

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: - (1967)
Heft: 1517

Artikel: A new mesoscaphe shortly to be built in Switzerland
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-689054>

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NUCLEAR POWER: FOREIGN ORDERS FOR A SWISS FIRM

The French electricity company, Electricité de France (EDF), has ordered from Sulzer Bros Co. Ltd. in Winterthur, 8 CO₂ circulation blowers for the nuclear power stations St. Laurent-des-Eaux I and II, both rated at 500 MW. The Swiss firm has already supplied EDF with a blower of the same type for its first 70 MW nuclear power station at Chinon. An inspection carried out after more than 10,000 hours of duty showed this first plant to be in perfect condition and helped to secure the new orders for the two St. Laurent-des-Eaux power stations. The blowers already delivered and the new once ordered are the first in France to be installed directly inside the reactor containment shielding. They are driven by condensing steam turbines at 2,700 r.p.m. These blowers are built mainly by the Sulzer affiliated company in France: Compagnie de Construction Mécanique (CCM), Paris in co-operation with Sulzer Bros. Winterthur.

[O.S.E.C.]

SWISS EXPERTS IN TUNISIA ON BEHALF OF THE WORLD BANK

The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank) commissioned the electrical company Motor Columbus at Baden to help it in its role of mediator to settle the amount and method of payment of the compensation that Tunisia should pay France for nationalising seven private railway and electricity, gas and water distribution companies, whose capital was mainly French. A team of experts from Motor Columbus is at present on the spot collecting the technical and economic data needed for this purpose.

[O.S.E.C.]

INDUSTRIAL SUPPORT FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

To commemorate its sixty years devoted entirely to the manufacture of welding products, Castolin Co. Ltd., at St. Sulpice near Lausanne recently donated 100,000 francs to Lausanne University. This sum is intended to finance research in the fields of welding and metallurgy. It is a practical way for a private concern to serve the interests of higher education and at the same time contribute to the maintenance of the excellent reputation that Switzerland has won for herself in the sphere of welding and metallurgy.

[O.S.E.C.]

A SWISS FIRM TO BUILD TWO RADIO STATIONS IN LIBYA

The Official Libyan News Service recently announced that a contract had been signed with a Swiss firm for the construction of two 1500 kW radio stations at Tripoli and Beida. The estimated cost of this project exceeds 14 million Swiss francs and the two transmitters will be completed in two years. At present Libya possesses a 50 kW transmitter at Tripoli and another of 10 kW at Benghazi. Two kW transmitters are being built at Tripoli and Benghazi and will be put into service within a few months.

[O.S.E.C.]

A NEW MESOSCAPHE SHORTLY TO BE BUILT IN SWITZERLAND

At a recent meeting of the Swiss Institute of Naval Architects, Mr. Jacques Piccard, the Swiss oceanographer, and inventor of the mesoscaphe, the world's first tourist submarine which operated a regular service during the Swiss National Exhibition in 1964, announced his intention of exploring the Gulf Stream in a new mesoscaphe. This vessel will measure just under 48 ft. long, weigh 120 tons and be equipped with four engines and a 20-ton battery; it will follow the current at a speed of 1.5 knots at a depth of almost 1,000 ft., for a distance of some 1,000 to 1,500 nautical miles, between Cape Hatteras and Nova Scotia. Like its predecessor, the new mesoscaphe will be built at Monthey (Switzerland) by Giovanola Bros.

[O.S.E.C.]

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