has agreed to the implementation of stage I of the **TERCO project** (TElephone Rationalization by COmputer). It provides for the installation of an integrated information system which will initially be used for directory editing and the enquiry service and assigned a number of additional functions later.

Following requests from the public to supplement entries in the official **telephone directory** with the **postcodes**, Swiss PTT has decided to re-edit and publish an experimental volume (Zurich Rural).