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Telecommunications Newsletter Switzerland

Swisscom Bound to Open the Local Loop to Competitors

The Swiss National Council ("Nationalrat") decided in its recent debate on the revised Swiss Telecommunications Act that Swisscom, the Swiss incumbent telephone operator, will lose its monopoly over the so-called last mile, the final stretch of wire into people's houses. The incumbent operator will have to allow competitors access to its wires at cost oriented prices.

Under the decision, Swisscom will have to give competitors access to its broadband cables as well, however, only for a period of two years. The reason for this compromise is explained with the incumbent's investments in this technology. The Swiss National Council wants to ensure that other operators don't stand to profit from Swisscom investments, without making investments themselves.

The Swiss Council of States ("Ständerat") must still decide on the issue before it becomes final. A decision is expected in the coming months..

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