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Telephone

In view of the construction of a new 'Seebrücke', the Lucerne Telecom office has to move the existing cable conduits. In an environmentally safe and efficient hydraulic flushing method 30 new cable tubings will be laid 3 to 4 m deep at the bottom of the lake.

The international roaming for Natel D GSM was recently opened with Eircell (Ireland), Panafon (Greece) and with the Austrian Bundespost. Thus the PTT Telecom have already 21 roaming partners in Europe. Very soon the first roaming partners outside of Europe will be added.

Two new Natel C and six Natel D GSM base stations were put into operation.

Teleinformatics

40 lease lines were put into operation by the lease line control center (MLKZ), four of which with overseas as well as four international lease line bearer circuits.

Radio, Television, Radiocommunications

The following permanent microwave radio links were put into operation: Küblis Switching Office—Küblis Radio Station (4×2 Mbit/s) and Grosshöchstetten—Zäziwil (4×2 Mbit/s) for the feeding of Natel base stations as well as one link as lease line in Meyrin (4×2 Mbit/s). Furthermore, the Bergün—Davos (34 Mbit/s) microwave radio link was handed over to the operators.

The following satellite links were switched in the Intelsat network: three voice circuits of the FDMA (Frequency Division Multiple Access) type with San Salvador and two data links of the IBS (Intelsat Business Services) type with Argentina.

Recently the RDS supplementary service CT (Clock Time) began transmitting on the Bantiger, Niederhorn, Rigi and Uetliberg FM stations. Provided that the FM receiver is equipped for the reception of the CT signals, the actual date and time can be received from these stations.

Miscellaneous

An audio/video feed-in point (AVE) was put into operation in the CIGC conference center in Geneva. Customers have thus an additional possibility to feed audio and video signals into the national, international as well as intercontinental network via La Dôle for example into the national network of the PTT Telecom, the UER network and the terrestrial network in the neighbouring countries, via the Leuk satellite earth station to the Intelsat satellites (60° east and 335.5° east), or via a transportable earth station to further satellites such as Eutelsat and Panamsat, Kopernikus, etc.

The 19th meeting of the Technical Subcommittee ETSI RES 02 (equipment specifications for the land mobile radio service) took place in Høje Tastrup (Denmark). All national contributions (Public Enquiry) for the standard prETS 300 341 (European Telecommunication Standard regarding technical specifications for land mobile radio equipment with integrated antenna and selective call) were cleared up at the meeting. Furthermore, the standard prETS 300 328 regarding radio local area networks (RLAN) in the frequency range of 2.4 GHz for broadband data systems with spread spectrum modulation were discussed.

A worldwide standard for paperless business transactions, UN/Edifact (United Nations Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport), has been designed in cooperation of various UN suborganizations with regional standardization groups and is available either on diskette, via data bank access or in paper form at the UN publication office. The standard will be continuously adapted to the state of the art and published annually.

The modulation specification for the transmission of digital television service on cable was adopted by the executive committee of the European DVB (Digital Video Broadcasting) project. The specification now goes to the joint technical committee of EBU and ETSI, so that they can be published together with the satellite specifications as European standard. These standards drafts are the basis for digital multiprogramme television transmission via satellite and for the distribu-

tion via cable with the use of the MPEG-2 standard.

The Technical Committee TM (Transmission and Multiplexing) of ETSI held its sixth meeting in Sofia Antipolis. As usual, standards were adopted after differences were cleared up, the detailed work programmes of the subcommittees revised and approved, and various quality and management questions solved. In addition, a formal project management for the work on SDH standards in the various subcommittees (TM 1, 2, 3, 4) was approved. The TM Committee worked, by the way, to a large extent by correspondence.

The Board of Governors of the international telecommunications satellite organization Intelsat approved on its hundredth meeting the following businesses: a contract between Intelsat and Chinasat regarding joint ownership on the Chinasat-5 satellite and Intelsat 805, the acquisition of a further satellite of the Intelsat-VIII-A type, an option on the Russian Express satellite, the purchase of further satellite launching services from the China Great Wall Industry, the authorization for the conclusion of an insurance contract for satellites, and an operational plan for the Intelsat satellites.

The first World Telecommunication Development Conference, organized by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), took place in Buenos Aires. A total of 917 delegates from 135 member countries, including 47 organizations, and from private firms participated. The conference adopted the 'Declaration and Action Plan of Buenos Aires' for the worldwide telecommunications development which describes the prospects and the aims to be reached by the end of the century. The four chapters of the 'Action Plan' comprise a cooperation programme for the members of the development sector of the union, a relief programme for the developing countries, a special programme for the countries that are most underprivileged, and an operating budget for the telecommunications development office of the union. Several other resolutions and recommendations were adopted at the conference.