Fibre-optic network expansion in Ticino

Bellinzona is being connected to the high-speed fibre-optic network. Over the next three years Swisscom plans to roll out fibre-optic cables to over 10,000 households and businesses (fibre-to-the-home, FTTH) in Ticino's second biggest city. FTTH expansion is also underway at full speed in Lugano. Swisscom is also increasing bandwidths in other parts of Ticino.

Swisscom began FTTH expansion in Bellinzona in September, starting with the districts of Semine and Maria delle Grazie, to be followed by Via Vallone und Sacro Cuore in the district of Prato Carasso. By 2014, some 10,500 households and businesses in the centre of Bellinzona will be connected by fibre-optic cables running to the basement. Swisscom is working on its own in Bellinzona. Discussions with Aziende Municipalizzate Bellinzona (AMB) with a view to a partnership agreement have not been successful to date.

Swisscom is also expanding its fibre-network in Lugano, where around 35,000 households and businesses are to be connected by the end of 2014. Expansion began this summer in the centre of Lugano and will continue in November in Breganzona. Despite discussions with Aziende Industriali di Lugano (AIL) no partnership agreement has yet been reached with the Lugano authorities either.

Alongside laying fibre-optic cables to households and businesses, Swisscom is substantially increasing the bandwidths of existing connections in Ticino, using various technologies such as fibre-to-the-curb (FTTC) or a high-speed data link via the mobile network.

A range of technologies for high-speed broadband access

A well-developed broadband network is important for all regions in Switzerland. The rapid exchange of data and images, high-resolution TV, mobile surfing, video conferencing or working from home all require high bandwidths. Switzerland already boasts an excellent communications network. So that the country's communications needs can continue to be met in the future, Swisscom plans to massively expand the communications infrastructure over the next few years, in particular by

deploying fibre to households and businesses (FTTH). The "generation" project will take several years to complete. By 2015 Swisscom will have invested two billion francs in fibre-optic expansion. Around two million households will be connected to the fibre network by the end of 2015.

Swisscom is also rolling out FTTH in over 500 municipalities in Switzerland every year, providing the capability for high-speed Internet access and Swisscom TV. By 2013, 80 percent of households in Switzerland will be able to receive Swisscom TV in HD quality while also enjoying high-speed broadband Internet access. Coverage is expected to increase to 95% by 2014.

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