

**Press release**

## **Swisscom enables the appointment of a new professor of information security at the Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH)**

**Swisscom is supporting the appointment of a new professor in the field of information security at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH) with a donation of CHF 10 million. The aim of the partnership is to boost Swiss research in the field of information security, to establish Switzerland as one of the world's leading research centres and to create a knowledge-sharing platform between science and the economy.**

The new professor will be Professor Adrian Perrig, an internationally renowned specialist. Professor Perrig, a 40-year-old Swiss citizen, studied information technology at EPFL in Lausanne and completed his PhD at the Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In 2002, he was nominated as a professor at Carnegie Mellon, where he also heads up one of the world's largest research centres for information and computer security. Adrian Perrig will take up his new role at ETH Zurich on 1 December 2012. The new professor will be based in the Information Technology department at ETH Zurich.

The new professor's teaching and research remit encompasses all scientific issues surrounding information security – an important and extremely relevant field of study for Swisscom in its position as the leader in ICT security. Roland Siegwart, Vice President of Research and Corporate Relations at ETH Zurich, and Stéphane Dufour, Head of Strategy and Innovation at Swisscom, believe that this will promote the exchange of knowledge between science and economics, helping to solve many security-related issues. Young and upcoming talent will also have the opportunity to put the scientific knowledge gained from research at Swisscom and in the process gain further experience.

The issue of information security is becoming ever more important, as digitalisation is on the increase thanks to cloud computing, the Internet of Things and mobile apps. "Having the appropriate level of

security in place when saving, processing and transmitting data is becoming increasingly critical", says Stéphane Dufour. This means that highly skilled information security specialists are playing a key role in enabling us to offer customers reliable, secure ICT services. "The new professorship will reinforce Switzerland's position as a research centre and therefore help make the digital world even more secure", Dufour states.

The appointment of the new professor will help to strengthen the traditional partnership between ETH Zurich, as one of the world's leading technical universities, and Swisscom, as the largest ICT and telecommunications company in Switzerland. Swisscom is supporting ETH Zurich by donating CHF 10 million to the ETH Zurich Foundation with the aim of furthering scientific progress, promoting Switzerland as a centre of knowledge and enabling a professorship in information security. The donation will be used as the initial funding for the professorship.

Berne, 30 May 2012

**For further information:**

[www.swisscom.ch/responsibility](http://www.swisscom.ch/responsibility)

[www.ethz.ch](http://www.ethz.ch)

[www.ethfoundation.ch](http://www.ethfoundation.ch)