



Press Release

The fibre-optic network in Meilen and Herrliberg is to be built together with Swisscom

In Meilen and Herrliberg the local energy suppliers (Energie und Wasser Meilen AG, EWM, and the Municipality of Herrliberg) are building an open-access fibre-optic network under the name "meifi.net". They have now reached an agreement with Swisscom to work together to lay the fibre-optic cables in households and businesses. The partners have agreed the key points in a preliminary agreement and a definitive agreement should be drawn up by the end of September 2012. Thanks to this partnership, it will be possible to avoid a parallel expansion of the fibre-optic network in Meilen and Herrliberg.

Swisscom and the two representatives of "meifi.net" have been holding talks for more than two years about the joint construction of a fibre-optic network serving households and businesses (Fibre to the Home, FTTH). After negotiations were broken off in September 2011, the partners resumed talks at the beginning of 2012 and laid the foundation for a fair partnership. The cooperation partners will share the building areas between themselves, allowing for duplications to be avoided and any inconvenience for the population caused by the building work to be kept to a minimum. Both partners will subsequently be able to offer their services on the fibre-optic network across the entire municipal area.

Four fibres for every home

Four optical fibres will be laid per household and business. Swisscom and meifi.net will receive two fibres each in order to offer customers their services. This multi-fibre model ensures non-discriminatory access to the fibre-optic network for other providers, making competition possible and complying with the recommendations of the ComCom regulatory authority. Customers are thus free to choose from which provider they want to obtain their TV, Internet and telephony services.

Around 3,000 households in Meilen and 1,000 homes in Herrliberg have already been connected to the fibre-optic network via meifi.net. These connections will be incorporated into the construction partnership. Around half of the households in both municipalities should be connected by the end of this year. The fibre-optic connections for the remaining homes will be completed by the end of 2014 in Herrliberg and by 2018 at the latest in Meilen in accordance with the joint expansion plan.



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Brief Portrait

meifi.net

meifi.net is the fibre-optic network that is currently being developed in the district of Meilen. At present, the municipalities of Meilen and Herrliberg are involved, with further municipalities to be added in the future. meifi.net provides the connected households and businesses with access to numerous providers of state-of-the-art Internet, telephone and multimedia services and is being constructed by the local energy suppliers: Energie und Wasser Meilen AG (EWM AG) in Meilen and the Municipality in Herrliberg.

Swisscom fibre-optic network

Swisscom rolls out fibre to a new household or business in Switzerland roughly every two minutes. By the end of March 2012, Swisscom and its cooperation partners had connected some 388,000 households and businesses by means of fibre-optic cables running into the basement. This figure is set to rise to around a million by the end of 2015 – one-third of all households.

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