

Media release

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Swiss4net connects the communities of Untersiggenthal and Obersiggenthal with fibre optics

In the next two to three years, the two Aargau municipalities of Untersiggenthal and Obersiggenthal will be provided with a comprehensive point-to-point fibre-optic network (FTTH). This will be realised through a long-term partnership between the Siggenthal Electricity Cooperative (EGS) and Swiss4net. As part of this partnership, Swiss4net is financing the construction of the FTTH network and will subsequently also operate it. The new FTTH network in Untersiggenthal and Obersiggenthal is available to all interested telecom providers.

As a specialist in the construction, operation and financing of future-proof, environmentally friendly and high-performance point-to-point FTTH fibre networks, Swiss4net has already financed and built - and now successfully operates - FTTH networks in Chiasso, Vacallo, Morbio Inferiore, Balerna, Baden and Ennetbaden. Similar networks in Ascona and Pully are currently under construction. Once these two FTTH projects and the network in Untersiggenthal and Obersiggenthal have been completed and expanded, over 50,000 households and businesses in Switzerland will have fibre connections provided by Swiss4net.

The Siggenthal Electricity Cooperative (EGS) is convinced that an efficient fibre-optic network is an important factor in the selection of a location. Wolfgang Tron, Chairman of the EGS Board of Directors, explains: "It was a strategic goal to be able to offer a fibre-optic network in our supply area. Our well-established infrastructure can be used for an area-wide network in Siggenthal to offer our customers a modern telecom infrastructure. With Swiss4net we have found the right partner to implement the project for us without our having to take any financial risks."

A win-win situation for all involved

EGS provides existing routing facilities where Swiss4net can install optical fibres without constructing its own conduits. In return, Swiss4net pays EGS right-of-use fees over the long term. Thanks to the partnership between Swiss4net and EGS, the municipalities gain a modern telecom infrastructure at no investment of their own and with no concerns related to construction and operation. Swiss4net takes care of all that.

Roger Heggli, CEO of Swiss4net, is pleased: "For several years, we have been successfully operating the FTTH network used by Baden and Ennetbaden. The fact that we can now also provide the neighbouring communities of Untersiggenthal and Obersiggenthal with a comprehensive fibre-optic network is of course very pleasing and ideal for us. In addition, we are continuing to expand our presence in German-speaking Switzerland. Our goal is to operate several hundred thousand fibre-optic connections in homes and businesses throughout Switzerland."

Siggenthal4net operates the FTTH network

The planning phase, including a feasibility study and other detailed analyses, is now underway. According to this plan, construction of the network is scheduled to start in 2021 and expected to take two to three years. For this purpose, Swiss4net is founding a local operating company, the wholly owned subsidiary Siggenthal4net AG, which will assume responsibility for the entire construction and subsequent operation of the fibre-optic network.

The new FTTH network of Siggenthal4net is open to all interested telecom providers without distinction. This means that the populations of Untersiggenthal and Obersiggenthal will soon be able to benefit from ultra-fast internet and state-of-the-art TV and telephony services from national and regional providers on the fibre-optic network.

Swiss4net relies on a pure point-to-point model for all its FTTH networks, ensuring that all end customers and businesses are assigned their own fibres. Two additional fibres are available in each building for future applications.

About Swiss4net

Swiss4net is the only partner of municipalities, cities and energy supply companies, offering a long-term one-stop package for the construction of point-to-point FTTH fibre optic networks in Switzerland. Unlike other providers, Swiss4net takes care of everything, from planning to construction, to operation. Municipalities, cities and energy supply companies don't incur any costs or bear any financial risks. The fibre optic networks obtained increase the attractiveness of those municipalities and cities, whilst also increasing the freedom of customers, who are able to choose their telecommunication provider. Swiss4net currently operates the point-to-point FTTH fibre

optic networks in Baden and Chiasso. In Ascona, the network is currently being deployed and is already partly in operation, and in Pully it is under construction.

More information about Swiss4net: www.swiss4net.ch/en

About EGS

For over 100 years, the Siggenthal Electricity Cooperative (EGS) has been a local energy supply company (EVU) that understands the needs in Siggenthal. EGS plans and maintains the entire electrical energy distribution infrastructure in Siggenthal. It also works on a contract basis for smaller utilities. Its cooperative format, conceived as a democratic system, facilitates short decision-making processes and long-term planning and offers flexibility to accommodate future framework conditions and technological developments. Thanks to its roots as a cooperative, the company is independent and autonomous.

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