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News Items

Telephone

The following permanent microwave radio links were put into operation: one SDH toll network connection (Synchronous Digital Hierarchy) Lucerne-Weinbergli–Wil SG for the transmission of STM-1 (155 Mbit/s) or 140 Mbit/s alternatively, and for the feeding of Natel base stations the Gibloux–Moléson and Bickigen–Wynigen connections with a transmission capacity of 4×2 Mbit/s each.

An additional connection of the SSTDMA type (Satellite Switching Time Division Multiple Access) was put into operation on the *Intelsat Satellite 60° East* (Indian Ocean) with India and five additional voice circuits of the SSTDMA type with Zimbabwe. On the *Intelsat Satellite 307° East* (Atlantic Ocean), one IBS connection (Intelsat Business Services) was set up with the Bahamas via the Geneva and Nassau earth stations. The latter is a new earth station with an antenna diameter of 7 meters which was installed under the management of Telecom PTT. On the *Intelsat — Satellite 335.5° East* (Atlantic Ocean), five voice circuits of the FDMA type (Frequency Division Multiple Access) were set up with Angola, eight additional voice circuits of the FDMA type with Ecuador, one additional connection of the SSTDMA type with South Africa and one connection of the IDR type (Intermediate Data Rate) with Hong Kong.

Natel D GSM is linked up worldwide. Up to the time of going to press, the Roaming was already set up with 36 partners of Telecom PTT in 22 European countries and also with Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore and South Africa. Very soon the Natel D GSM customers will also be able to use the GSM networks of the United Arab Emirate, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Moscow, St Petersburg or the Philippines. The PTT Telecom thus takes a leading position worldwide in the roaming in the GSM network.

In the whole Natel D GSM network the dynamic adaptive power control of the mobile stations, dependent on the existing signal strength, has been activated as a new function. This brings a considerable prolongation of the life of battery-operated mobile stations for the mobile customer, as only as much transmission energy is used as it takes for a perfect connection. In addition, the electromagnetic interference caused by the mobile station is reduced to still smaller values by this output power control. This function is automaticly available to the GSM network user.

Two more Natel C base stations as well as ten Natel D GSM base stations were put into operation.

Recently the *1 000 000th connection to a telephone exchange of the AXE type* in Switzerland was celebrated in Entlebuch (LU). The AXE System is to a large extent produced in Berne by Ascom under licence from Ericsson.

Teleinformatics

The lease line control center LCC has put 44 international lease lines into operation.

Radio, Television, Radiocommunications

The DRS 1 programme *from the Grellingen FM station* is newly broadcasting on the 90.3 MHz frequency. At the same time the antenna pattern was changed so that both towns of Therwil and Oberwil are supplied from Grellingen with all three programmes. The DRS 1 programme is now broadcasting from the *Moretchopf station* on the 94.0 MHz frequency in stereo.

The VHF transmission channel of the DRS television programme was put out of operation on the *Sta Maria multipurpose station. For some time now a UHF channel has been in operation as a replacement.* At the same time the Müstair television transposer with three national and four foreign television programmes was disconnected. The region is newly supplied from the Sta Maria station.

The *satellite earth station newly set up* by the Zurich Telecom Office on behalf of Teleclub AG was officially put into operation. The installation transmits the Teleclub programme signals to the Astra Satellite System from where they can be received either by cable network receiving stations or directly by private receivers. The uplink is used by Radio Eviva and Swiss Radio as well.

Miscellaneous

The «Telecommunications Technical School» in Winterthur was recently opened. This private school offers professionals from the electric, electronic and related fields the possibility of training as *telecommunications technician* under professional and practice oriented guidance. The course lasts six half-year terms and is completed with a diploma. The training is supported by the Federal Office for Industry, Trade and Labour (Biga) and by the Canton of Zurich. Initiators are large telecommunications enterprises, large banks and regional Telecom PTT offices.

The third satellite of the Intelsat VII series, Intelsat 703, was launched into orbit with a Martin Marietta Atlas IIAS rocket. After the take off in Cape Canaveral, Florida, the satellite was brought into its definite position at 177° E and is available in the KU and C frequency bands for service in the Asia/Pacific region.

The open Ermes Standard (European Radio Message System) for wide area paging services was recognized by the International Telecommunications Union as the first recommended radio paging standard. The Ermes Standard is already widely used in Europe including Eastern Europe and recently the Malaysian Celcom has joined the Memorandum of Understanding as the first non European operator. Thus the number of operators has increased to 34 in 21 countries.