

Summaries and notices

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Lifetest of tubular plate accumulators (Part I)

Th. Gerber, Berne

This paper is about the testing of tubular plate accumulators, the way they are used as direct-current supply in the telecommunications service of the Swiss PTT. It provides details of the influence of operating voltage on the current and water consumption, on the so-called antimony poisoning as well as on corrosion and consequent aging processes. Furthermore, criteria to obtain the optimum voltage for charge retention are established. The results are based on measurements and tests conducted during the past 15 years and performed on an accumulator bank under laboratory conditions.

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Modernization of Existing Telephone Exchanges Using Process Computers

R. Wiedmer, Zürich

The design and construction of a processor-controlled register is described which will replace the existing local registers in the number 7A rotary switch exchange offices. The new register will be installed temporarily in the 7A-type exchanges in the Zurich local exchange network resulting in an expansion of the line capacity. In addition, the new register will permit the use of multi-frequency signalling and the recognition of central office code numbers. Preparations are being made to accommodate if need be pushbutton subscriber sets using voice-frequency dialling.

p. 210...216

Modern large-power medium and short wave broadcast transmitters

E. Hanselmann, Berne

Fully automated, remote-controlled large power medium and short wave broadcast transmitters have been introduced for the first time into two broadcast stations. The duties and requirements placed on a modern high-powered transmitter are briefly explained.

p. 217...224

Extension of the ATECO System

W. Glur, Berne

The author explains the why and the how of the enlargement of the ATECO System which will permit the service of handling in telegrams by telephone – also called Telephone Number 110 – to have at its disposal facilities better adapted to requirements. The new possibilities offered by the preprocessing computers for automatic message switching are treated. The new work procedure which will soon be brought into effect with the telephone number 110 as well as the multifaceted character of the public service of message switching of the PTT will be treated in two further articles yet to be published.

p. 225...230

Reconditioning of Switzerland's Multiple Twin Bable System

W. Knuchel, Berne

Operated alongside the modern large-capacity systems, the now 40-year-old multiple twin cables are still of considerable importance. They not only serve as emergency routes but will also be used to provide a PCM trunk system for data transmission. Reconditioning involves considerable expenditure and therefore requires extensive and careful planning. In general, a circuit quality equal to that of new systems can be achieved.

News Items

Telephone

Automatic telephone service to Australia, Singapore, South Africa, Lesotho and Venezuela was opened on May 1st. A total of 36 countries can now be dialled direct by 91 pc of Switzerland's subscribers.

Field trials of electret and piezoelectric microphone units are being conducted in the Telephone Regions of Zurich and Lucerne over a period of two years.

A data communication network consisting of 59 lines and using 4800 bit/s Milgo modems will be provided for the **TERCO** (Telephone Rationalization by Computers) system, to which, initially, the inquiry offices and directory editing services of the 17 Regional Directorates will be connected.

A second **24-channel PCM microwave link** has been opened between **St. Gall** and the multipurpose station on the **Säntis**.

Radio, Television

In April the **Swiss television network** was extended by 12 transmitters and translators in 6 stations, located in the cantons of Ticino, Neuchâtel, St. Gall and Grisons.

A new TV broadcasting centre for Italian-speaking Switzerland was opened at **Comano** (Ticino) in April. The installations supplied by the PTT comprise a switching room, a recording room, a presentation suite, 2 announcer studios and a current affairs studio. Another two studios will be added later. The Comano centre replaces the interim Lugano-Besso studios.

Miscellaneous

For exhibitors at the **60th Swiss Industries Fair in Basle**, the PTT provided 1250 telephones, 74 coinbox stations and 2 public call offices with 33 attended telephones, several telex installations and PIX equipment. In addition, a number of radio and television broadcast circuits were made available.

In 1975 **Swiss PTT's overall loss** dropped by about 50 million francs to 53 million francs as a result of less substantial general price increases and special measures aimed at curbing expenditure.

The **4th Annual Meeting of the Intelsat signatories** was held at Singapore in April.