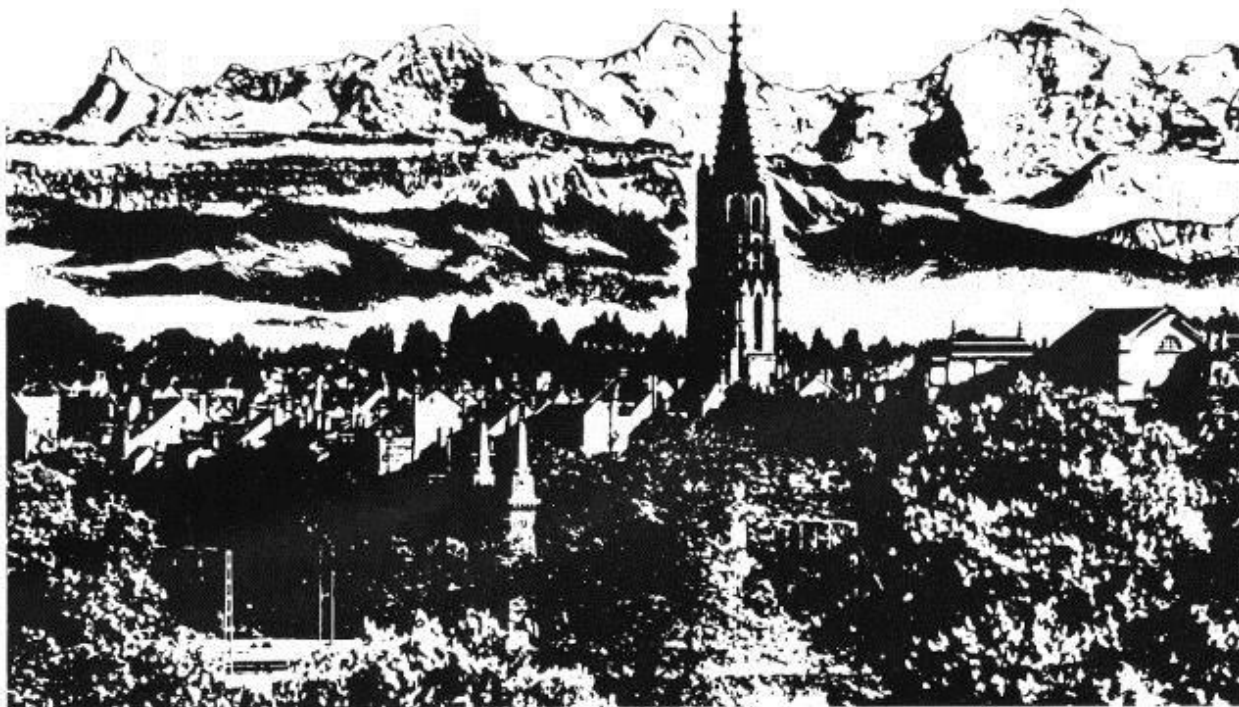


# MST ORDER WON FROM SWITZERLAND



RADCOM, in his newsletter to Radio Communications Division, says that by now Radio-Suisse engineers, supervised by a Marconi specialist, will have completed the installation of three 30 kW MST transmitters at the Prangins transmitting station near Berne. He recalls that an article in the July issue of *Aerial* told how Radio-Suisse began as the Swiss Marconi Company. He adds some of the interesting history of this, and tells how we got the MST order.

'In September 1920, with the first assembly of the League of Nations about to open in Geneva, it was obvious to the Swiss Posts and Telegraphs Administration, that the channel capacity of the existing line and cable circuits between Geneva and London would not be able to cope with the reporting of the floods of rhetoric, soon to be released. To reinforce the existing circuits, The Marconi Company were asked to set up a high-speed radio telegraph circuit, which they did by installing a temporary transmitting station in the Jurra Hills at the village of Place Belle Air, and a receiving station at Chien Bourg, outside Geneva. These stations were operated from a CTO estab-

lished in the Hotel Victoria, Geneva. The London CTO, in Fenchurch Street, operated a transmitter installed at Chelmsford, and a receiving station at Witham. The resulting high-speed duplex wireless service helped the Swiss PTT to meet adequately the Press demands, and when these ceased, the wireless circuit was temporarily closed down.

'Thus began our long association with Switzerland. Our next step was to establish a transmitting station at Ongar, and a receiving station at Brentwood, controlled from a building in Wilson Street, London, later called Radio House. Then, in February 1922, the Swiss Marconi Company was established and the pioneer stations in Switzerland were recovered and reconstructed, in the Berne area, on the patterns of Ongar and Brentwood, with which they began to work in due course. Then the Swiss Marconi Company became Radio-Suisse Limited, as we have seen.

'Last winter, two senior Radio-Suisse officials, Mr. H. Laett, Engineer-in-Chief and Mr. W. Damke, Traffic Manager, came to England to discuss possible future requirements with a number of radio manufacturers. Subsequently, Mr. R. Beusch,

Chief of Radio Systems Planning, came over to talk to the same manufacturers in more detail. Some weeks later Radio-Suisse solicited bids from manufacturers in several countries, a careful study of which reduced the field to one foreign and two British manufacturers, of which we were one.

'Regional Manager Brian Bardwell, and Engineer Ken Farley (U.K. and Europe Region), finally got the £67,000 order after playing an unbeatable hand, which included satisfactory answers to a series of searching technical questions; a guarantee of adequate after-sales service; delivery on time; and an attractive price.

'MST systems certainly represent the best quality at the lowest possible price. We understand that our nearest competitor (British, by the way) was some two per cent dearer than ourselves.

'Direct delivery from Chelmsford to site, by road, resulted in quicker delivery at lower cost, compared with the normal shipping method'.



Below: Part of the transmitting station at Prangins, near Berne, Switzerland, where three Marconi MST h.f. transmitters are being installed [*Radio-Suisse photo*]

The Technical Manager of Radio Communications Division, E. F. Cranston, points out details of design of the Marconi self-tuning transmitter to an overseas visitor.

