A milestone for e-Academia
Students now surf the Web from public hotspots as if they were at their University.

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As part of a pilot scheme, the first of its kind in Switzerland, students and staff of the ETH Zurich, the University of Neuchâtel, and the Zürcher Hochschule Winterthur (ZHW) now enjoy unlimited Internet surfing from any of the hotspots run by Monzoon Networks, The Public Network (TPN), and TheNet-Internet Services AG, and all this thanks to SWITCHmobile. They can also access their own personal e-mails, files, and calendars, all in a secure and protected environment. The vision "e-Academia", i.e. the networking of the university communities irrespective of location, thus comes one substantial step closer. This pilot scheme is to run for at least six months.

For students, lecturers, and assistant staff life is becoming increasingly mobile. They can work together in international project groups and follow courses outside their home campus. Members of the academic community are nowadays often on the move; they want, irrespective of location, to access their own or third-party data - on their home campus, at some other university, at the railway station or airport, in hotels and restaurants, or simply at home.

The universities' reform (declaration of Bologna) has generated a greater need among staff and students for physical mobility. SWITCH wants to help members of the university community pursue their studies and research in real mobile terms from a wide variety of different locations. Students today already have physical freedom of movement; they can already - thanks to SWITCHmobile - access personal data and the Internet free-of-charge - from any university campus – mostly over a wireless link. The long-term objective is to extend this service - beyond the university campus. This was the reason why SWITCH has been looking for wireless Internet service providers (WISP) prepared to link up their own networks with those of the universities with a view to providing mutual Internet access.

SWITCH has launched this pilot scheme with three such WISPs, namely Monzoon Networks, The Public Network (TPN), and TheNet. Together these three companies operate half of all the public hotspots in Switzerland today. On the teaching and research side there are three universities participating in the pilot scheme, namely : the ETH Zurich, the University of Neuchâtel, and the Zürcher Hochschule Winterthur (ZHW). All the staff and students of these institutions now enjoy all the advantages of the improved SWITCHmobile service. The university community has unlimited Internet access from any of the hotspots run by the three WISPs - more than 700 nation-wide. And in return the customers of the three WISPs can access the Internet from any of the hotspots operated by the three universities involved. For example a customer of Monzoon, TPN or TheNet who is participating in a conference at ETH Zurich can access the Internet there.

For Martin Sutter, head of the division for network-based services at SWITCH, this pilot scheme is truly pioneering in character in Europe. "I am extremely pleased with this first-ever cooperation between the academic networks and public hotspots; it is another important milestone on the road towards realizing our e-Academia vision, the inter-networking of the university communities, irrespective of location; and we owe this to the truly innovative IT services we have developed."

SWITCH, a front-line activist in realizing this e-Academia vision, is totally committed to providing network-based access to academic resources and real mobility for the university community. SWITCH develops innovative, revolutionary applications and services that are only available on the market in insufficient quality or not yet available at all. These applications and services

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provide a platform for working individually and for working together throughout the academic and research communities. SWITCH provides both the high-power backbone and the SWITCHmobile roaming service.

List of hotspots

Monzoon Networks	http://www.monzoon.ch/sites/location1a.html
The Public Network (TPN)	http://www.tpn.ch/hotspotlocator.html
TheNet	http://wlan.thenet.ch/index_js.HTML
SWITCH	http://www.switch.ch/mobile/locations.html
ETH Zurich	http://www.wireless.ethz.ch/services/cover
University of Neuchâtel	http://www.unine.ch/hotspots
Zurich University of Applied Sciences Winterthur (ZHW)	https://its.zhwin.ch/wireless/index.php

www.switch.ch/mobile

For 18 years now the **SWITCH** foundation has been running the Swiss scientific network giving universities and institutes of higher education full access to the digital information society. The backbone for this system, based on Gigabit technology, is an independent infrastructure for the exchange of ideas and information between the university networks. It also links users in Switzerland with users across Europe and overseas. The SWITCH scientific network also generates the know-how and provides the technological basis needed to run the domain registration center for ".ch" and ".li" domain names.

For further information please contact :

SWITCH
Roland Eugster

Limmatquai 138	Tel	+41-44-25398-73
Postfach	Fax	+41-44-25398-98
CH-8021 Zürich	press@switch.ch	
Switzerland	www.switch.ch	