



Policy paper

High bandwidth policy

An overview of the key points

- There was a lot of political discussion about a seamless high-speed broadband network across Switzerland and numerous initiatives were discussed. The demand to increase the minimum bandwidth in basic service provision to 80 Mbit/s prevailed. The purpose of the basic service provision is to provide users in remote locations with a minimum range of telecommunications services (telephony, Internet access etc.).
- The Ordinance on Telecommunications Services is simultaneously being revised. The new regulation is expected at the beginning of 2023. For Swisscom, it is crucial that the technology that is most suitable for the basic provision of 80 Mbit/s is used (mobile communications, satellite, combination with fixed network). In addition, the expansion must be demand-driven only and will be omitted if a local provider is already providing the service.

Swisscom's position

- Swisscom stands by a reliable basic service in Switzerland and has been providing this since 1999 without compensation from the public sector. The basic service provision should ensure that users in remote locations also have access to a minimum range of affordable, market-based prices.
- The significant increase in minimum bandwidth to 80 Mbit/s deviates from the classic understanding of universal service in the sense of a minimum offer and brings this to the market.
- Swisscom considers the expansion of the basic service provision feasible with an additional high-speed broadband Internet access service of 80 Mbit/s, provided that the guidelines agreed upon by the industry, administration and politics in the run-up to the revision are implemented consistently and in a practical manner:
 - True technological freedom: Free choice of technology by the licensee
 - Subsidiarity principle: No obligation to develop if the location has already been developed by another provider
 - Service offering: Appropriate implementation periods and demand-oriented development
- However, increasing the basic service to 80 Mbit/s is only a short-term solution. The basic service is a safety net with a minimum range of telephony and Internet for remote locations, which will eventually reach its limits. A long-term strategy is needed to provide high-bandwidth Internet coverage across Switzerland where the market does not provide this coverage. To this end, the National Council commissioned the Federal Council to draw up a broadband strategy ([Postulate 21.3461](#)). Swisscom welcomes this advancement.