Media Release

Bern, 7. March.2023

# Bern is the new cyber capital of Switzerland

**Cybercrime is one of the biggest and most immediate threats to the global economy and society. Switzerland is affected by cybercrime at a level that challenges national security and democracy and requires sustainable solutions. The fifth edition of the Swiss Cyber Security Days (SCSD9 will take place on September 20th and 21st, 2023 in BERNEXPO. Transforming the capital into a national and international hub for cyber and knowledge transfer.**

Every single day, we are confronted by the topic of cybercrime. Whether it is attacks on small and medium-sized enterprises, government agencies, critical infrastructure operators, research institutions, or individuals, the frequency of cyber-attacks has skyrocketed in recent years resulting in unprecedented levels of damage. The number of ransomware attacks alone increased by 435% in 2020 compared to the previous year. In 2022, the economic damage caused by global cybercrime was roughly 30 times greater than the combined damage caused by all natural disasters in the same year. According to data-based estimates, the damage could reach around CHF 24 trillion by 2027, exceeding the gross domestic product of the United States.

As the most innovative country in the world, Switzerland faces significant risks from cybercrime and cyber espionage. These threats not only endanger Switzerland's competitiveness, but also national security and the fundamental pillars of democracy - for example - by orchestrating and manipulating public opinion during democratic elections. The surge in cybercrime can be attributed to the uncontrollable digital hyper-connectivity of our globalized world. The effects of the dependencies, interactions, spheres of influence, and functioning of technical systems on our lives have yet to be fully understood.

**The national platform for cyber competence arrives in Bern**

The Swiss Cyber Security Days (SCSD) which is now in its fifth edition, provides an excellent opportunity for individuals, society, businesses, and technology to bridge the knowledge gaps between them. With outstanding speakers from both national and international spheres, discussions on current geopolitical events, dialogs around socially relevant issues, research presentations, and a trade fair, the event is designed to promote the knowledge-sharing process.

Nicolas Mayencourt, who serves as the program director for Swiss Cyber Security Days (SCSD), is collaborating with BERNEXPO, the event organizer, to bring the country's premier cybersecurity platform to Bern for the first time. "As a Bern native, it makes me proud to make the federal capital the Cyber Metropolis of Switzerland," says Nicolas Mayencourt. "Bern is the perfect location thanks to its proximity to politics and administration. The topic of cyber is of central importance for Switzerland. So, I am very much looking forward to

discussing new opportunities and solutions in Bern, in order to help build a digitally empowered society." Tom Winter, CEO of BERNEXPO, is also pleased about the event with international appeal: "The topic of cyber security is of great social relevance. The SCSD are therefore a very good fit for us and complement the BERNEXPO event portfolio wonderfully." The two-day event will take place on September 20th and 21st at BERNEXPO.

**SCSD strengthens the capital as a congress and trade fair location**

The SCSD's national and international appeal will help the canton further solidify its position as a vital location for trade fairs and events. "This is good news" said City President Alec von Graffenried. "I think it is right and important that these issues are being negotiated in Bern, with close proximity to the politicians and administrators who are directly affected. This allows the benefits of our location to be fully exploited." From the canton's perspective, the new event also provides opportunities. "Bern is easy to reach from all parts of Switzerland and internationally accessible. In addition, the topic is of great social and economic importance," says cantonal economic director and cantonal government councillor Christoph Ammann (SP).

---

**The Swiss Cyber Security Days**

The Swiss Cyber Security Days (SCSD) is Switzerland's leading knowledge-sharing and dialogue platform in the field of cybersecurity.  It aims to bridge the gap between technology, business, and the population and provide politicians, administrators, experts, and users with insights into both current and future threats, as well as innovative solutions. The event focuses on politics, business, education, and research, and is open to all national and international participants  who wish to exchange information, ideas, and connect with leading cybersecurity experts, as well as with politics, administration, and business.

The fifth edition of the Swiss Cyber Security Days will take place on 20 and 21 September 2023 at BERNEXPO.

National Councilor Doris Fiala (FDP) serves as the President of the Swiss Cyber Security Days.

---

For further information:

Swiss Cyber Security Days 2023

Media Office

Monbijoustrasse 36, 3011 Bern

+41 79 271 84 17

media@scsd.ch

www.swisscybersecuritydays.ch