

# Summaries and notices

Objektyp: **Group**

Zeitschrift: **Technische Mitteilungen / Schweizerische Post-, Telefon- und Telegrafienbetriebe = Bulletin technique / Entreprise des postes, téléphones et télégraphes suisses = Bollettino tecnico / Azienda delle poste, dei telefoni e dei telegrafi svizzeri**

Band (Jahr): **53 (1975)**

Heft 10

PDF erstellt am: **05.08.2024**

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## Summaries

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### Corrosion Problems Associated with Ground Networks

K. Vögtli, A. Brunold and H.-R. Trachsel

Ground networks, which connect a system of metallic conductors to earth, frequently use copper, or iron if they are of some extension. However, corrosion presents a problem with either of them. Iron and other base metals are self-corrosive in an environment of more or less aggressive ground humidity, and copper affects associated base-metal structures (e.g., water conduit and lead cable) by electrochemical action. Some practical aspects of the problem are discussed, such as measuring techniques and the indicative value of potential measurements. In addition, field trials of various earth conductors are reported on. They have shown that hot galvanized copper is non-corrosive and does not affect other conduit.

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### Process Computers. I Introduction

G. Murbach, Berne.

There are hardly any doubts now that process computers will to a great extent influence the design of communication systems in the near future. Technological progress and the development of highly integrated logic units enable more and more powerful and reliable small computers to be produced at a lower cost. To fully assess their potential applications and prepare for efficient operation and maintenance of systems will be a demanding task for PTT development and operations engineers. It is to this aim that the present article is directed. A presentation of the general characteristics is followed by an outline specification for a process computer system. The typical modes of operation, the various hardware units as well as the program systems and their interaction are explained.

## News Items

### Telephone

In the first half of 1975, subscribers on the **waiting list** dropped by 5,867 to 13,520.

A series of fifty **AZ 44 coinbox telephones** have been ordered for field trials. The new station is electronically controlled, requires no extra equipment at the exchange and costs 700 francs less than its predecessor, AZ 1.

In September the new, **three-digit information and service call numbers** were made available in the **Berne** and **Bienne** Telephone Regions.

The **4-GHz microwave systems** on the 110-km **Albis-Chasseral** section have been equipped for **space diversity reception** to compensate for losses in transmission performance due to wave propagation. The systems carry telephone circuits to Berne and Lausanne as well as a television link with France.

Switzerland has purchased **36 telephone circuits** in the **Marseilles-Heraklion** (Crete) submarine cable on an IRU basis.

### Telegraph, Telex

Switzerland has opened **automatic telex service to Venezuela and Turkey**.

**Manual telex service to Nepal** has been transferred to the Zurich-Hongkong route and is now handled by the **Zurich operator position**.

**A new public call office** has been opened in the centre of **Basle**, near Market Square. It features 2 counters, 17 attended telephones, 1 combined telex and telephone

booth large enough to accommodate wheelchairs, and an outside night kiosk where customers are served from the main telegraph office via pneumatic tube.

### Radio, Television

Swiss PTT Research and Development has designed and built a **power measurement receiver** enabling the adjacent channel power of **transceivers with 25 kHz channel spacing** to be measured in accordance with the relevant **CEPT recommendation**. Over the prescribed bandwidth of 16 kHz, interference can be measured down to a value of 90 dB less than the carrier power. Equipment for this particular application is not yet available on the market.

### Miscellaneous

On 18 August the Swiss PTT Board of Directors approved and passed on to the Federal Department of Transport, Communications and Energy the **1976 posts and telecommunications budget proposal**, which shows a profit of 30 million francs.

**A Swiss PTT delegation** visited the **German Democratic Republic** in August for discussions with the GDR Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications.

Switzerland's newly formed **Telecommunications Contact Group**, whose main aim it is to strengthen relations between the telecoms organizations and its customers, held its first meeting in August.

At **Geneva** the **Sécheron** post office, the International Conference Centre and the United Nations have been connected to the city's new automatically controlled **pneumatic tube system**.

### Berichtigung zu Nr. 9/1975

Infolge einer Verstellung der Zeichnungssymbole in der Legende zu Figur 2 unseres Artikels über **die neuen Sendeanlagen auf dem San Salvatore** (S. 344), liess sich diese nicht richtig interpretieren. Allen Lesern, die uns auf diesen Fehler aufmerksam gemacht haben, danken wir für ihre Aufmerksamkeit. Nachstehend die richtige Legende:

Fig. 2

Das Netz der Fernsehsender und -umsetzer in der Südschweiz

□ Richtstrahlrelais	● 2. Programm (DRS)
⊕ Sender	● 3. Programm (SR)
⊖ Umsetzer	△ Fernsehstudio
⊙ 1. Programm (TSI)	