

Summaries and notices

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Summaries

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Itemized billing for Swiss telephone subscribers

U. Müller, Berne

An opinion poll revealed that 20 pc of the telephone subscribers are interested in a more detailed bill even if it may cost something. The PTT will meet this request and equip the telephone exchanges accordingly. This article presents the structure of the billing extracts for the subscriber as well as the status of the project. Operational trials have been carried out in Lucerne and Lausanne since 1986. The final introduction of the itemized billing will start at the end of 1987. This will provide the subscriber with an insight into the telephone expenses. The savings in costs are of lesser importance than the gain in trust in the PTT's accounting office.

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The digital exchange AXE 10 for Switzerland

W. Kreis, Berne

Besides a description of the most important system parameters and applications of the digital exchange AXE 10, the article illustrates the future development of the noteworthy system structure and the modular characteristics. It deals further with the basic methods and organization of the operating and maintenance system. It ends with a preview on the new functions foreseen for the next years.

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Access to directory service by videotex users

J.-J. Jaquier and B. Zürcher, Berne

Access to directory information by 'electronic directory' is an application area of great interest to the general public. The authors describe the solutions for a short-term realization in the context of the Swiss videotex. The experience gained in the pilot project is based on the

application of a converter between the Terco information system, which is an operator-assisted directory service via telephone number 111, and the videotex

exchange. The successful demonstration allows for fast operational realization. The advantages and the limits of this approach are briefly stated.

New Items

Telephone

The new equipment with a storage capacity of **21 000 orders for wake-up service** came into operation on 1 October in **Zurich**. It manages 3200 wake-up orders within five minutes and can carry out 4.5 million orders yearly.

The experiment using **mobile centres for subscriber service** was successful. Since the beginning of the year **five vehicles** have been carrying out regular service for the telecommunication directorates of Berne, Lausanne, Lucerne, Olten and Rapperswil. The new **traffic measurement equipment VS 85** was put into operation in the telecommunication directorates of Berne, Chur, Lucerne, Olten, Sitten, Thun and Zurich at the end of 1986.

9 km of glass fibre cable was laid in **Seelisberg tunnel** (Highway No 2) for broadcasting service and supervision of traffic.

The **first glass fibre cable between Switzerland and the Federal Republic of Germany** came into operation between **Basle and Lörrach**. The equipment can provide about 7680 telephone circuits or eight TV programmes.

1041 satellite circuits, of which 741 via Atlantic and 300 via Indian Ocean Regions, were in operation at the end of September 1986 in Switzerland. There were 1006 circuits (929 for the PTT, 49 for Radio Suisse Ltd. and 28 for the Japan-pool) over the Leuk earth station. The remaining 35 circuits were directed via foreign earth stations.

Teleinformatics

Six direct telex lines were connected between **Geneva and Montevideo**.

At the end of November, the Federal Government issued a **videotex ordinance** which will be in force starting 1 January 1987. It will remain valid till the introduction of the new telecommunication law but no longer than 31 December 1991. It describes in general the area of application, the nature of the videotex service, the definition of possible subscribers, the characteristics and the requirements of the necessary technical operational means, the determination of the data offered, the prescriptions of security and processing of data as well as the subscription conditions and charges.

The PTT offers a **Telepac-User-Identification** at a special rate to students of the **Business School at the St. Gallen University (HSG)**. This allows direct access to the **Mailbox of the University Computer Centre** with a personal computer via a switched public telephone network or a telepac network.

Radio and Television

In future, the **Swiss Radio International** of the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation will be again heard with good reception quality in large areas of **Latin America**. The PTT signed a contract with the radio station «**Afrique No 1**» in Gabun. This permits to broadcast radio programmes with a 500 kW transmitter towards South America.

In 1986, 79 out of 107 candidates from **licensed radio and television firms** passed successfully the examination for **technical supervision**.