

Summaries and notices

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Summaries

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New Type of District Cable in the Swiss Telecommunication Network

M. Gfeller, Berne.

In 1974, district cables consisting of symmetric pairs and coaxial conductors of very small diameter were introduced into the Swiss network. They will be equipped with 2nd-order PCM systems from 1978. This type of mixed cable is used where large numbers of lines are required or above-average distances have to be covered. Its various applications are described and economic considerations given.

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Influence of Errors on Attenuation Measurements in the Transmitted Frequency Range

B. Eicher and J. Furrer, Berne.

An important constituent of microwave measurement technique is the determination of attenuation and reflection of the components. In the present article, the influence of errors on attenuation measurements in the 1...18 GHz range is examined. The effects of mismatching on the accuracy of measurements are dealt with in detail and illustrated by corresponding groups of curves for easy reference. This is followed by a discussion of the accuracy that can be achieved with current attenuation measurement techniques.

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First-Year Experience with the Leuk Satellite Earth Station

J. Wehrli, Berne.

The station having completed its first year of service, the author comments on the system concept and performance as well as operation and maintenance organization. Results have on the whole been positive. While the installation has proved of excellent quality, irregular working-hours have been a major obstacle to the training of operating and maintenance staff.

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Calculation of Traffic Distribution in Meshed Telephone Networks

L. Praz, Berne.

The article deals with the calculation of traffic distribution between a number of exchange sectors. In practice, such calculations have to be made when existing exchanges are enlarged or new sectors added. They may involve much effort, as in the case of structural alterations to large networks. The procedure is outlined for calculating traffic distribution either manually or with the aid of a computer.

News Items

Posts

A delegation of **British M.P.s** paid a one-day visit to the Swiss Postal Headquarters in July to discuss postal mechanization and see the Berne letter sorting system in operation.

The Swiss Federal Railways' **1975 summer time-table** has led to **substantial structural changes in the railway post service**. Improvements in passenger services have rendered postal transport by rail more difficult on most routes. However, this has been compensated in part by reorganizing nightly runs of mail trains. Although a total of 49 railway post services are no longer operated, it has on the whole been possible to maintain sufficient letter and parcel transport capacity.

Telephone

A special **telephone enquiry and assistance service** for Italian customers has been tentatively opened over the weekends at the public call office of Zurich's main railway station. Its purpose is to assist seasonal workers and visitors unfamiliar with telephone operation in ordering or dialling their calls, thus avoiding queues at the counters.

In March and April, Swiss subscribers used **ISD facilities** on 90.1 % of their international calls (42 out of 46.6 million chargeable minutes).

There has been a change in carrier frequency and channel capacity on the **Switzerland (Leuk) - Canada (Mill Village) satellite link**.

One of the **coordination channels** operated between the American and Russian space centres during the **Apollo-Sojus mission** was routed over the Swiss satellite earth station.

In the first half of 1975, **telephone main stations** in Switzerland increased by 40,388 to 2,431,240, and the number of **sets** rose by 71,163 to 3,861,514. The 1974 growth was 57,569 and 101,833 respectively for the same period.

Telegraph, Telex

Switzerland has opened **telex service to Ras Al Khaimah** (Arabian emirate) and the **Cape Verdian Islands**.

Telegram acceptance by Swiss Federal Railways will be officially discontinued on 1 September because of little demand, but ticket offices will still accept an occasional telegram, which is then forwarded to the PTT phonogram position.

Radio, Television

In July, **9 TV translators** came into operation in 4 Swiss relay stations.

The Lugano studio has taken delivery of its first new-type **colour TV outside broadcast van**. The unit measures 9×2.3×3.5 m, weighs **15.2 t** and features three camera systems, one of which is portable. Another two vans for the other region will be supplied later on.

In the first six months of 1975, **radio broadcast receiving licences** in Switzerland rose by 24,496 to 2,060,927, and **television licences** increased by 32,015 to 1,746,351. The 1974 growth was 12,273 and 60,858 respectively for the same period. The number of **wire broadcast listeners** increased to 420,003.

The **Swiss PTT shortwave radiophone service with aircraft** handled a total of 3986 calls between January and June. This is an increase of 26% over the same period of last year.

Miscellaneous

At Geneva a **local video distribution network for stock exchange intelligence** has been made available to Telekurs AG. It comprises 2.74 km of special coaxial cable, 240 amplifiers and, initially, terminals in 10 banks, which are able to receive 20 different programmes.