



**«Our IT architecture requires a high-performance network.» Markus Engeler,  
Head of IT Operations at Schroders.**

**ewz**

Die Energie



Ein Unternehmen  
der Stadt Zürich

# High-end data network for Schroder & Co Bank AG. Telecom of ewz ensures secure SAN operation.

## Background.

The financial institute, Schroder & Co Bank AG, first started working with Telecom of ewz in 2001. The network connecting the Zurich sites in Weinbergstrasse and the main office at Central had to fulfil rigorous criteria. ewz supplied the optical fibre service; the other data transport equipment was provided by the internal IT department. In 2005, the parent company, Schroders plc, decided to shift all the operational activities of both of its private banks in London and Guernsey to Zurich as well. To fulfil the need for additional space for the approximately 70 employees, the Weinbergstrasse site was moved to Westpark. For security reasons, the bank currently operates a computer center (with data mirroring) both at its main office at Central as well as in Westpark. Because this connection link is of vital importance for the bank, Schroder's primary requirements were as follows:

- protocol-transparent point-to-point fixed connection
- high availability (at least 99,99 %)
- sufficient capacity for continuous data replication
- separate transmission of customer data and network management data (carrier does not have access to user data)
- proactive service levels

## Solution.

After evaluating various offers, Schroder & Co Bank AG opted for ewz optical private line. The solution is based on ewz's own fibre optic network whereby data is transported to two redundant transmission channels between the central office and Westpark sites using a technique called CWDM:

- a 2-GFC channel for storage applications and data mirroring
  - a GbE channel for office applications
- More channels can be added at any time without disruption.

To achieve a maximum availability of 99,999 %, the connection was also equipped with line protection. The two independent active components at the sites are each connected via two disjunctive fibre optic pairs. This approach ensures that all data connections are available even in the event of a fibre fracture. The management is linked in via a dedicated connection between the customer site and the Network Management Center. It is not possible to access user data via this connection.

The service has been in operation since 15 March 2006.



## Interview with Markus Engeler, Head of IT Operations.

«Our virtualised IT architecture requires a high-performance network.»



### Schroder & Co Bank AG

Schroder & Co Bank AG, which specialises in asset management, is headquartered in Zurich and has a branch office in Geneva. The bank is held 100% by the globally active financial institute Schroders plc in London, which manages total assets of around CHF 300 billion. Schroders manages pension funds, insurance, private investors, family-run companies and trusts.

Since formation of the group in 1804, the Schroder family has a majority stake in the share capital. Schroders plc has been listed on the London stock exchange since 1959 and is represented in 26 countries with 34 branch offices. At the end of 2006, the Schroder Group had 2350 employees. [www.schroders.ch](http://www.schroders.ch)

**Since 2001, Schroder & Co Bank AG has been transmitting its data on ewz's fibre-optic network. Markus Engeler, Head of IT Operations, gives us his assessment.**

**ewz: Mr Engeler, what criteria does a carrier have to fulfil to be considered for partnership with Schroders?**

Markus Engeler: Most importantly, the carrier has to convince us that, in addition to providing the transmission capacity we need, a high level of availability is also guaranteed. Our data network has to function as reliably as a public power supply network.

**An important characteristic of the data network which Telecom of ewz set up is that it offers plenty of bandwidth. What IT scenario is your bank in Zurich working with?**

Our IT resources are distributed across two sites. Administration and use of applications and data occurs at both sites. With today's virtualisation technologies, it is no longer necessary to physically centralise all resources. The same applies to storage. Both sites serve alternately as disaster recovery sites. If one of the two computer centers completely failed, we could restore normal operation for both sites in just a few hours. Our virtualised IT architecture requires a high-performance network. After all, we are talking about around 3,5 terabytes per site.

**In your view, what are the key features of the current solution?**

Telecom of ewz's line protection strategy offers us availability of 99.999%. Our sites are connected redundantly with fibre optics. If one line fails, ewz's managed service switches automatically to another line with the same transmission capacity. We wouldn't even notice a failure. The link is at least as stable and reliable as the



Markus Engeler, Head of IT Operations, Schroder & Co Bank AG: «The data network is stable and reliable, which means we can forget about it and get on with other things.»

power supply network which means we can forget about it and get on with other things. You can usually only achieve this type of operational security with two independent network operators. Another advantage of this solution is the easy scalability of the bandwidth.

**What added value does Telecom of ewz bring to your Zurich site compared to other carriers?**

The first-class infrastructure certainly represents added value. Without a lot of time and effort, Telecom of ewz can connect any company site in Zurich to the fibre optic network. On the one hand, this affects price positively and, on the other, it is easy to change sites within Zurich from a network standpoint.





Would you recommend ewz.optical private line to others for complex SAN and WAN projects?

Absolutely. The experience we have had since the beginning of our partnership in 2001 has been positive throughout. Their advice is sound, you can rely on their support and their technology is state-of-the-art.

Your bank has a branch office in Geneva. As you know, ewz also offers WAN solutions in conjunction with the Swisspower utilities. Are these extended activities attractive for your company?

Currently, we are relying on two different carriers to achieve the degree of security and redundancy we need for these lines. If the Swisspower utilities can achieve the same availability concept between Zurich and Geneva that ewz offers in Zurich and the price is right, it would certainly be an option we would consider.

**Telecom of ewz.**

Telecom of ewz builds and operates high-performance optical connections in the city of Zurich to connect local area networks (LAN) or connections of computer centers/storage area networks (SAN). The services set themselves apart with their high transmission capacity and availability.

Working closely together with other Swisspower utilities, Telecom of ewz also offers intercity connections in other Swiss cities.

ewz  
Tramstrasse 35  
8050 Zürich  
Phone 058 319 47 13  
Telefax 058 319 41 78  
telecom@ewz.ch  
www.ewz.ch  
ewz – Partner of Swisspower