



# SWISS CYBER STORM

## Media Release

### Qualification opens: More IT security, playfully

**On May 4, qualification for this year's Swiss Cyber Security Challenge begins. The online competition pits young cyber-talents between 14 and 30 years old against each other in tasks involving cyber security. Creativity, perseverance and team spirit are necessary in order to qualify as a winner for the international final. The competition, supported among others by the federation, plays an important role in the recruitment of much needed IT professionals.**

Zurich, 4 May 2015 - This coming Monday, May 4, online qualification for the Cyber Security Challenge 2015 by the association Swiss Cyber Storm will open. Anybody from 14 to 30 years old interested in IT can register online to solve problems in the field of IT security. For example, they will follow the traces of cyber criminals or locate weaknesses in a web site. In order to be successful, in addition to technical knowledge and ideally some programming skills, creativity, perseverance, curiosity and willingness to experiment are especially necessary.

### The search for future IT specialists

While participation by the young people is a recreational activity, the competition also has an economic background. Most countries today do not have enough skilled workers to protect their IT infrastructure adequately. Therefore, the promotion of young talent in this area is a high priority. Cybersecurity Challenges are a popular means by which young talents are recruited and trained. "Through our activities we awaken in young people an interest to deal with the issue of cyber security - and to discover talents at an early stage and to encourage them" explains Bernhard Tellenbach, president of the association Swiss Cyber Storm, which organizes the Challenge. The National Cyber Security Challenge in Switzerland is now being held already for the third time.

This overriding interest is also evident when looking at the sponsors and partners of the contest: through the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) and the Federal Department of Finance (FDF), the Federal Government supports the Cyber Security Challenge via two agencies. Other partners include the Swiss Academy of Engineering Sciences (SATW) and companies like terreActive AG or PwC Switzerland, Departement Cyber Security. Urs Rufer, CEO of terreActive, sees the competition as a "great opportunity to recruit much-needed young professionals."

### International cooperation

Since cyberspace is not limited by national boundaries, successfully containing and fighting against cybercrime is only possible through international cooperation. Therefore, the Cyber Security Challenges previously carried out at the country level will be extended to the European level. With the support of the European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA), Switzerland formed together with Austria, Germany, Romania, Spain and the UK a committee for the first time, defining a framework for a Europe-wide European Cyber Security



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Challenge in 2015.

Switzerland has the honor of being the first host country for the international competition, and hosts the European Cyber Security Challenge finals in Lucerne on October 21, 2015. The winners of each national challenge will compete against each other in a competition of national teams. In an event organized by FDFA, the best talent be recognized on October 22 in Bern, with guests from politics, business and research.

## **Link to participate in the Cyber Security Challenge:**

<http://challenge.swisscyberstorm.com/>

## **Contact**

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## **Swiss Cyber Storm Club**

The association Swiss Cyber Storm was founded in 2012 as a non-profit organization with the purpose to promote young cybersecurity talent and regularly carry out cyber security specialist events for professionals and executives.

The purpose of the association Swiss Cyber Storm is met, on the one hand, the exploration and production of young cybersecurity talents within the framework of the annual Cybersecurity Challenge and related participation in the European Cyber Security Challenge. On the other hand, the association conducts the annual international conference of cyber-attacks and defense, Swiss Cyber Storm.

The association is committed at both the national and international levels for the promotion of young talent and strives together with partner associations to extend the European Cyber Security Challenges to other participating countries.

The association is not a members club in the strict sense, in that it does not seek to have a large number of members. The association is composed of members who support the purposes of the association by active participation and by representing the interests of business and the public sector as well as the teaching and research.