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News Items

Telephone

The following *microwave radio links,* each with a transmission capacity of 4 × 2 Mbit/s, were put into operation for Natel C: the fixed links *Flüeli–Stalden* and *La Chaux-de-Fonds–Boinod* as well as the temporary links *Lausanne/St-François–Mt-Pèlerin–Porsel* and *Ulmizberg–Flamatt.*

Seven further *Natel C base stations* of the phases 3 and 4 were put into operation.

The alarm clock equipment WA 490 A was put into operation in *Sion.*

The *prototype of the integrated engineering service exchange* IDZ from Alcatel STR was delivered to *Basel.* The IDZ, which has a number of new functions, will replace the conventional service exchange DiZ. It is planned to put the equipment into operation in April.

Teleinformatics

With the commencement of operations of the *St. Gallen Megacom Node,* all four video conference studios in the St. Gallen telecommunications region can be operated with a Megacom link. The users dial their partners directly via this new wideband switched network, provided their partner's Codec is compatible with their own, so that an advance order is unnecessary.

A new *public PTT video conference studio* was put into operation at the *St. Gallen University* (HSG). It consists of a three-seat studio which is accessible to all PTT customers and particularly the HSG. It is directly connected to the new St. Gallen Megacom node.

An important *new video conference destination, Switzerland–Taiwan,* has been opened. In Taipei, the capital of Taiwan, there is a public video conference studio.

The leaseline control center (LCC) put 30 *digital lease lines* (6 × 9.6 kbit/s, 16 × 64 kbit/s, 3 × 128 kbit/s, 2 × 384 kbit/s, 2 × 512 kbit/s, 1 × 768 kbit/s) as well as two analogue lease lines into operation.

Radio, Television, Radio Communications

The following *permanent voice circuits* were put into operation in November *via satellite:* 30 voice circuits with the *Dutch Antilles* via Leuk 1 (325.5° E) and five voice circuits with *Tanzania* via Leuk 2 (335.5° E) satellite earth stations. Furthermore, a satellite link for occasional video conference transmissions was put into operation with *Taiwan* via the Leuk 3 (60° E) earth station.

As last of the series, the *Intelsat VI (F-1) satellite* was successfully launched and brought into orbit with an Ariane 44 L spacecraft. The solar drum and all antennas were successfully deployed. After a 2-months test phase, the satellite will begin operations in the Atlantic Ocean region (332.5° E). Two other satellites of the series (F-4 and F-5) are already operating in this region, and at present F-2 is being moved to the Indian Ocean region, where it will begin operating again. For the F-3, which had to be 'parked' on a lower orbit because of failure of the perigee motor, a rescue operation with the space ship *Endeavour* on its first flight is planned which should fit it out with a new motor.

A further *FM radio transmitter* was put into operation on the Bruson station. It supplies the *Val de Bagnes* with the RSR 3 programme on the 107.2 MHz frequency.

On the *Bergli* station in *Glarus* and in *Celerina,* new *FM transmitters* were put into operation. Apart from radio broadcasting, the new Bergli installations offer additional services such as: television (DRS, TSI, TSR), Natel C, citycall B, wireless subscriber installations (1.5 GHz), radio relay in the regional network. The construction works for the expansion of the *Savièse* multipurpose station has been completed.

The *two-tone technology* was also introduced on the *third television chain* (TSI) in the German part of Switzerland. The new method is mainly used for two-language commentaries of sport broadcasts or for films with both original and synchronized tone. The completion of this method in the French part of Switzerland and in the Tessin (Italian part) is expected in the Spring of 1992.

The following *46 towns* were newly made accessible for the *citycall B,* each with one transmitter : Aadorf, Aegerten, Andelfingen, Andermatt, Arth, Avenches, Benken SG, Bruson, Champex, Diemtigen, Diessenhofen, Disentis, Engollon, Einsiedeln, Engelberg, Ettiswil, Frutigen, Hochdorf, Küssnacht am Rigi, Les Toules, Malters, Marthalen, Oberried, Paradies, Ramsen, Reuenthal, Rietheim, Riggisberg, Rikon, Rothenturm, Ruswil, Saland, Schwarzenburg, Sedrun, Sembrancher, Steg, Steckborn, Steffisburg, St-Sulpice, Sumiswald, Turbenthal, Weggis, Wil, Wolhusen, Zaun and Zell.

Miscellaneous

The fifth meeting of the *CEPT working group FM* (Frequency Management) took place in *Zruc* (Czechoslovakia). Numerous questions concerning the European frequency agreement were discussed. In particular, intended for the ERC (European Radio Communication Committee), a draft recommendation each for low power radio communication applications and for RLAN (Radio Local Area Network) as well as a draft report regarding the future utilization of the frequency spectrum for police, customs and security services were agreed upon. Furthermore, first discussions took place regarding the frequencies for the introduction of DAB (Digital Audio Broadcasting).

The first major *ERC Seminar* took place in Copenhagen, the headquarters of the ERO (European Radio Communications Office). Structure, operational methods and duties of the ERC (European Radio Communications Committee) were presented at this CEPT event, and as requests and first results were put forward. Prioritary items were the coordinated European preparation work for the World Administrative Radio Conference 1992 (WARC 92) of the UIT and the part to be taken by the ERO.

The European commission placed an order with *Eurosinet,* the common interest group for open system communication, to take part in the framework of the *EPHOS* (European Procurement Handbook for Open Systems) project. The task is the planning and realization of a data bank with standardized public access possibilities for all EG member countries. The info data bank is to be a guideline for their administrations – but also for private firms and institutions – in the acquirement of *open computer systems.*