

Summaries and notices

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Summaries

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Integrated Services Digital Networks – ISDNs

H.-K. Pfyffer, Berne

This article conveys succinctly an overview of essential characteristics of ISDN and points out the future development possibilities. The ISDN concept is explained and the important associated principles are outlined. The paper refers to later development possibilities such as the wideband super-ISDN. Besides, it states the functional elements of ISDN such as terminals at customer premises for a number of services that may be realized within a few years. The status of international standardization work in the CCITT and the CEPT is delineated as well as the situation of the ISDN activities in other countries. The first planned ISDN customer access of Swiss PTT is described.

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Backscattering-Attenuation Measurement Technique for Glass Fibre Cables

R. Novak, Berne

Modern glass fibre with low attenuation, sensitive low noise photodetectors and efficient laser diodes allows today a considerable extension of the existing telecommunication services as well as creation of new wideband systems in the second and the third optical window. Accordingly, the demand increases for precise, fast and easily operated measuring equipment for testing during layout of glass fibre cables and during operation of such equipment. The backscattering-attenuation measurement technique provides a practical method proven in the field. The article treats the principle of the optical reflectometer and the theory of backscattering. Examples demonstrate possible applications of the equipment. The most important characteristics of the currently available reflectometers are highlighted.

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First-hand Experience in Construction of the Glass Fibre Cable

F. Gertsch and D. Mignot, Berne

The PTT installed more than 100 km glass fibre cable in its telecommunication network. Within a relatively short period, the

glass fibre secured a firm place in the line communications technology. This article describes the design of the glass fibre cable equipment, connector and splicing techniques, assembly procedure, equipment employed, the measuring instruments as well as the results received.

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To Recognize Interrelationships, to Think in Systems, to Treat Functionally

R. Schnörr, Baden

The author observes that the main reasons for the present lack of confidence in

our society and in modern techniques are due to loss of authority, rapid change of conditions of life, loss of traditional value standards, insufficient knowledge of overall interrelationships. He calls for an adjustment of the outmoded structures to the new requirements and increased conceptual thinking particularly in systems. The technique as such offers the necessary means to meet these situations.

News Items

Telephone

The PTT approves the introduction of the **telephone No 141** for the **taxi calling centrals** in all Switzerland.

Three fixed telephone radio-relay links came into operation in November 1984. These are Geneva–Zurich and Lausanne–Savièse each with 2700 circuits as well as Geneva–Nyon with 480 circuits.

Three permanent circuits, **two to Bahrain and one to South Africa**, were connected in addition via **Leuk earth station** in November 1984.

The PTT acquired the **rights of usage and transit** to 46 circuits in the **submarine cables Atlas** (Portugal–Morocco) and **Amitié** (France–Morocco) as well as in the French network between **Marseille and the Swiss border**.

International **subscriber direct dialling** was introduced in the telephone traffic with **Azores** and the charge was lowered at the same time.

Teleinformatics

Bureaufax service came into operation with Brazil, French Guiana, Martinique, Réunion, Saint Pierre and Miquelon in November 1984.

Radio, Television

A fixed **radio-relay link** for TV programme transmission is now in operation between **studio Basle** and the **Saint Chrischona** multipurpose station. This allows to transmit current events on short notice with ENG (Electronic News Gathering) equipment from studio Basle to three TV studios in Zurich, Geneva and Lugano.

For the first time in Switzerland a **TV transposer** is equipped with **precision offset** vision carrier locked with a time signal on a trial basis. This is to improve subjective reception quality by cancelling co-channel interfering signal.

Another **VHF simplex relay** network was installed at the **Monte Laura** multipurpose station at **Misox** (Canton of Graubünden) without connection to the public telephone network.

On the basis of an **agreement** with the PTT, **Radio Suisse Ltd** has no more to guarantee **point-to-point shortwave links with foreign countries**. However, it will still have to provide mobile radio services and certain special services in the present form.

In 1984, 74 out of 114 candidates passed successfully the examination for the **technical supervision by the licensed radio and television firms**.