

# Success Story



**Company**  
Zurich International School

**Sector**  
Training

**Number of locations**  
5

**Customer since**  
2007

**Services in use**  
- Business VPN  
- Business Internet  
- Business Voice IP-PBX

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## Advanced technology in the thought factory

There are no lessons in Information Technology at the Zurich International School. However, no lessons are taught there without the help of IT. Equipped with tablet PCs and network connections, the students acquire knowledge according to the latest standards of the International Society for Technology in Education. upc cablecom is responsible for the high-speed data transfer in the virtual learning environment.

The increasing number of employees and companies settling here is becoming evident in the education market. International private schools are enjoying growing popularity and full to capacity in many places. A lot of schools have waiting lists and many plan to expand. Even the latest economic downturn has been unable to dent the boom in demand.

The Zurich International School (ZIS) is also one of the schools facing a large increase in numbers. Eight years ago, ZIS had 900 students at three campuses. It now has well over 1,400 at five campuses. The school's most recent large-scale expansion was in 2008, with the opening of the Upper School in Adliswil and a campus in Baden. At the Upper School, senior students can choose to study for the IB (International Baccalaureate) or the AP (Advanced Placement) qualification, both of which are recognized by universities worldwide.

### A distinctive design

The Upper School building, which was designed by the Zurich architects agps.architecture and completed in 23 months, is 160 meters long and dominates the landscape with its extrovert design. At first glance, the building - with its metal and profiled glass shell - looks like a modern industrial structure. The architects describe it as follows: "Elongated, stacked, level structures accommodate all of the facilities of the school building.

The different units, such as main school building, sports hall, theatre and underground car park, are all interconnected in terms of space and function. This idea of intensively juxtaposing the units alongside and on top of one another firstly permits interaction between each of the school modules on each floor, and also enables the premises to respond to the various teaching and learning requirements. We regard the school as an integral part of the town, with a correspondingly complex network of relationships. Visually, but above all in terms of



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State-of-the-art knowledge transfer: the classrooms at ZIS are equipped with SMART whiteboards.



## Zurich International School

The Zurich International School (ZIS) is a day school for children aged from 2 to 18 years. It is operated by a not-for-profit foundation. With currently over 1400 students from over 55 countries, ZIS is one of the largest international schools in Switzerland and one of only two internationally accredited schools in the Zurich area. With an internationally designed curriculum, taught in English, the school is tailored to the needs of internationally mobile families.

Infos: [www.zis.ch](http://www.zis.ch)

content, diverse interchange is to be enabled and fostered: the school should be considered a thought factory, as a workshop.”

### Exemplary PPP project

Can an international private school be an integral part of town life? A type of joint venture does in fact exist between the public authorities and the Upper School, which cost 36 million francs to build. This is actually a very good example of public-private partnership (PPP): the town of Adliswil assigned two hectares of land to ZIS with favourable building rights, and the town and the canton of Zurich advanced a loan of 7.4 million francs. In return, the clubs and associations of Adliswil are able to hire the 550-seater theatre and the triple-level sports hall. The climbing wall in the sports hall is often used for exercises by the Adliswil fire brigade. In this way, international schools not only enhance the quality of life locally, but also help share the burden on the state-run schools and the education budget.

### A reference building for fully digitized knowledge transfer

What you don't see from the outside: the new school at the foot of the Albis hills is a reference building for fully digitized knowledge transfer. While most state-school classrooms still have blackboards or standard whiteboards which the teachers write on using chalk or marker pens, at ZIS the next generation of whiteboard systems are in use throughout the school: SMART Boards made by the Canadian company SMART Technologies. SMART Boards are interactive whiteboards equipped with projectors, which are connected to a network and which are able to display the window contents of any connected PCs. Furthermore, they have a touch-sensitive surface that enables the window contents currently displayed to be edited using electronic marker pens. This means that entire lessons can be stored digitally and retrieved later on the PC as required. ZIS uses a total of 170 SMART boards in its five campuses.

### Optimum package of solutions

Costs were also an issue in the choice of network services. The demands on campus networking are high, particularly with regard to transmission capacity. Uglow: “If the IP-VPN performs well enough, IT can be structured more flexibly. This simplifies server virtualization. If there is sufficient bandwidth, we can also centralize the internet feed”. Since ZIS uses Cisco CallManager in the fixed network, the WAN must also be VoIP-ready (Class of Services). The school also requires a central and easily scalable fixed network and Internet connection. upc cablecom was able to offer the optimum package of solutions:

- Optical fibre connections at all campuses
- IP-VPN with up to 200 Mbit/s bandwidth, voice-prioritization and SDSL backup at all campuses
- Central internet connection with 200 Mbit/s bandwidth at the main campus in Wädenswil
- Central IP voice service (VoIP Trunk) without channel restriction at the main campus in Wädenswil

All services are easily scalable. Jonathan Uglow is happy with his choice: “upc cablecom's services are extremely reliable in operation and also transfer high-volume multi-media productions very quickly. We are expertly looked after and find the cooperation beneficial. With their creatively designed solutions and attractive prices, upc cablecom helps us to save costs. If we have to increase our capacity or connect new sites, we can rely entirely on upc cablecom's network resources».

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