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News Items

Telephone

Recently two Natel C base stations and eleven Natel D GSM base stations were put into operation as well as one temporary station in the Züspa Exhibition Area in Oerlikon for the Fera and Züspa exhibitions. The software stage 60 was introduced in the Natel C centres of Aarau-Bahnhofstrasse, Fribourg-Square des Places, Lausanne-Savoie, Lucerne-Floraweg and St Gallen-Lachen.

Teleinformatics

Within the scope of restructuring the Telex network, the Bern-Sulgenau EDW Switching Office was disconnected. The Telex subscribers of the Biel, Fribourg and Neuchâtel offices were switched over to the Geneva EDW Office and those of Bern and Thun to Zurich. The Telex network now still comprises the three offices of Geneva, Lugano and Zurich.

32 lease lines were put into operation via the lease line control center (LCC), two of which were with overseas.

Radio, Television, Radiocommunications

The following permanent microwave radio links were put into operation: for a remote unit, Winterthur-Brühlberg-Winterthur-Wülflingen with a capacity of 16×2 Mbit/s, and one FM modulation feeder Geneva-Montbrillant-Salève with a transmission capacity of 16×2 Mbit/s.

In the Intelsat network, three additional connections of the SSTDMA type (Satellite Switching Time Division Multiple Access) were put into operation with New Zealand on the satellite 60° east, 13 additional connections of the IDR type (Intermediate Data Rate) with 512 kbit/s each with Vietnam and 24 additional connections of the IDR type with 512 kbit/s each with China. On the satellite 335.5° east, 14 additional temporary voice circuits of the FDMA type (Frequency Division Multiple Access) were put into operation with Kenya.

Beromünster and Bern-Neufeld were recently provided with one transmission installation each for Telepage Swiss (Network I and II).

On the occasion of the Orbit 94 exhibition in Basel, the pilot network of the PTT Telecom for the European Radio Message Service, *Ermes* (trade name in Switzerland: TELEPAGE ermes), was put into operation. It comprises the Paging Switching Centre (FRZ III) as Paging Network Controller (PNC) and the Paging Area Controller (PAC) in Ittigen near Bern as well as a network router each in Basel, Lausanne, Lugano and Zurich. For the time being the *Ermes* calls will be transmitted in Basel with six base stations in Allschwil, Arlesheim, Basel-Ciba, Basel-Airport, Basel-Wallstrasse and Muttentz as well as in Bern with the two base stations in Bern-Bollwerk and Bern-Bitzius. In the final development stage of the pilot network the regions of Geneva, Lugano and Zurich will be additionally provided with a further 16 base stations.

The new multipurpose installation in Balsthal is in operation. It makes the region around Balsthal accessible with the Telepage Swiss services, Natel C and with microwave radio links for telephone and data traffic. In the near future, installations for Natel D GSM as well as *Ermes* (European Paging Network) will be installed.

Miscellaneous

The Intelsat 702 satellite has recently been put in operation on the 359° E position where it serves Africa, Europe, the Indian Subcontinent, the Middle East and America. It is thus the only one which can connect India and America over one single satellite hop and is set up for various services, i.e. telephony, radio broadcasting, private networks, national and regional communications requirements. It has a larger transmission capacity than the Intelsat 512 which it replaces.

The International Academy of Broadcasting (IAB) set to work in Montreux. Its task is the training of executive personnel for radio and television broad-

casting organizations in Europe, which is urgently necessary in view of the increasing number of broadcasting chains, of the more international audiovisual environment and the rapid development of technology. The institute offers, in a post diploma one years course for university graduates, a multidisciplinary training on all aspects of the medium, i.e. radio and television production, radio journalism, new technologies, financing, etc. The instruction will be given by prominent lecturers from Europe, the USA and Japan. The Institute is supported by the City of Montreux, the International Television Symposium, the European Broadcasting Union and Miramonte SA which also accommodates the school.

The members of the European Digital Video Broadcasting Project (DVB) held its second annual General Assembly in Geneva. The number of members has increased in the past year from 83 to 147 organizations, among them are 45 broadcasters, 66 equipment manufacturers, 27 network operators and nine regulatory bodies. It was agreed that the admittance to membership to the DVB should be facilitated. The progress reached in the work groups was also presented and the budgets for 1994 and 1995 were approved.

The 14th Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) took place in Kyoto (Japan). About 1300 representatives from 150 countries participated. At the conference the general policy of the Union was defined and for the first time a strategic master plan was adopted which should determine the working orientation for the next four years and improve the effectiveness of the Union in view of the changes in the world of telecommunications. On the agenda were among others the rights and duties of the new membership categories which comprise others than government and administrations representatives, e.g. representatives of industry. Also on the agenda were the financial basis of the Union, its role in world wide telecommunication and the application of the Buenos Aires Action Plan which was accepted at the World Telecommunication Development Conference. The new leadership of the UIT was also elected.