



Swisscom accelerates fibre-optic expansion outside the major urban centres

Swisscom is to provide homes and businesses outside the major urban centres with ultra-high-speed fixed-line Internet connections even quicker than initially planned. In the coming years, Swisscom will focus on fibre-optic expansion to (Fibre to the Street, FTTS) in addition to fibre-optic expansion to homes and businesses (Fibre to the Home, FTTH).

Swisscom has already connected 90 per cent of the population to fibre to the curb. Furthermore, Swisscom began a long-term project in 2008 to extend optical fibre to homes and businesses (FTTH) and currently connects an average of one home or business to the fibre-optic network every two minutes in around 40 towns and municipalities. In collaboration with its partners, Swisscom will have rolled out fibre to around a third of Swiss households by the end of 2015.

Fibre to the Street (FTTS) speeds up network expansion in regional areas

Swisscom is now to provide ultra-high-speed Internet and multimedia services to areas which are not going to be connected to FTTH in the coming years. To do so, Swisscom will rely on fibre-optic expansion to a point close to the building (Fibre to the Street, FTTS). At the end of 2013, Swisscom will start to roll out fibre to within a distance of around 200 metres from homes, bringing it significantly closer to the customer. The remaining distance to the homes will be covered by the existing copper cables. This fibre-optic hybrid technology enables bandwidths of up to 100 megabits per second. In the coming three to four years, bandwidths of 400 megabits per second and more will become possible. This summer, Swisscom will be launching three FTTS pilot tests in the municipalities of Charrat (Valais), Grandfontaine (Jura) and Flerden (Grisons) and in November, the first customers will be able to access services via the new technology.

Swisscom will also provide reseller offers for the other telecommunications and Internet service providers on the new access technology and will thus support competition.



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To enable it to provide ever higher bandwidths and multimedia experiences, Swisscom will continue to rely on a mix of technologies and is testing alternative possibilities such as expansion of the fibre-optic network to the building and improvements to the existing FTTC infrastructure. Mobile communications technology is also being continually upgraded, for example with 4G. Swisscom is investing around CHF 1.7 billion in the expansion of Switzerland's infrastructure in 2012 alone, some CHF 400 million more than in 2010.

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