

Media Release

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SRG SSR idée suisse and cablecom business renew contract and equip the distribution network infrastructure for a high-resolution future

SRG SSR idée suisse and cablecom reached an agreement regarding the joint expansion of the distribution network infrastructure. Converting the television production to HD will increase the current transmission capacities eightfold. To enable this, the existing partnership regarding the operation of the SAMBA distribution network, which has been running successfully since 2005, was extended for a further six years.

Due to its future-proof infrastructure and attractive range of offers, in 2005 SRG SSR idée suisse awarded cablecom the contract to build and operate a high-speed network, SAMBA, which went online in 2006. Since then, cablecom has been transmitting the programme signals from the studios to the distribution centre via the distribution network of SRG SSR idée suisse. From there the signals are forwarded to the channel feed-in points, and then to transmitter masts or satellites for onward transmission to the recipients. The network currently has 31 locations in all regions of Switzerland. The independent organisation unit, SRG SSR idée suisse Media Services, is responsible for the internal management of the network.

The network, which has been running for five years, is now being modernised: the upcoming conversion of the entire studio production area to High Definition (HDTV) necessitates a massive expansion of the transmission capacities from the current level of 5 Gbit/s to 40 Gbit/s. Cablecom business has accepted this challenge and presented a solution that has been designed for the long-term. Marco Quinter, Managing Director Business Services at cablecom, is also very pleased about the successful cooperation with the Swiss radio and television company: "We are both pleased and proud to continue our support of SRG SSR idée suisse as a private cable network company in order to help them fulfil their public mandate regarding the provision of information while increasing the attractiveness of their range of programmes. Our many years of experience in the business client sector helped us considerably during the design, realisation and modernisation of this high-speed network."

A godsend in the event of a crisis

Due to the statutory mandate regarding the safeguarding of communication between the Federal Council and the general public in the event of a crisis, SRG SSR idée suisse attaches a great deal of political significance to the "SAMBA" distribution network. In order to ensure everything runs reliably throughout the whole of Switzerland, each location has been provided

with an autonomous power supply. Signal pathways and network components have also been installed in a fully redundant manner in each location. As a result of this, cablecom's infrastructure can guarantee the required service availability level of 99.99%.

Silvio Studer, CTO of SRG SSR idée suisse, is extremely happy with the results of the negotiations: "When it comes to technology, cablecom is definitely a premier league player. The company has proven that it can handle the technological challenges of the future and has opened the door to a new era of television for us with the modernisation of the "SAMBA" distribution network."

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About cablecom

Cablecom, a UPC Broadband operation, is the largest cable network operator in Switzerland and provides its customers with services for cable television, broadband Internet access, and mobile and fixed network telephony. As of 31 March 2010, the company had around 1.5 million television customers, of which 397,000 made use of the digital service, 493,000 were Internet customers (hispeed) and 312,000 were telephony customers (digital phone). Cablecom also provides voice, data and value-added services for business customers. Cablecom supplies cable network operators with facility construction as well as with application and transmission services for television, telephony and Internet. The company's own network connects around 2 million households and supplies all the larger towns in Switzerland. At the end of December 2009 the company had around 1,400 employees and its turnover was over 1 billion Swiss francs. Cablecom is a national subsidiary of UPC Broadband, the European cable network group of Liberty Global.
<http://www.cablecom.ch/en/about>

About Liberty Global

Liberty Global, Inc. is the leading international cable operator offering advanced video, voice and broadband Internet services to connect its customers to the world of entertainment, communications and information. As of March 31, 2010, Liberty Global operated state-of-the-art networks serving 18 million customers across 14 countries principally located in Europe, Chile and Australia. Liberty Global's operations also include significant programming businesses such as Chellomedia in Europe.
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