

# Summaries and notices

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## Summaries

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### Problems Due to Static Electricity

C. J. Nadler, Berne

The theoretical first part examines the peak currents and average voltages produced by electrostatic discharges. Some fundamentals, such as Coulomb's law as well as the electrostatic field and potential, are recalled and examples are given of disturbances due to discharges. The third part deals with protective measures. The discussion is limited to aspects of special interest to the PTT.

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### Measuring the Attenuation of Optical Fibres

Ch. Deutsch and R. Novak, Berne

Transmission of information over optical fibres is today a reality. Accurate measurement of attenuation is an absolute necessity both for quality control and in cable laying. Some of the usual measurement methods are outlined. A detailed description is given of the reference method used by the PTT, which enables attenuations up to 50 dB to be measured with an accuracy of 0.1 dB. Its advantage over earlier methods is that it no longer requires a certain length of fibre to be cut in order to make two comparative measurements.

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### Automatic flextime and assignment data processing at a PTT vehicle servicing centre

K. Reist, Berne

The flextime and assignment-related data of staff at the PTT's vehicle servicing and repair centre in Berne have been recorded on an IBM machine since 1 October 1978. An in-house computer is used to process the data, print out the required lists and edit the material to be forwarded to the PTT Electronic Computing Centre.

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### Colour Television Sets of the 1980s

H.-K. Meiss, Hannover (FRG)

The colour television sets of the 1980s, as compared with the present models, will be shaped by considerations such as, on the one hand, use as part of information systems and, on the other hand,

demand for improved picture and tone quality, stereo/two-tone facility, improved noise characteristic, as well as lower power consumption and production cost. In the first half of the coming decade the flat TV screen will not yet be available. The microprocessor, however, will provide for a still easier-to-operate, more versatile set that may even serve as the centre-piece of a «home computer».

## News Items

### Telephone

Since 1 June all subscribers in network groups Neuchâtel (038) and La Chaux-de-Fonds (039) have had direct access to an **automatic alarm call system**.

**International subscriber dialling** has been available throughout the network group of **Basle** (061) since the opening of a new local exchange at Sissach on 22 June.

Work on the **second aerial at Leuk's satellite earth station** is proceeding according to schedule. The base structure and a connecting tunnel to the operations building having been completed, installation of the steel support framework began at the end of May.

The **300-channel microwave link between Geneva and Lyons** is being replaced by an **1800-channel system**, which comes into operation this autumn.

Two satellite circuits, **Berne—Baghdad and Berne—New York**, for use by Radio-Suisse Ltd were opened via **Leuk** in May.

### Telegraph, Telex

The PTT has decided to continue its **experimental public facsimile service** for an indefinite period so as to remain in a position to follow developments and assess demand.

**Switzerland's first videotex centre**, equipped with a GEC computer, was installed at **Berne** in June. It will be used for a pilot trial starting this autumn.

In May the PTT's **automatic message switching system, SAM**, for the first time handled over 20 million chargeable characters.

### Radio, Television

Since 30 June, Canton Ticino's **Monte Ceneri vhf radio transmitter** has been broadcasting in **stereo**. The partially converted vhf network now relays stereo broadcasts over the main transmitters in each language region.

Area 1 (western Switzerland) of the **national car radiophone network** was officially opened on 1 July. In Area 2 (cantons Basel-Stadt, Basel-Land, Jura, Berne, Solothurn, Fribourg and Neuchâtel as well as parts of Aargau) no fewer than 430 subscribers were connected during the first 1½ months of operation up to mid-June.